

FIREARM LICENCE — MINIMUM PROPERTY SIZE

927. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the firearms licensing division's policy on minimum property size required for applications for a firearm licence.

- (1) Where in the Firearms Act 1973 or Firearms Regulations 1974 does it describe this requirement?
- (2) What is the rationale behind this requirement considering that a licence holder can use the firearm on any part of the property, including along boundaries near roadsides?
- (3) Why are landholders being denied adequate firearms for the humane destruction of vermin or euthanising sick or injured stock on the basis of property size when, regardless of the firearm used, it is an essential practice that backdrops are used to ensure a projectile does not leave the property regardless of its size?
- (4) Considering (3), what are the perceived safety outcomes of limiting particular calibres to property size?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Police, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) There is no specific provision in the Firearms Act 1973 designating the minimum property size required for applications for a firearm licence. Section 11A(2) of the Firearms Act outlines the requirement for a genuine reason, and subsection (3) outlines the requirement for justification of each particular kind of firearm and ammunition. The Firearms Act 1973 requires licence holders to use firearms with appropriate levels of safety, including not shooting from, to or across any roads or not shooting on land belonging to others without their express permission.
- (3) Western Australia Police only licenses firearms that are appropriate for the genuine reason and justification outlined in the application. Police licensing services consider the then Department of Agriculture's "Guidelines for the safe use of firearms" to ensure firearms are appropriate for the animals sought to be killed and licences are issued based upon suitability for the safe killing of the nominated animals.
- (4) Outcomes include effective destruction of animals, appropriate ammunition and public safety.