



Police Federation of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members

PFA SUBMISSION: NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AND PJC ON LAW ENFORCEMENT BILLS 2010

The Police Federation of Australia (PFA) would like to congratulate the Government for introducing, and Senators from both major parties for supporting, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Bill 2010.

In our 2007 pre-election policy the PFA proposed 'extending Parliamentary Committee oversight to the AFP in the same way as the Australian Crime Commission and ASIO are subject to Parliamentary scrutiny'¹.

We consider that the Bill, with the benefit of experience from the PJC on the Australian Crime Commission, strikes an appropriate balance between the scrutiny we think is warranted and the safeguards for sensitive information held by law enforcement bodies, operational matters that should not be interfered with, and exceptional circumstances where inquiries might be prejudiced or where private hearings might be more appropriate.

We think the new Committee can make an important contribution to the community appreciation of the role of law enforcement by shedding greater light on the role and performance of the Australian Federal Police and on the trends and changes in crime. If this is achieved, governments will be better

¹ Police Federation of Australia, *Law and Order in Australia: Policies for the Future*, 2007, page 20.

placed to ensure that law enforcement agencies are well resourced for the tasks they are called on to carry out.

The PFA also supports the measures in the National Security Legislation Amendment Bill 2010.

The changes resulting from the new and expanded urging violence offence are a significant improvement on the former offences of sedition and treason. It might be useful for the Committee to consider recommending that the new offence be publicized once the legislation is enacted so that the crime of urging violence is well understood in the general community.

The emergency powers in relation to terrorism offences are sensible as a means of protecting the community. The right of appeal provision relating to bail in the case of terrorism offences is sound. The widened scope of inquiry for the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security is supported.

Thank you for the opportunity to comments on the two Bills in question.

Yours sincerely

Mark Burgess
Chief Executive Officer