

FIREARMS — LICENSED

1752. Hon Louise Kingston to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the Government's proposed plan to further restrict law-abiding firearm licence holders, and I ask:

- (a) if the key objective is public safety, in the most recent data available how many firearms related offences were committed using licensed firearms;
- (b) how many firearms related offences were committed using unlicensed firearms;
- (c) is there any visible trend over recent years; and
- (d) if yes to (c), what is the trend?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

(a)–(d) As was recommended by the Review of the Firearms Act 1973 (WA) Law Reform Commission report of October 2016, the *Firearms Act 1973 (WA)* has been rewritten from the ground up with a statement as to the purpose of the Firearms Legislation that confirms:

- (a) The primary principle is the need to ensure public safety;
- (b) The possession and use of firearms is a privilege that is always conditional on the need to ensure public safety; and
- (c) Public safety can be improved by requiring strict controls on the possession, use, dealing and manufacturing of firearms and requiring the safe and secure storage and carriage of firearms.

In 2023, the Western Australia Police Force advise that there were 517 incidents involving firearms this represents a 14% increase on recorded incidents involving a firearm in 2022.