



Senator the Hon Marise Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Women

MC20-007016

Mayor David O'Loughlin
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter regarding the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Australia is strongly committed to continue our work toward the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons. Achieving this will require painstaking efforts over a number of years.

Australia actively engages in pragmatic and effective steps to advance nuclear disarmament. These include: strengthening the cornerstone Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); working with States on nuclear disarmament verification, risk reduction, and transparency measures; encouraging arms control talks among those in possession of nuclear weapons; and promoting entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

The Australian Government considers that the TPNW does not amount to an effective measure to pursue non-proliferation and disarmament, and is not in Australia's interests. The TPNW was negotiated without the involvement of a single country in possession of the weapons it seeks to eliminate and none proposes to ratify the treaty. The Treaty has deepened divisions between nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states, arguably making disarmament more difficult. The Treaty risks undermining the NPT and the Government further considers it incompatible with our US alliance arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marise Payne'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

MARISE PAYNE

30 NOV 2020