

Legislative Council

PETITION

Number: 733

Sponsored by: Melina Bath

Directed to: Minister for Police

Tabled on: 18 February 2026

Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the Victorian Government's decision to undertake a review of Victoria's firearm laws which is to be conducted by former Victoria Police Chief Commissioner, Mr Ken Lay AO APM. Public pressure to act quickly may result in rushed or ineffective decisions. Victoria already has some of the strictest firearm laws in the nation and serious incidents have consistently involved failures in intelligence, monitoring or enforcement, often where individuals were already known to authorities, rather than gaps in legislation. Ideologically driven or hasty changes risk unfairly penalising responsible, law-abiding firearm owners without improving public safety or reducing the risk of terrorism or serious crime.

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to commit to enforcing existing firearm laws, including identifying gaps in compliance, enforcement and resourcing, ensure that the review of legislation is evidence-led and without a pre-determined assumption that further restrictions on lawful owners are required, reject any new firearm regulations unless there is clear, publicly available evidence that it will improve public safety, guarantee genuine consultation with law-abiding firearm owners, sporting and hunting organisations before any policy or legislative changes are drafted and ensure the review separates law-abiding firearms owners from acts of terror so the response is fair and proportionate.

Reply:

The Bondi Beach terrorist attack that took the lives of 15 innocent people on 14 December 2025 has gravely impacted people around Australia. This was an abhorrent act of violence against the Jewish community and Australia's way of life. The Victorian Government has taken immediate action to combat violent political extremism and keep people safe because all Victorians deserve to be safe and feel safe whoever they are, whoever they pray to.

At National Cabinet, Victoria, alongside other states, agreed to strengthen gun laws and develop options including a condition of a firearms license being that someone must hold an Australian citizenship, limiting the number of firearms to be held by any one individual, limiting open-ended firearms licencing, the additional use of criminal intelligence to underpin firearms licencing, and accelerating work on standing up the National Firearms Register.

After leading the world for three decades, Australia cannot become complacent on guns. That's why the Victorian Government has commissioned a review by former Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mr Ken Lay AO APM. Mr Lay looked at Victoria's current laws, as well

as recent New South Wales legislative changes, and consulted widely to support the national approach and bring our gun laws up to date with the risks of today.

The Rapid Review commenced on 5 January 2026 and will inform the Victorian Government's decision on firearms reforms, including any decision to amend the *Firearms Act 1996* and other relevant legislation. It provided an opportunity for key stakeholders to provide input into the reforms, ensuring the proposed reforms balance the need to make changes to protect Victorians with the legitimate need to possess, carry and use firearms.

The Victorian Government will share its next steps once Mr. Lay's recommendations have been considered.



The Hon. Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Police
Minister for Community Safety
Minister for Victims
Minister for Racing