



EC26-002029

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Cyber Security
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Leader of the House
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February 2026 outlining your expectations for how the Department of Home Affairs, including the Australian Border Force, will contribute to the Government's regulatory reform agenda. This Regulator Statement of Intent (SOI) outlines how I will deliver on those expectations as the Accountable Authority for the department.

The department delivers significant programs, policies and operations spanning national security, cyber security, immigration and citizenship, and border enforcement. This breadth brings with it a clear opportunity to support productivity and growth while balancing outcomes for industry, the community and Australia's national interests.

Consistent with your expectations, I have reinforced across the department that our regulatory posture will be anchored on the six core principles of best practice regulation as outlined in the Department of Finance's *Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework*. This will underpin a sustained program of regulatory uplift, characterised by continuous improvement in our regulatory approaches, proactive co-design and collaboration with industry and the community.

To **reduce unnecessary regulatory burden**, we will:

- Ensure our regulatory and compliance activities are risk-based and proportionate, balancing strong regulatory outcomes with minimising unnecessary burden.
- Improve regulatory frameworks by adopting common cyber security definitions; aligning reporting thresholds and timelines; and standardising incident-reporting requirements.
- Build on the Single Reporting Portal delivered under Horizon 1 of the 2023-2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy by identifying further opportunities to consolidate multiple cyber, information and data security reporting obligations into a single, user-friendly webform.
 - This initiative will reduce compliance cost and burden on businesses and other reporting entities by minimising the time spent on completing separate reports of a cyber incident to multiple government agencies, enabling business resources to be redirected to cyber security uplift.
- Work across government and with relevant regulators to streamline legislative requirements and reduce duplication in the application of Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 obligations, supported by best-practice guidance for critical infrastructure operators.
 - Best-practice guidance will provide clarity where regulatory settings are complex and support critical infrastructure operators in undertaking risk mitigation activities.

- Develop a single, modern Act to replace the current electronic surveillance regime, streamlining regulatory and reporting obligations for Australian telecommunication carriers and carriage service providers.
- Implement legislative changes to abolish around 500 remaining low-revenue nuisance tariffs through the Department of the Treasury's tariff reform, building on the removal of over 450 nuisance tariffs in July 2024.

To **embrace innovation, including uptake of artificial intelligence and automation**, we will:

- Continue engaging with regulators and businesses to reduce barriers to innovation, including the adoption of emerging technology.
- Integrate the firearms import permits system with National Firearms Register to enable near real-time licence and permit verification, improving information sharing, decision-making, and reducing follow-up enquiries.
- Continue to improve accessibility to, and uptake of, Australian citizenship, including through service delivery improvements.
- Deliver a migration program that meets Australia's national interest by providing quick and clear pathways for those with the skills Australia needs and by exploring opportunities to maximise economic benefits.

To **improve regulatory alignment with other Commonwealth regulators**, we will:

- Reform the background checking framework to accommodate checking across a wide range of sectors.
- Continue to lead national-level peak strategic and advisory forums to support government and industry alignment in streamlining the movement of goods and people.

To **balance strong security objectives** with regulated entity expectations, we will:

- Maintain engagement with industry through the Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN), working collaboratively to strengthen the resilience of organisations and their industry sectors.
- Implement an all-hazards security approach that underpins aviation and maritime security regulation, supported by best-practice guidance co-designed with industry; and increase oversight of aviation and air cargo screening measures through targeted compliance activity.
- Deliver legislative reforms to strengthen Australia's ability to deter illicit tobacco importation and remove illegal products from circulation more quickly. This includes reforms that better target profits from illicit tobacco and enable relevant telecommunication access powers.
- Regulate Registered Migration Agents (RMAs) in a manner that protects consumers through an evidence and risk-based approach.

To **address international regulations and streamline cross-border trade while protecting our borders**, we will:

- Implement legislative change to the Customs Act 1901 and Customs Regulation 2015 that enables a streamlined temporary importation process.
- Upgrade trade-related systems to deliver incremental benefits to business and the community through enhanced risk-profiling and improved trade-related data sharing.

Introduce legislative changes to align trade-related fit and proper person (FPP) assessments to reduce the time and burden for individuals and business working in regulated cross-border trade activities.

I will ensure the department has appropriate processes in place to measure the performance of our regulatory activities, including through the department's 2026-27 Corporate Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Foster

Stephanie Foster PSM

30 April 2026