

FIREARMS ACT 1973 — TRANSPORT OPERATORS

1066. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to correspondence from WA Police referenced “commercial carrier exemption” that imposes significant and unreasonable requirements for the carriage of firearms and ammunition in Western Australia. Neither the act nor the regulations have changed, but a recent reinterpretation of the Firearms Act 1973 is causing serious financial hardship to a number of small commercial carriers and regional firearms dealers.

- (1) Why has section 8(1)(g) of the act been subject to reinterpretation?
- (2) Was there any consultation with the relevant firearms or commercial carrier industries prior to the policy change?
- (3) Was the minister advised of this policy change?
- (4) Is the minister aware of the ramifications for regional firearm owners and dealers and small commercial carriers?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) There has been no reinterpretation of section 8(1)(g) of the Firearms Act 1973. However, there has been an increase in compliance monitoring.
- (2) Contact was made with a number of transport operators by Western Australia Police, reminding operators that approval is required to convey firearms or ammunition.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) There has been no change to the requirements placed on regional firearm owners, dealers and small commercial carriers under the Firearms Act 1973.

The PRESIDENT: Did I see Hon Simon O’Brien seeking the call?

Hon Ken Travers: Go ahead, Dorothy.

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN: When has the member ever known me to ask a dorothy dixer? I am the only member in this place who asks vaguely challenging questions.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! You have the call, but only to ask a question.

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN: I will continue with the other business in a consultant capacity at the Labor Party’s next conference or something.