



The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Minister for Cyber Security
Minister for the Arts
Leader of the House

Ref No: MS26-000183

Stephanie Foster PSM
Secretary
Department of Home Affairs
4 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stephanie'.

I, the Hon Tony Burke MP, in my capacity as the Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, and Minister for Cyber Security (Minister) acknowledge that the Department of Home Affairs continues to adjust its regulatory posture to align with whole-of-Government objectives. I expect that, in its delivery of regulatory activities, the Department focuses on striking a better balance of risk mitigation with efficiency, growth and dynamism while not reducing security outcomes.

The breadth of your Department's functions provides an opportunity to consider innovative ways to build our nation and secure Australia's future, in a way that reflects Government's commitment to productivity-oriented regulatory reform. As guiding principles, I expect the Department to ensure its regulatory settings and subsequent activities:

- Reduce any unnecessary regulatory burden, by ensuring regulatory controls reflect only what is necessary to achieve policy intent.
- Engage and leverage innovation, including supporting uptake of artificial intelligence and automation – recognising the benefit of emerging technology solutions in boosting productivity.
- Work with other Commonwealth regulators on improved regulatory alignment, removing any overlapping or duplicative regulation, including through the Regulatory Leadership Cohort.

- Balance the need for strong security objectives of the Department's regulatory functions, with the expectations of community, business and industry to feel safe, secure and welcome.
- Where relevant, ensure that in discharging regulatory responsibilities, the Department is addressing international regulations and the global regulatory operating environment.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the Department of Finance through implementation and reporting on regulatory reform proposals, both those led by the Department and on contributions to reform initiatives across Government. This is particularly important for those that require legislative change and/or funding, and also includes maintaining adherence to the Department of Finance's Resource Management Guide 128 on Regulator Performance.

The *Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework* sets out the six principles for regulation, namely: targeted and risk based; integrated in existing systems; user-centred; evidence-based and data-driven; reflective of the digital era; and continuously improved and outcomes-focused. I trust that these will underpin your Department's regulatory posture, as it adapts to the priority focus on enabling productivity growth.

It is also my expectation that the Department has processes in place to measure performance of regulatory activities, including through publications such as the Department's Corporate Plans.

In the context of the guiding principles outlined in this letter, I will work with the Department to contribute to Government's regulatory objective as they relate to the Department's regulatory functions. Specifically, I expect the Department to:

- Further scale regulatory measures to improve the cyber maturity and capability across the economy, including partnering with business to remove regulatory barriers to business dynamism and enabling adoption of emerging technology.
- Reduce compliance costs on industry by implementing a single incident reporting interface that centralises multiple cyber, information and data security regulatory reporting obligations with multiple Commonwealth regulators.
- Ensure that regulation under the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* continues to be risk-based, proportionate, and evidence-led, while maintaining robust national security outcomes. SOCI Act obligations should be supported through best practice guidance to reduce compliance costs and focus on security outcomes.

- Ensure aviation and maritime security regulation is flexible and scalable, proportionate to risk, noting the need to prioritise enhanced airport perimeter security and increased compliance outcomes on aviation and air cargo screening measures. This includes co-designing best practice guidance to support compliance with aviation and maritime security legislation while ensuring a strong compliance regime.
- Increase efficiency and security outcomes for the AusCheck background checking framework, to alleviate the manual and administrative burden that the current regulatory settings have on industry and Government.
- Improve the efficiency of issuing firearms import permits by leveraging the digitisation and information sharing benefits that will be delivered by the National Firearms Register and delivering the intelligence function for state and territory firearms licences.
- Modernise the industry regulatory frameworks for electronic surveillance, critical infrastructure, aviation and maritime security, background checking are kept up to date and suggest reforms where needed.
- Protect consumers of immigration assistance and contribute to upholding and maintaining the integrity of Australia's migration system, through strengthened and effective regulation of Registered Migration Agents and Continuing Professional Development Providers.
- Design and deliver a migration system that better targets who arrives, who leaves, and who stays in Australia.
- Sustain engagement with key border and industry partners to maintain momentum in identifying and advancing low cost and high regulatory benefit initiatives that will contribute to the promotion of Australia's productivity while safeguarding the Australian community.
- Reduce regulatory burden and administrative costs for business and the Australian community by simplifying and streamlining the cross-border trade environment, consistent with the Government's agenda.
- Align regulations applied to imports consistent with regulatory requirements of domestic goods to meet international trade obligations, while supporting the innovative and productive capabilities of our domestic industries.
- Disrupt the illicit tobacco business model by strengthening and modernising legislation that addresses organised crime groups capitalising on the current "lower-risk, higher-reward" perception that comes from the illicit trafficking and trade in tobacco (and associated tobacco) products.

I look forward to working with the Department on the above regulatory reforms and on future opportunities that seek to improve the way in which the Department delivers its regulatory responsibilities.

Yours sincerely



Tony Burke

9 / 2 / 2026