

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 58

asked on Wednesday, 5 February 2020

MR P WEIR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise why the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has deemed it necessary for a qualified weapons employee who holds a firearms licence obtained through the rigorous process administered by the Queensland Police Service, will be required from February 2020 to obtain another security licence to handle gun powder at an additional cost of \$200 per person?

ANSWER:

In response to tragic events in the past and recommendations made by the Not Now, Not Ever report, the recent amendments to the *Explosives Act 1999* specify tightened appropriateness requirements for a security clearance held by a person who has access to security-sensitive explosives. Propellant powders, including gunpowder, are security-sensitive explosives.

I am advised that employees at gun shops usually have access to security-sensitive explosives (propellant powders) as part of their employment. They must hold a firearms licence and undergo a security clearance process administered by the Weapons Licensing Branch of the Queensland Police Service.

The Firearms Dealers Association of Queensland (FDAQ) has raised the issue of potential duplication of security clearance requirements with the Explosives Inspectorate of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. The Explosives Inspectorate and the Weapons Licensing Branch of the Queensland Police Service are now working together to determine whether the existing firearms security clearance process meets the security clearance requirements of the Explosives Act.

My priority remains the safety and security of Queenslanders.