

Luke Badcock

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The Secretary
House of Assembly Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy
Parliament of Tasmania
HOBART TAS 7000

25 October 2018

Dear Secretary

I write so that the Select Committee on Firearms Legislations and Policy (the Committee) notes my objection to any and all changes to Tasmanian legislation or policy regarding firearms of any sort. This includes gun ownership, operation, sale, restrictions, and any other relevant aspects.

More specifically, I object to any changes whatsoever, now and into the future, with respect to subsections (a) through to (e) under section 1 in the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Inter alia, my reasons are as follows:

- Legislation guiding gun control in Tasmania includes the Firearms Act 1996, the Firearms Regulations 2006, and the National Firearms Agreements of 1996 and 2017. The protections provided by both state and national laws are very good, and sufficiently restrictive of gun ownership and operation that they ably protect the community from gun violence as far as possible using government mechanisms. The data for gun violence and crime in Tasmania, which remains low, bears this out.
- Historically, the Howard Government's national gun restrictions following the Port Arthur massacre have rightly been lauded internationally as a success and are world's best practice. The statistics on gun violence nationally, over time and compared to other nations, also bears this out.
- It has been reported that stakeholders such as Shooters and Fishers Tasmania and representatives of gun manufacturers and retailers have been lobbying the Tasmanian Government to ease restrictions in Tasmanian legislation on gun ownership and operation. These stakeholders represent a minority of the community, and certainly not the community's best interests. To change best-practice legislation or policy at their behest would not only be potentially dangerous for Tasmanians, it would be undemocratic, as most Tasmanians are in favour of our current gun laws.

- Using research from the University of Sydney, **GunPolicy.org** has gathered significant data which validates my statements. This data and analysis can be found at the following link: <https://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/tasmania>. I urge the Committee to consider it.

I will follow the progress of the Committee and the outcome of its report to Parliament, as I believe many other Tasmanians will. I do hope no changes to our current gun laws result from it.

Yours sincerely



Luke Badcock