



Gordon Ramsay MLA

Member for Ginninderra

Attorney-General

Minister for Regulatory Services

Minister for the Arts and Community Events

Minister for Veterans and Seniors

Mrs Giulia Jones

jones@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Mrs Jones

I write to address issues raised in Scrutiny Report 12 provided by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (the Committee) on 21 November 2016 which provides comment on the Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Bill 2017 (the Bill).

The Government proposes to address a number of the Committee's comments by way of government amendments when the Bill is debated in the November sitting period. The attached table ([Attachment A](#)) provides detail of how the Government will address each of the issues raised by the Committee. The revised explanatory statement that I propose to table in the Legislative Assembly is also attached ([Attachment B](#)).

In addition to the amendments relating to the Scrutiny Report ACT Policing identified an issue with the drafting of the Bill. The Bill provides that crime scene powers cease when a warrant to search the place in relation to the offence is issued. I will propose government amendments to provide that crime scene powers cease when the warrant to search the place is executed. This terminology more appropriately reflects police procedure in relation to warrants.

The Government is committed to ensuring that legislation introduced and passed in the Legislative Assembly is fit for purpose and used as intended. I have every confidence in ACT Policing to use these powers for the purpose they have been introduced rather than risk losing them if they are used inappropriately. To this end I will move Government amendments to provide that a review of the use of the crime scene powers must take place after the first year of operation.

I thank the Committee for its close attention to the Bill. I believe that the proposed government amendments will address the concerns raised in the Scrutiny Report.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Ramsay MLA

Attorney-General

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