



THE HON BEN MORTON MP
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ELECTORAL MATTERS

Reference: MC20-175511

Ms Gail Giles-Gidney
Mayor
Willoughby City Council
PO Box 57
CHATSWOOD NSW 2057

Dear Mayor Giles-Gidney

Thank you for your letter of 16 November 2020 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding Willoughby City Council's motion regarding Nagorno Karabakh. I have been asked to reply on the Prime Minister's behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Australia is very concerned by the fighting and the significant loss of life on both sides. We extend our sympathy to the families and communities that were caught up in the violence and those who are mourning the death of loved ones.

Australia has long held a position of supporting the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group to negotiate a permanent settlement of the conflict. We consider that the three-nation ceasefire agreement that took effect on 10 November 2020 provides an opportunity to achieve such an outcome. We call on both sides to engage with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and work towards a lasting settlement.

Thank you for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

22 JAN '21 8:10

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ben Morton', written over a horizontal line.

BEN MORTON

19/1 /2021