

FIREARMS ACT 1973 — FIREARMS SEIZURES

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

I refer to the Firearms Act 1973 and ask the minister to please advise if any flaws have been identified in the legislation that would limit or prevent police from seizing firearms held by licensed firearm owners who have been found to have committed an offence?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

The Law Reform Commission of Western Australia is currently conducting a review of the Firearms Act 1973. At this stage WA Police is unaware of any findings. Once the review is completed, it is expected that WA Police will be afforded the opportunity to respond. Western Australian police have the power to seize firearms from licensed firearm owners who have been charged with offences. Police have powers to stop, search and detain persons who are reasonably suspected of having a firearm or ammunition in their possession without a lawful excuse. Section 24 of the Firearms Act provides general powers of seizure with or without a warrant, and regulation 22A of the Firearms Regulations 1974 provides powers of entry without a warrant and places requirements on police for firearms so seized.