



The Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation  
GPO Box: A 11  
PERTH WA 6837

10<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

To the Committee,

I find the recent firearm licence fee increases ridiculous and outrageous in their size.

The only possible conclusion that can be drawn from a 55% increase for an original licence (\$159.20 up to \$246.30) and a whopping 133.8% increase for every additional firearm added to that licence (\$72.50 up to \$169.50), is that the WA Government and by extension WA Police Service want to make it as difficult as possible for new law abiding people to enter the firearms sports or take up hunting and/or feral animal control as a past time.

If the Government and Police were truly serious about wanting to reduce the number of firearms in the community, then the Police Services' budget should be given the money it deserves, so they can pursue the ILLEGAL firearms that are out there (O.M.C.G. anyone?), rather than going after the easy targets - the ones they already know about and have in the register.

As Law Abiding Firearm Owners (LAFO's) we have already jumped through the hoops required in order to obtain our firearms – we wouldn't be that stupid to risk everything we have worked for to willingly use, or allow them to be used, for illegal purposes.

I have also read that WA police are to begin development of a new firearm licensing system. Does this mean the current register is in some way flawed or insecure?

Having read a number of news reports and articles where a NSW Police Sergeant has gone public about the insecurity of their register along with the seemingly targeted theft of firearms in both NSW and Tasmania (other unsecured high value items left and only secured firearms taken), it begs the question – is the concentration of so much firearms data in one place a sensible thing?

The scrapping of long gun registries in Canada and New Zealand hasn't seen them fall into complete chaos.

Yours Sincerely,

Russell Thomas