

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No: 1868

Asked by: Mr Andy Meddick (Member for Western Victoria Region)

Question:

To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to the Game Management Authority website that states that firearms are not to be used in a 'populous' place: Can the Minister please clarify the definition of populous.

Reply:

I am advised that the term “populous place” was recently removed from the *Firearms Act 1996* and replaced with “public place” as part of amendments to section 130 to address gun crime, particularly in urban and industrial settings. It has the same meaning as it has in section 3 of the *Summary Offences Act 1966*.

The Game Management Authority (GMA) has recently updated its website to be more contemporary and to make it easier for the public to find information. The Authority has sought feedback from the public about areas for improvement and has updated the reference to “populous place” and replaced it with “public place”, and refers people to the *Summary Offences Act 1966* for the definition.

Further requests for information about the definition of “public place”; and the application of section 130 of the *Firearms Act 1996* in respect of a person possessing, carrying or using a firearm while acting under a game licence; should be directed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services or the Attorney General.



Jaclyn Symes MP
Minister for Agriculture