

FIREARMS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

502. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. After the Auditor General brought down his report in 2013, the minister went on radio and described the permission letter situation as “an absolute nonsense” and “a bizarre anomaly”. Why is it that two years later the minister has still not fixed the loophole in the Firearms Act?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

Indeed, one of the problems I think we have with legislation in this state is that there is often a piecemeal approach to rectifying anomalous situations that arise out of our legislative instruments. I requested a comprehensive review of the Firearms Act. Obviously, a large number of stakeholders have wanted to contribute to that review. My interest is in getting a new legislative instrument that will be contemporary, workable and acceptable to all the stakeholders. Obviously, of paramount concern is we want the safety of every single Western Australian to be put at the forefront of this. Out of the review and out of our registration system, we want a system whereby police know where every single firearm is stored, how many people own them, where they are located and who those people are. We want to make sure that only appropriate people own firearms, that we know how many they have, we know where they are stored and we have good compliance and a robust system to manage them. That is my interest, and sitting atop that, of course, is the fact that it will be a contemporary piece of legislation. I am not interested in a minor amendment to the act; I want legislation that will bring us into this century.