



9 August 2010

Jim Torr
Australian Federal Police Association
Level 9, AMP Tower
1 Hobart Place
Canberra
ACT 2600
By e-mail: afpa.office@afpa.org.au

Dear Mr Torr,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to outline the views of the Coalition on the important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your survey in the following attachment.

The Coalition believes Labor has made the future of all Australians more uncertain.

On top of their billion-dollar waste on school buildings, their mismanaged home insulation fiasco and their soft border protection policies, Labor is growing Australia's debt by \$100 million per day.

They even removed an elected Prime Minister to suit their own political interest.

The Coalition is taking a stand in the best interest of Australia's future.

We will end the waste, repay the debt, stop the taxes, stop the boats and ease the pressure on Australian families.

Throughout the election campaign we will be progressively announcing policies outlining our commitments for Australia's future. These policies will cover a number of issues canvassed in your survey.

Once announced, our policies will be available at www.liberal.org.au and www.nationals.org.au.

Thank you for helping us to communicate the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Loughnane', written over a horizontal line.

Brian Loughnane
Federal Campaign Director

Coalition response to Australian Federal Police Association

Resourcing of the AFP

Additional sworn AFP Police Officers

The Coalition recognises the important role of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in law enforcement. The Howard Government increased AFP numbers from 2,722 in March 1996 to 6,011 in November 2007, an increase of 121%. It also increased funding to the AFP from \$205 million in 1996 to \$976 million in 2007.

A Coalition Government will honour the former government's commitment to boost sworn Australian Federal Police numbers by 500.

Removal of the efficiency dividend

An elite law enforcement agency needs to be well resourced. The Labor Government has imposed significant cuts on the Australian Federal Police, Australian Customs Service and the Australian Crime Commission, resulting in reduced staff and placing more pressure on remaining staff.

The Coalition will remove the efficiency dividend from our frontline law enforcement agencies, including the Australian Federal Police, for the term of the next government, ensuring they are well equipped to fight crime.

Recruitment and retention

In order to maintain a strong AFP force we need to ensure that the best candidates are recruited and that the best officers are retained.

The Coalition will honour the former government's commitment to fund the AFP Retention and Recruitment Program for the term of the next government. We will work with the AFP and the AFPA to identify other measures to improve recruitment and retention rates.

International Deployment Group

AFP officers provide policing support to governments across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond through the International Deployment Group (IDG). They have assisted their regional counterparts in investigating terrorist attacks including the 2002 Bali Bombings and 2005 Marriott hotel bombings in Jakarta.

The Coalition acknowledges the important role the IDG play in regional stability and law enforcement. The Howard Government worked with the AFP in 2006 to set the IDG permanent workforce target of 1,200 personnel by June 2008. We intend to preserve this

figure, and also ensure that the IDG remains the premier first-response law-enforcement body in the Asia-Pacific region.

National Security

Designated maritime ports

The Coalition believes in an uncompromising approach to protecting Australia's maritime ports. As a result of Labor's budget cuts, the number of potential sea cargo inspections has fallen from a targeted 134,000 to 105,500 per annum.

The Coalition takes port security seriously and has committed to restore the \$58.1 million in funding cut by the Labor Government and will provide an additional \$35 million for security screening: a total of \$93.1 million to strengthen Australia's ports and airports.

The Coalition will inspect an additional 52,500 sea cargo consignments to increase the rate of detection of illicit drugs, weapons and other contraband that organised criminal gangs seek to smuggle through our borders.

A Coalition Government will devote appropriate resources to ensure Australia's maritime ports are secure. We will strongly consider the option of giving the AFP responsibility for Commonwealth designated maritime ports, with the AFP providing uniform protection to critical infrastructure along with the establishment of an AFP Joint Maritime Crime Task Force.

Air and maritime ports close circuit television (CCTV)

A Coalition government will work towards upgrading critical CCTV infrastructure at the 11 designated airports where necessary.

The Coalition believes it is appropriate for the Office of Transport Security to operate and monitor the CCTV for those designated airports and for the AFP to be provided with real time access to all CCTV feeds at those airports.

The Coalition supports the AFP's having graduated control of the CCTV commensurate with any increase in the threat level.

The next Coalition government will consider an upgrade of CCTV for designated maritime ports similar to arrangements at the 11 designated airports.

Air and maritime ports automated number plate recognition

The Coalition supports the implementation of Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) at the 11 designated airports and it will consider ANPR for designated maritime ports as part of Australia's national security framework.

We will ensure that CrimTrac have responsibility for the operation and monitoring of the ANPR for those designated airports with access provided to the AFP.

High-threat organised crime groups

The Coalition will provide \$33 million over four years towards the development and implementation of a National Violent Gangs Database so that law enforcement agencies can better track bikie and other violent gang activity across jurisdictions. This database will be administered by the Australian Crime Commission (ACC).

We will also provide \$95 million over four years towards the recruitment of at least 200 additional investigators to the ACC. The investigators will form a Violent Gangs Squad with a presence in States and Territories to work with local police and investigative services. This squad will have scope to investigate high-threat organised crime groups as identified by the ACC.

Anti-corruption strategy

False claims bill

The Coalition is committed to reducing government waste and is committed to seeking out and prosecuting those who commit contractual fraud against the Commonwealth.

Billions were knowingly wasted in the Rudd-Gillard Government's School Halls program. Labor has failed to properly manage the billions of taxpayer dollars leading to waste, rorts, price gouging, collusion and shameful mismanagement.

The Pink Batts scheme resulted in a billion dollar blow-out along with 240,000 dangerous and non-compliant jobs, which is a quarter of the scheme.

Notably, in the United States, this legislation has been responsible for returning billions to the federal government and has been used effectively to recoup waste from their stimulus programs. An Abbott government would be very keen to recoup similar costs from Labor's mismanaged programs and other instances where contractual fraud has been committed against the Commonwealth.

Illicit enrichment offence for public officials

The Coalition shares the views of the AFPA that corruption, where it exists, needs to be weeded out of high risk Commonwealth agencies.

We are also committed to assessing the feasibility of introducing an illicit enrichment offence for public officials in high risk Commonwealth agencies.

AFP Employment

Electronic incapacitating devices

Police officers are often required to put their lives at risk in order to serve the community. The use of firearms in response to an imminent threat to safety and life is a measure of last resort, and the Coalition acknowledges that the preference of many front-line Federal, State and Territory police officers is for a non-lethal alternative to firearms.

The Coalition recognises the benefit of harmonising state and territory laws to ensure national consistency, as demonstrated by our election commitment to seek harmonisation of state and territory knife laws.

An Abbott Government will work with our State and Territory counterparts to achieve consistency between jurisdictions in non-lethal alternatives to firearms through the Council of Australian Governments.

Profession

Communication with government

The Coalition agrees that open communication between government and the Australian Federal Police Association is the foundation of a strong and amiable working relationship.

We will also continue to have an open dialogue with the AFPA through the term of the next Government, encompassing both formal meetings on a quarterly basis with the Minister responsible for Home Affairs, and biannual meetings between the AFPA and the Attorney General.