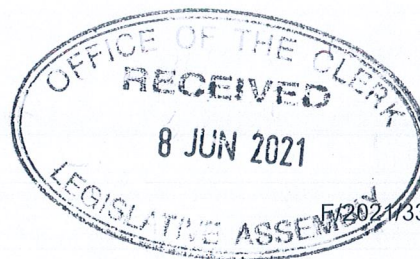




**The Hon. David Elliott MP**  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services



FP/2021/33178

Ms Helen Minnican  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Minnican

I refer to the petition tabled by Mr Philip Donato MP on 5 January 2021 regarding the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020 (the Bill). This Bill will strengthen provisions of the existing firearms regulatory regime relating to the unauthorised manufacture of firearms or prohibited weapons. It will also clarify police powers when conducting searches under firearms prohibition orders.

It is not the intention of the Bill to criminalise the behaviour of legitimate firearms licence holders, but rather ensure sanctions exist for those who involve themselves in the unlawful manufacture of firearms and firearm parts.

It is vital that the NSW Police Force is able to respond to serious and organised criminal groups who have the means and ingenuity to seek alternative by which to produce firearms. Under the new provisions, police will be able to take action against a person who knowingly takes part in the manufacture of a firearm or firearm part, and knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the manufacture of the firearm or firearm part is not authorised by a licence or permit. At present, an offence relating to the unauthorised manufacture of firearms can only be made out where a functioning firearm results.

I understand that there is misplaced concern regarding the possession of household items by firearms licence holders. This Bill does not criminalise mere possession of an item which could potentially be used in the unauthorised manufacture of a firearm.

Petitions are an important interaction between the people of this State and their Parliament, and I appreciate the petitioners taking the time to register their interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon David Elliott MP**  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

27 May 2021