



ANDREW BARR MLA
CHIEF MINISTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Treasurer
Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Urban Renewal
Minister for Tourism and Events

Member for Molonglo

Mr Julian Robertson
Presiding Clerk
The Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers) in Australia
ymsecretary@quakers.org.au

Dear Mr Robertson

Thank you for your letter dated 7 July 2016 urging the ACT to maintain and strengthen current firearms controls.

My Government takes firearms issues very seriously and supports the principles and objects underpinning national firearms agreements that are reflected in the *ACT Firearms Act 1996*. This includes a clear commitment to the principle that firearm possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.

As you may know, the Commonwealth Government is responsible for controlling the importation of prohibited items, including firearms, parts and other weapons, however the sale, possession and use of these items is regulated by the states and territories.

The ACT is aware that the Commonwealth has temporarily prohibited the importation of lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than five rounds. The Commonwealth Attorney-General recently advised that the prohibition will remain in place until the review of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA) is concluded and the agreed outcomes are implemented. The review of the NFA is expected to be considered by Commonwealth, state and territory Ministers later this year.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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In addition, the ACT Firearms Registry has advised that it would not approve a permit to acquire a lever action firearm with a magazine capacity of more than five rounds. Under Item 8, Schedule 2, of the *Prohibited Weapons Act 1996*, a shotgun magazine with a capacity of more than five rounds is a prohibited article.

If any amendments to legislation are required as a result of decisions about the Adler lever-action firearm at the Commonwealth level, the ACT Government will consider these carefully including in consultation with the Firearms Consultative Committee and other stakeholders.

I thank you for taking the time to raise this issue with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

15 AUG 2016