**Comments from to a spokesperson for Minister Keenan:**

In Australia, responsibility for firearm matters is shared between the Australian, state and territory governments.

The Australian Government is responsible for matters relating to the import and export of firearms, while state and territory governments have responsibility for all matters relating to possession, licensing and use of firearms**.**

Following a recommendation of the Joint Commonwealth-NSW Martin Place Siege Review, the technical elements of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA) have been reviewed and updated.

The objective of the review was to ensure our existing firearms regulations, which have not been substantively reviewed for almost two decades, keep pace with advancements in technology and changes to the firearms market.

In addition to incorporating advice from all Commonwealth, state and territory law enforcement and justice agencies, the review of the Agreement involved consultation with the firearms community (industry and recreational groups), community safety organisations and individuals to produce sensible, practical changes where required.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the updated National Firearms Agreement and the classification of lever action shotguns at their 9 December 2016 meeting. At that meeting, COAG agreed to classify lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of no greater than five rounds in Category B, and those with a magazine capacity of greater than five rounds in Category D.

This was the unanimous position of the state and the territory governments who have responsibility for the classification of firearms.

The importation ban on the importation of lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of greater than five rounds was introduced because the Government was concerned that a significant number of high capacity lever action shotguns were shortly due to be imported into Australia.

The Government took this step on advice of Commonwealth, state and territory law enforcement agencies and officials.

The importation ban on lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of greater than five rounds will remain in place until all jurisdictions have implemented the Council of Australian Governments’ decision to reclassify lever action shotguns.

Any suggestion that the Minister did not follow advice from his agencies regarding the importation ban on lever action firearms, or is somehow responsible for the modification of firearms is wrong.

The modification of firearms in Australia is a matter for the states and territories. The Commonwealth does not have any jurisdiction in relation to these matters.

Under current Commonwealth regulations, firearm dealers cannot import either lever action shotguns with a magazine capacity of greater than 5 shots, or devices that increase the capacity of magazines (such as magazine extension tubes).

It remains up to the states and territories to implement the updated National Firearms Agreement, and the changes to the classification of lever action shotguns.