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22 November 2022

Mick Gentleman MLA,
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit, GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Via email: gentleman@act.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter dated 28 September 2022, outlining your direction and priorities for ACT Policing, under section 7 of the 2017 Policing Arrangement.

This letter outlines my Statement of Intent in response to your Direction, as per Clauses 3 and 6 of the 2022-2026 Purchase Agreement. ACT Policing is committed to the delivery of all its functions under the Policing Arrangement 2017 and 2022-26 Purchase Agreement and your Direction.

I want to thank you and the Government for supporting ACT Policing through the delivery of the community focused Police Services Model (PSM). This commitment for a PSM delivered over 12 years importantly supports ACT Policing to target resources where they are most effective, conduct focused crime prevention activities and work across the broader justice system with our government and non-government partners to address the root causes of crime. This is the cornerstone for the delivery of ACT Policing's mission of "*Policing In Partnership For A Safer Community*".

My focus for 2023 and beyond will be ensuring ACT Policing works towards achieving appropriate policing levels for the ACT community and developing a professional workforce that is resilient and skilled; a workforce dedicated to working in step with our community to keep our Territory safe.

We will achieve this through evidence-based and innovative strategies to meet the outcomes of the 2022-26 Purchase Agreement to reduce crime, increase public safety and engage with community and partners locally and nationally. The decisions we make will continue to be shaped by our guardian philosophy that sees police fostering opportunities to interact and educate before a situation escalates. We will remain adaptive to the changing environment and collaborate effectively with ACT Government, its agencies and stakeholders.

In achieving our commitment to the ACT community, ACT Policing will be led by our key strategic priorities:

- Acquiring technology that works for the ACT Policing environment.

- Forming and maintaining mutually beneficial partnerships within the community to address crime holistically.
- Ensuring that ACT Policing maintains and develops the right people and experience.
- Ensuring that intelligence can be used and shared tactically and strategically.
- Contribute to establishing structures that ensure vulnerable people can access the support they require.

Through the PSM and its operational activity, ACT Policing will target the areas of focus outlined in your Direction to support:

Reducing the overrepresentation of First Nations People in the criminal justice system by

- Continued support and delivery in line with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028 to prevent and reduce the number of First Nations people intersecting with the criminal justice system.
- Ongoing engagement with the local First Nations communities to further develop solid, trusting relationships through open dialogue, enhancing our understanding of the challenges faced by First Nations people.
- Working through the ACT Policing First Nations Working Group to finalise the framework for our engagement with our First Nations community and implement the agreed recommendations from the Ombudsman's report on *ACT Policing's administrative framework for engagement with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community*.

Implementing effective sexual assault prevention and responses by

- Continued implementation of recommendations within the *Listen, Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal* report, by working collaboratively with the Coordinator-General for Family Safety and other key partners on the delivery of outcomes against the recommendations as appropriate.
- Reviewing the workforce structure, training and decision making governance surrounding sexual offence investigations to ensure a victim-centric responses remains a core consideration.
- Continuing to work closely with victim support groups to deliver a high level of support and care to victim survivors.

Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility by

- Ongoing engagement with key ACT Government directorates on the transition to these arrangements and proactive collaboration to ensure decision makers are fully informed regarding known, and yet to be considered, outcomes resultant of the policy.

Combatting dangerous driving by

- Minimising the number of serious injuries and fatalities on our roads by exploring additional mechanisms, including potential legislative reform, to reduce incidents of dangerous driver behaviour in the ACT.
- Education, innovation and targeted enforcement by working with partner agencies, supporting the ACT Road Safety Strategy and Action plan and maintaining targets to align with the ACT Road Safety Calendar.

Countering terrorism and violent extremism by

- Continuing to strengthen the safety of the ACT community including in public spaces through ACT Policing's active participation in relevant national strategies and the ongoing development of best practice.

- Further developing ACT Policing's fixated threat capability and responding to the growing threat of online and youth radicalisation will remain key priorities.

In addition to your *Direction* ACT Policing will continue work in the following critical areas:

Family Violence

- ACT Policing will continue to support the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-22, and work to refine our response to family violence.
- The Family Violence Unit (FVU) will continue to develop the secondary response model to provide a tailored and coordinated approach for both victim-survivors and perpetrators of family violence. To achieve this, the FVU will work closely with Child Youth Protection Services, Domestic Violence Crisis Services and Victims Support ACT in developing strategies based on a collaborative input and working arrangements.

Strengthening our community from being exploited by Organised Crime by

- Continuing to work to prevent and disrupt serious and organised crime targeting our community. This will be achieved by driving initiatives that strengthen the community against being targeted by these syndicates and continuing to focus on seizing associated wealth derived from this criminal activity.
- Enhancing our response to and the investigation of offences by forging strong relationships with stakeholders to facilitate whole-of-government and cross-jurisdictional information sharing and targeting activities.
- Applying technological and forensic capabilities that enhances the effective use of intelligence from a wide range of sources.

ACT Policing will continue to work closely with the ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate and other Directorates as appropriate, to develop and implement ACT Government policy and legislation related to policing.

ACT Policing will ensure fit for purpose governance is established, reviewed and maintained to support key strategic and operational partnerships through a framework of mutually developed and agreed partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding.

I will continue to proactively engage with the ACT Government to ensure the provision of appropriate facilities and associated infrastructure to enable the delivery of policing services by the AFP. Our strategic accommodation framework will need to support the policing capacity and capability in the context of the PSM and will be actualised through the finalisation and implementation of the ACT Policing Master Accommodation Plan.

As per Clause 11.5 of the 2022-26 Purchase Agreement, I will advise you on the appropriate level of staffing required to ensure ACT Policing is able to deliver the outcomes of the Agreement, respond to current or emerging risks in the operating environment and to maintain staff wellbeing. I will work with you to address any identified and emerging resource pressures on ACT Policing through the ACT Budget process.

I will, in accordance with your Direction, keep you informed of changes in the criminal environment, continue to engage you on emerging threats in the ACT, and provide advice on strategies and options to keep the peace and preserve public safety within the ACT.

I look forward to continuing our close engagement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'NG', written over the typed name.

Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM
Chief Police Officer for the ACT