

FIREARMS — PROPERTY PERMISSION LETTERS

1290. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to my question without notice 1264 and the minister's response of 17 November 2015. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 11A(2)(c) of the Firearms Act 1973, it is indisputable that it has been a longstanding practice of the firearms licensing division to accept firearms licence applications supported by property permission letters signed by managers of properties.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the property/primary producer advice pro forma document that carries the WA Police and Australia Post logos and states that this permission is granted whilst I remain an owner/manager of the abovementioned property or it is otherwise withdrawn?
- (2) Is the minister aware that in the firearms consultative working group meeting of 23 October 2015 members were informed that, in line with the Law Reform Commission's discussion paper, property letters would be valid for only 12 months from the date of issue; and, if so —
 - (a) does the minister agree that this is another change in policy; and
 - (b) what other changes to the Firearms Act, regulations and policy will be implemented in accordance with the discussion paper ahead of the Law Reform Commission's final report?
- (3) I ask the minister again —
 - (a) when did the change of policy take place;
 - (b) who was consulted regarding the change of policy; and
 - (c) why was the policy changed?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) The template letter for property permission is available for downloading on the WA Police website. Approximately nine months ago it was identified a number of template letters received by WA Police had been altered by some authors to include "owner/manager", not "owner", within the letter. The current document on the WA Police website is now protected and cannot be altered.
- (2)
 - (a) The expiry of property/primary producer advice after 12 months was implemented by the delegated approvals officer on 8 May 2014. The Firearm Consultative Working Group meeting held on 23 October 2015 discussed this matter and there were no issues identified at that meeting.
 - (b) No changes to policy will be made until the finalisation of the Law Reform Commission review.
- (3)
 - (a) The policy has not changed. The requirement for written permission from the owner is covered under section 11A(2)(c) of the Firearms Act 1973.
 - (b)–(c) Not applicable.