

FIREARMS ACT 1973 — REVIEW

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

On 27 April this year, a Channel 9 news report, “Firearms Black Market”, stated that the Law Reform Commission was undertaking a review following the identification of flaws in the legislation. It went on to state that police are currently unable to seize firearms even when a licensed firearms owner is charged with offences.

- (1) What flaws were identified?
- (2) Why are police unable to seize the firearms of licensed firearms owners charged with offences?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) The Law Reform Commission is currently undertaking a review of the Firearms Act 1973. The final report will be presented to the Attorney General in the second half of this year. I mentioned in the course of my brief ministerial statement at the commencement of today’s proceedings that the date for the presentation of the report has been extended to 30 September this year. It is expected that the recommendations from the final report will provide guidance for future reform.
- (2) WA Police has powers to stop, search and detain persons who are reasonably suspected of having a firearm or ammunition in their possession without a lawful excuse. Section 24 of Firearms Act 1973 provides general powers of seizure, with or without a warrant.