



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR DIGITAL GOVERNMENT  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

1077-1570  
1077-1581

RECEIVED

21 JAN 2016

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MC15-006594

Dr Dennis Jensen  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Petition for the control of export of historic motor vehicles – 1077/1570  
and 1077/1582**

Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your letters dated 9 October 2015 (reference 1077/1570) and 12 October 2015 (reference 1077/1582) about two petitions regarding preserving historic motor vehicles in Australia under the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986* (the Act). I thank the petitioners for highlighting their issues with the protections for historic vehicles offered by the Act.

The Act regulates the export and import of significant Australian movable cultural heritage objects. It prevents a cultural object which is of significance to Australia being exported without a valid export permit issued by the Minister for the Arts. The Act allows me, as the Minister, to deny export permits for objects that are of such significance to Australia that Australia's cultural heritage would be diminished by their permanent export. Without an export permit such objects are not authorised to transit across Australia's borders.

In December 2014, the Australian Government appointed cultural heritage lawyer Mr Shane Simpson AM to review the Act. The terms of reference for this external review included consideration of the categories of cultural material protected by regulation and a review of the most effective framework for protection and enforcement of the Act.

During the course of the comprehensive review, Mr Simpson met with many stakeholders, including representatives from the Council of Heritage Motor Clubs, the Council of Motor Clubs and the Australian Motorlife Museum, in order to broadly consider their concerns with the current Act.

The final review report was submitted to the Australian Government on 30 September 2015. The Government is considering the report and expects to announce its response in the coming months.

*Mitch*  
MITCH FIELD

15/12/15