

Submission regarding Tasmanian Gun Laws

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From :

Patricia Jones



I would be strongly against any changes to existing gun laws in Tasmania which would extend the range of guns available in the state, or which would weaken the rules presently allowing the obtaining of licenses re gun ownership in Tasmania.

I believe that the laws presently protecting the Tasmanian community from gun violence are adequate in their function, and that any relaxation of this legislation would increase the probability of increased gun violence here.

Having spent my childhood on a farming property in Queensland, I am aware of the necessity for some gun ownership to control specific pests and ensure that unnecessary stock suffering is under control by farmers. But there was no need then nor is there now any requirement for farmers to own automatic and semi-automatic weapons.

There seems to be an increase in illegal gun ownership, often in criminal hands, in Tasmania at present, and the current legislation appears to require strengthening rather than relaxation. An open community discussion around any changes must be encouraged by our government and I welcome the opportunity for the initiation of such a discussion which this call for submissions allows.

Increased gun ownership would no doubt be welcomed by those bodies who would profit by it, such as we saw in a recent *Four Corners* program. But I strongly believe that any gun legislation must not be seen as catering for increased business profit of a specific community sector, but rather as a means of protection of our entire community and environment from violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views on this matter.

Patricia Jones

