

STATE FORESTS — FIREARMS HUNTING

487. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

Can the minister advise whether any groups or members of the community, other than those contracted for a specific purpose, have permission, rights or endorsement to hunt with firearms within a state forest?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. Aboriginal persons may have rights under common law or commonwealth legislation to hunt with firearms within state forests whilst exercising their native title rights. They may also be able to hunt with firearms within state forests if doing so for an Aboriginal customary purpose pursuant to the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 and the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950.

There are a range of restrictions on Aboriginal hunting with firearms, which are set out within the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002. The provisions of the Firearms Act 1973 continue to apply. These include requirements in relation to the safe use of firearms.

Other persons are able to hunt with firearms within state forests when authorised to do so for specific programs or projects, such as a feral pig control operation. The Department of Parks and Wildlife requires participants in such programs to be formally accredited for humane and safe operations and to be taking part in a DPaW-sanctioned program. The provisions of the Firearms Act 1973 continue to apply.