



Minister for Police; Tourism;  
Road Safety; Women's Interests

Our Ref: 45-06629

Ms Lauren Mesiti  
Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Public Administration  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000



Thank you for the invitation to make a written submission to the Standing Committee on Public Administration's Inquiry into Recreational Hunting Systems.

In making this submission I acknowledge that the Standing Committee may also request officers from the Western Australia Police to appear before it and may seek information from the Department. I am aware that the Commissioner of Police or his delegated officer have also accepted the opportunity to present a written submission to the Standing Committee.

The Western Australian *Firearms Act 1973* (the Act) and *Firearms Regulations 1974* (the Regulations) provide for the control and regulation of firearms and ammunition and the licensing of persons possessing, using and otherwise dealing with or manufacturing firearms.

Responsibility for the administration of the Act is vested in the Minister, with the various functions and requirements being carried out by the Commissioner of Police. Enforcement provisions for offences in respect of both the Act and Regulations are the responsibility of Western Australian Police.

Whilst the current Act and Regulations provide the means for recreational shooters and others to possess and use firearms, the considerations that form the terms of reference for this inquiry should not be used as a presumption or pretext for the acquisition of firearms by persons on the basis of an approval or exemption being granted to use firearms on public lands.

A regulated recreational hunting system would suggest the Department responsible for administration of the land that the hunting would take place on would have a form of registration and possibly a fee structure in place.

Further, a regulated recreational hunting system would also suggest that the Department responsible for administration of the land would have a licence system, code of conduct and penalty provisions in place.

Should an application for a new or additional firearm licence be based solely or partially upon permission by the responsible Department to shoot a firearm on public land, the requirements of the Act would still need to be satisfied.

Should the permission to shoot on public land either expire, be revoked or not renewed by the responsible Department, the firearm licence may be subject to revocation as the firearm licence holder may not comply with the genuine need and genuine reason test.

In commenting on firearm licensing, I acknowledge that the Law Reform Commission will be conducting a review of the Act and Regulations and this may have implications for the inquiry.

WA Police would have a supportive enforcement role in any decision to licence or permit the use of firearms on public lands.

Yours sincerely



**LIZA HARVEY MLA  
MINISTER FOR POLICE; TOURISM;  
ROAD SAFETY; WOMEN'S INTERESTS**

28 FEB 2014