

PRISONERS REVIEW BOARD — EARLY PAROLE — LUKE NOORMETS

599. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the government's firearms reforms announced 18 months ago and today's announcement that anyone issued with a violence restraining order will automatically be banned from owning a firearm. Earlier this year, WA mother Georgia Lyall was shot dead by her ex-partner, who had been released from jail on early parole after serving time for torturing a man for 13 hours.

- (1) Are the WA Prisoners Review Board's decision-making processes being reviewed following its move to grant early parole to Luke Noormets?
- (2) How can such a violent individual be released early?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) As I have just said, we will introduce laws that will mean that individuals like the one that the member mentioned will not be eligible to hold a gun licence, but, of course, that would not have stopped him. My understanding is that he had an illegal firearm and utilised that in undertaking that criminal activity. That is regrettable, but as the member for Vasse has just observed, we will bring in the most comprehensive reforms of firearms legislation in over 50 years. I commend the Minister for Police for the very important work he has done with the police force and all the stakeholders who have had input into these laws.

We will not be able to take all illegal firearms off the streets, but through these laws we will have much greater control and the police will have more powers. That is why it is important that we have the opportunity to debate these laws. They will be completed in the coming months, and we look forward to these laws finding their way to Parliament probably at the beginning of next year. I recommend that every member of Parliament familiarises themselves with these laws and listens to any issues in their communities. Let us stand resolute in making sure we have firearm laws that can, as much as possible, eliminate the use of firearms, either illegally or legally, when it is not necessary.