

POLICE — FIREARMS LICENCE APPLICATIONS

670. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

Section 11A(2) of the Firearms Act 1973, states —

A person has a genuine reason for acquiring or possessing a firearm or ammunition if and only if —

...

- (c) it is for use in hunting or shooting of a recreational nature on land the owner of which has given written permission for that hunting or shooting;

An extensive and thorough report, “Review of the Firearms Act 1973 (WA)” by the Law Reform Commission carefully considered section 11A(2)(c) and stated —

... the Commission acknowledges that no evidence has been provided to suggest that the current property letter system has been a threat to public safety.

Further, recommendation 57 of the Law Reform Commission review states —

The place where a firearm may be used should not be restricted only to those properties that were the subject of the property letters.

- (1) Is the minister aware that recent applicants for firearms licences are being asked to provide answers to the following questions: How did you obtain your property letter; if through a dealer, which dealer? Was there a cost involved in obtaining the letter; if so, what was that cost? Do you know where the property is located? Do you know the property owner/manager; if so, how long have you known him or her? What is your relationship to that person? Have you visited the property? When do you intend to visit the property? Are there any other properties that you shoot on?
- (2) Under which section of the act or regulations are these questions being asked?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is under section 11A of the Firearms Act 1973.