

FIREARMS ACT — LAW REFORM COMMISSION REVIEW

**361. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Attorney General:**

My question is in regard to the proposed review of the Firearms Act 1973 by the Law Reform Commission of WA.

- (1) Is the formulation of the terms of reference the responsibility of the Minister for Police or the Attorney General?
- (2) Have the terms of reference been formulated, and —
  - (a) if so, what are they; and
  - (b) if not, why not?
- (3) As *Hansard* shows that the Minister for Police advised the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2013 that the review “will commence on or before 1 March 2014”, can the minister confirm that it has in fact commenced?
- (4) When will stakeholders and members of the public be invited to make submissions?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:**

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

- (1) It is the Attorney General who provides terms of reference to the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia.
- (2)
  - (a) Yes. They are, first, that the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia provide advice on, and recommend, appropriate legislative and/or procedural changes with regard to the licensing and storage of firearms, the definitions and categorisation of firearms, and the effects of changes in firearm technology, incorporating national initiatives where appropriate; second, that the commission 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; third, review any relevant issues arising from the recent “Operation Unification”, the Auditor General’s reports on firearms licensing, the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation’s sixty-eighth report, “Explanatory Report in relation to the Firearms Amendment Regulations 2013”, and any other relevant parliamentary inquiry; and lastly, provides advice on any other relevant matters.
  - (b) Not applicable.
- (3) The terms of reference were provided to the Law Reform Commission on 24 February 2014 and I understand that some preliminary scoping work has been undertaken.
- (4) There will be a public consultation process. However, the time frame for this has not yet been determined.