

FIREARMS ACT 1973 — REVIEW

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

I refer to my question without notice 384 asked yesterday, 10 May, when I referred to a Channel Nine news report, “Firearms Black Market”, in which it was stated that the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia was undertaking a review of the Firearms Act following the identification of flaws in the legislation. The report went on to state that police are currently unable to seize firearms even when a licensed firearms owner is charged with offences.

Can the minister confirm —

- (1) that a review of the Firearms Act was not instigated due to flaws being identified; and
- (2) whether the statement “that police are unable to seize the firearms of licensed firearms owners charged with offences” was incorrect?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) The Law Reform Commission of Western Australia was tasked to review the Firearms Act 1973 under the following terms of reference —
 1. provide advice on and recommend appropriate legislative and/or procedural changes with regard to the licensing and storage of firearms, definitions and categorisation of firearms, and effects of changes in firearm technology incorporating national initiatives where appropriate.
 2. provide advice on and recommend appropriate legislative changes regarding penalties for firearm offences and, in so doing, consider consistency with penalties in other Australian states and territories.
 3. review any relevant issues arising from the recent ‘Operation Unification’, the Auditor General’s Reports on firearms licensing, Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation Report 68, Explanatory Report in relation to the Firearms Amendment Regulations 2013 and any other relevant Parliamentary Inquiry.
 4. provide advice on any other relevant matters.
- (2) Without knowing the full extent of the alleged statement and the context in which it was made, it is not possible to comment. However, I refer the member to the answer to Legislative Council question without notice 384 of 2016.