



Randwick City Council

21 FEB 2018

Records Received

**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION**

Ref No: MC18-000725

Mr Jeff Smith
Director Governance & Financial Services
Randwick City Council
30 Frances Street
RANDWICK NSW 2031

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2017 outlining your concerns about cost implications for protecting crowded places and seeking clarification on whether the Federal Government intends to extend financial support to Councils in order for them to meet the requirements outlined in the crowded places strategy. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Historically owners and operators of crowded places have had the responsibility for protecting their sites. This has included a duty of care to take steps to protect people that work, use or visit their site from a range of foreseeable threats including, in recent years, the threat of a terrorist attack.

Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism does not impose additional security requirements upon Councils nor owners and operators of crowded places. The Strategy aims to promote a clear understanding of what constitutes a crowded place, the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in protecting these places and the threat environment in which they operate. It encourages owners and operators of crowded places to undertake risk assessments and/or vulnerability assessment of their venues.

I acknowledge that a number of public and popular events are held by local Councils or occur on Council property. The sheer magnitude of daily events happening across Australia would make it impossible for governments to provide direct financial support to Councils or community groups to implement security measures. The Government continues to invest in law enforcement and intelligence agencies to equip them to detect and disrupt nefarious plots.

With the release of the Strategy and its suite of publications, it is hoped that those involved in protecting crowded places will have a clear and consistent understanding of their roles and responsibilities and will better familiarise themselves with proportionate and appropriate measures they can take to protect people that work, use or visit their sites.

Thank you for bringing Randwick City Council's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely



^{13/02/18}
PETER DUTTON