


Min15/003340



- 7 DEC 2015

Dear 

I refer to your letter of November 7, 2015 to the Premier regarding the *Firearms Act 1996*. Your letter was referred to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Justice and Police, the Hon Troy Grant MP, who has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The New South Wales firearms legislation is underpinned by the 1996 National Firearms Agreement and State legislation adheres to the principles outlined in the Agreement.

Following the Martin Place siege, Commonwealth and State governments committed to updating the technical elements of the Agreement. This work may inform any re-categorisation of firearms in New South Wales and across Australia.

As part of the technical update, consultation and engagement occurred with the firearms community and community safety organisations.

At a recent meeting of the Law, Crime, and Community Safety Council there was a discussion about the reclassification of lever action shotguns as part of the review process.

In relation to reclassifications the New South Wales Government has stated that prior to the approval of New South Wales, changes need to be rigorously justified, evidence based, fully costed and the impacts on public safety and existing firearms owners fully considered.

The Deputy Premier has indicated that the New South Wales Government is not convinced that these criteria have been met at this time.

The New South Wales Government welcomes your views about the issue and will carefully consider your comments.

Discussions will continue with other jurisdictions. These discussions will involve the various Commissioners of Police and Justice Department Secretaries across all Australian jurisdictions.

The Commonwealth Government has amended the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 as an interim measure to temporarily prohibit the importation of lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than five rounds.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'FAMP', is written above the typed name.

Acting Director
Ministerial Coordination and Parliamentary Services