

DRIVERS LICENCES, FORM OF IDENTIFICATION FOR FIREARMS OWNERS

332. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Will the minister confirm that a person's drivers licence and firearms licence must bear identical licence numbers?
- (2) Will the minister confirm that it is compulsory for a drivers licence to bear a photograph?
- (3) If this is so, will the minister explain why a drivers licence is not acceptable as a form of identification of a licensed firearms owner when purchasing ammunition?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this interesting question. The reference to the minister is taken to be the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

- (1) Yes, if a person has a drivers licence, the firearms licence bears the same licence numbers as a drivers licence; but if a person has only a firearms licence and no drivers licence, the firearms licence number is given automatically by the firearms licensing system.
- (2) Yes, as from 7 May 2001 it is compulsory for all first issued or renewed motor drivers licences to bear a photograph.
- (3) It would require legislative change for this to occur because they are two separate statutes. The motor drivers licence system is in accordance with the Road Traffic Act, administered by the Department of Transport, and the Firearms Act is administered by the Western Australia Police Service. The Firearms Act makes certain demands on the licensed firearm owner when he or she is purchasing ammunition that require him or her to produce a valid and current firearms licence.