



Police Federation
of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

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30 November 2015

Secretariat
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members

**POLICE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION:
COUNTER-TERRORISM LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (No.1) 2015**

The Police Federation of Australia represents Australia's 60,000 police officers in each State and Territory and the Australian Federal Police. As such we have a vital interest in the full spectrum of counter-terrorism measures necessary to keep Australia safe and to best equip Australian law enforcement with the capabilities to deal with the heightened terrorist threat.

We broadly support the measures in the Bill before the Joint Committee to enhance the legislative powers of police and intelligence agencies in dealing with potential terrorists.

However, we believe there are additional complimentary, systemic steps that can be taken by jurisdictions collectively to better deal with terrorism risks and offences, and other serious and organized crime. We also think that the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has an important role in looking beyond legislative measures to the full range of capabilities and tools that law enforcement and intelligence agencies need to be effective in the task of minimizing the terrorism threat. Section 28 of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001* setting out the role of your Committee reinforces that view.

Following the shocking terrorist killing of police employee Curtis Cheng outside Parramatta Police Headquarters on 2 October, all Australia's police association Presidents launched a *Three Point Plan for Better National Security* in Adelaide on 20 October 2015.

The subsequent series of barbaric terrorist attacks in Paris this month have only served to strengthen our resolve that the three measures we propose are vital and urgent. Gaps in intelligence and information-sharing were evident in the Paris events as you would know.

I am sure Committee members will agree that intelligence, surveillance, good communications and collaboration, and effective management of criminal investigations and prosecutions are essential. To achieve those essentials, we are calling on Federal, State and Territory Governments to fund, develop and implement the following **Three Point Plan for Better National Security** and we would welcome the Committee's support for this Plan:

1. A National Case Management System

This is a means of managing a criminal investigation from its commencement, through all stages, to the point of prosecution.

A national system means all eight police forces, with eighteen current systems, can collaborate effectively in dealing with crimes rather than behaving as "silos" each with its own isolated picture of incidents and events.

A national picture, and links between criminals, and across borders, will greatly improve Australia's crime and terrorism fighting capacity. The feasibility study has been completed and the time for action on this initiative is well overdue.

2. A new National Criminal Intelligence System (NCIS)

This would replace the two existing 30-year old systems with one pro-active and real-time national alerting system providing monitoring, indicators and warnings, trend analysis, and metrics giving a national intelligence picture for the Australian Crime Commission and all of Australia's police forces.

It will enable better strategic, operational and tactical decisions by police forces. It will facilitate real-time collaboration and intelligence sharing, improve technical capabilities, free-up time of intelligence officers to concentrate on the higher-level tasks and analysis, and improve operational effectiveness.

The ACC could develop the system and all law enforcement agencies would use it. The board of the ACC, which includes all Police Commissioners, could oversee its development.

3. The allocation of 20MHz of spectrum in the 700MHz band for a dedicated interoperable public safety mobile broadband capability.

This would mean our police forces (and fire, ambulance and SES) would move from their 20th century radio-only communications to 21st century mobile broadband communications across a secure national network.

They would be able to communicate across State borders and share video, data, finger prints, firearms records, geographic information, weather forecasts and all manner of information necessary in dealing with mission-critical incidents like the Martin Place siege, the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria, the Queensland floods and in-building emergencies like multi-story fires.

The Commonwealth owns the spectrum and the ACMA in November 2015 identified proposed spectrum for public safety agencies.

These initiatives have been on the national law enforcement agenda for far too long and they have been the subject of numerous Federal Parliamentary and other Inquiries, all calling for a national approach to the issues. The inertia is letting the community down in the face of serious threats to national security and community safety. Further scoping, feasibility and cost/benefit studies are the last thing needed.

The PFA proposes that funding of this ***Three Point Plan for Better National Security*** could be achieved by the immediate adoption of a national unexplained wealth regime, so that the criminals in the community pay for these state-of-the-art policing technologies.

Unfortunately the most recent meeting of Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers at the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council in early November failed to address these important issues even though senior officials on the frontline of counter-terrorism in this country, and the Australian Crime Commission, believe these steps are necessary.

I'm sure Committee members will agree that it is time for our law enforcement and intelligence agencies across the nation to be truly interoperable and using 21st century technologies and systems to address the challenge of terrorism and serious and organized crime.

We urge the Committee to consider these measures and we would be pleased to expand on our proposals if that would assist your inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Mark Burgess
Chief Executive Officer