

FIREARMS AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2013 — REVIEW

890. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Attorney General:

In October 2013, a committee inquiry into the Firearms Amendment Regulations 2013 found that the objections of legitimate firearms owners to licence fee increases of up to 131 per cent were justified. A key recommendation of the committee, which reported on 31 October 2013, was that a review of the act be undertaken. When the review by the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia was announced in March 2014, a discussion paper was to be produced by December 2014 and a final report by September 2015. Despite that the final report is now due, the discussion paper, originally due last year, has not been produced.

- (1) Will the Attorney General now provide a date for the discussion paper?
- (2) Will the Attorney General provide a date for the final report that will neither compromise the consultation process nor further delay the process?
- (3) Will the Attorney General assure Western Australia's 83 000 firearms owners that —
 - (a) their concerns have been taken seriously; and
 - (b) the prospect of a review was not merely a delaying tactic by this government?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) I am advised that the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia will publish its discussion paper on the review of the firearms legislation by 31 October 2015.
- (2) I will confirm a date for the publication of the final report following the publication of the discussion paper and after further consultation with the commission. The date will provide for sufficient opportunity for stakeholders to make submissions and for the commission to conduct such further inquiries as it thinks fit to facilitate the review and inform its recommendations.
- (3) Yes. The assignment of this subject to the Law Reform Commission is not a delaying tactic by government. The government is keen to ensure that any change to or reform of the firearms regulation regime in the state is comprehensive, considered and thorough.

As to progress, the commission operates as an independent statutory authority and exercises operational independence in the manner that it approaches the projects and terms of reference assigned to it. It is undertaking a comprehensive review of the firearms legislation, which is a large and complex body of work.