

FIREARMS ACT — REFORM

1833. Hon Ben Dawkins to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the proposed firearm reforms and the power for police to determine the suitability of a person for a firearms licence based on the “views and opinions” of that person, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister provide a list of defined “views and opinions” that police will use to determine a person’s suitability for a firearms license;
- (b) if no to (1), will the police commissioner of the day subjectively decide what views or opinions make a person unsuitable for a firearms license; and
- (c) if a person believes the Cook Labor Government is authoritarian, lacking in transparency and driven by Fabian socialist ideology, would that be a view and opinion that would make them unsuitable for a firearms license?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

The Western Australia Police Force advise:

- (a) No.
- (b) No. The Commissioner will objectively form an opinion as to whether a person is fit and proper in respect to any of the following —
 - the person’s conduct and behaviour;
 - the person’s physical and mental health;
 - the person’s views, opinions and attitudes;
 - the person’s way of living or domestic circumstances;
 - whether the person is of good repute, having regard to the person’s character, honesty and integrity.

Reference: Section 150 Firearms Bill 2024

- (c) The three “views and opinions” indicated would not be sufficient alone to determine a person’s suitability for a firearms’ licence application. A comprehensive assessment would be required to be undertaken by the Commissioner of Police to objectively consider all known facts in regard to any licence holder or applicant, to determine their suitability within the over-riding principle of public safety.