

FIREARMS, ANTIQUE AND CURIO

74. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

I refer the Minister to the answer to question on notice No. 1348 and ask -

- (a) what are the laws in Western Australia, governing antique and curio firearms manufactured before 1900;
- (b) which Australian States have the same laws as Western Australia, and if different, what are the differences;
- (c) will the Minister take a pro-active approach for collectors of antique and curio firearms manufactured before 1900 and delete them from the restrictions of the Firearms Act 1973; and
- (d) does the Minister have a view of which is more of a threat to the public; a pistol whose ammunition became obsolete before 1900 or a handgun with readily available ammunition?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

All firearms have to be licensed in Western Australia regardless of their age.

I am advised that legislation in most other Australian jurisdictions allows firearms manufactured before 1900 to be unlicensed provided there is no cartridge ammunition commercially available for them.

The Senior Officers Group of the Australian Police Ministers' Council (APMC) is currently reviewing a range of matters concerning firearms control with a view to having a nationally consistent approach.

Further, the Western Australia Police Service views rim-fire and centre-fire operating systems as modern innovations which, when fired from pre-1900 firearms, are as dangerous as when fired from a firearm manufactured post-1900.