

FIREARMS REVIEW COMMITTEE, REPORT

1348. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

I refer to the multi party committee established by the previous State Government to review Western Australia's firearms laws and ask -

- (a) what is the status of the work of that committee;
- (b) when is it proposed that a report will be prepared for discussion and consultation;
- (c) did the committee agree to follow the rest of Australia and delete firearms made before 1900 from any restrictions of the Firearms Act 1973; and
- (d) if so, why has the Firearms Branch of the Police Department sent out renewal licences, with a fee of \$48.00, to owners of firearms made prior to 1900?

Mrs ROBERTS replied:

- (a)-(c) The Police Service advises that it would appear that the bipartisan Firearms Act Review Committee, established by the former Minister for Police, did not present a final report. Several members of that Committee, including the Chair, are no longer members of Parliament. I am advised that the ACT has the same requirements as Western Australia.
- (d) In 1996 the Firearms Act was amended to create a Firearm Collectors Licence (section 9A). This amendment cancelled the existing perpetual Firearm Curio Licence and administratively issued all holders with a Firearm Collectors Licence renewed for five years from 6/12/1996. Those licences are now due for renewal and a five-year renewal attracts a fee of \$48.

I am sympathetic to the situation of antique firearms collectors. The Australasian Police Ministers Council (APMC) Firearms Policy Working Group continues to evaluate a national approach to antique firearms. The Firearms Policy Working Group (FPWG) is expected to report to the Senior Officers Group and APMC during 2002 and I look forward to considering their recommendations.