



Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and  
Minister for Corrective Services

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File No: PSB/00092  
Ref No: 02887-2016 JF  
Your Ref: 10.4 Petitions

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for letter dated 16 March 2016 in reference to Petition Nos. 2557-16 and 2494-15 about the review of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA).

I can advise that the firearms policy set out in the NFA is designed to achieve the best balance between the needs of people, such as sporting shooters and primary producers, who require genuine access to firearms, and the interests of the broader community.

In February 2015, a joint Commonwealth and New South Wales Government review recommended that Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments consider a review of the technical elements of the NFA, including whether the existing classification of firearms is appropriate. Given the advances in technology associated with firearms since the NFA was introduced in 1996, a review was considered necessary to ensure that the Agreement reflects the current environment.

A review has been undertaken through the Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group, which is represented by officials from every Australian jurisdiction led by the Commonwealth Government and Commonwealth Attorney-General. During the course of the review, the Working Group engaged in extensive consultation with the firearms industry and key stakeholders.

In early November 2015, the Working Group reported to the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council, which assists the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in promoting best practice in law, criminal justice and community safety. Queensland is represented on the Council by the Minister for Police. At that meeting, the Council reaffirmed the significance of the NFA and requested further advice on the matters raised. This advice will be provided for consideration by the Council when it next meets in 2016.

Should you require further information, please contact Ms Ellen McIntyre, Chief of Staff, on telephone (07) 3035 8300.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



The Honourable Bill Byrne MP  
**Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and  
Minister for Corrective Services**