

26th October 2018

The Secretary
Legislative Select Committee
Firearms Law Reforms
Parliament of Tasmania
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Gun Reform Laws

To whom it may concern,

I have thought long and hard on this matter any whether I should or should not make a submission. To set the record straight from the start, I am not anti-gun, nor anti shooter, I am not anti-Liberal, although I did vote Labor at the last State Election.

I am Tasmanian born, educated and currently in full time employment with my employer for the past 41 years, and I am appalled to think that someone, let alone a politician can consider a review of the Gun Laws in this State necessary.

Following the Port Arthur shooting in late April 1996, I attended the funerals of three friends, killed by a lone shooter with semi-automatic rifles, three unnecessary funerals.

Whilst the actions of the Federal Liberal Party and John Howard in particular, were somewhat overshadowed by the grief at that time, those actions speak volumes for the power and foresight, John Howard had for the Australian public.

In the 18 years prior to the introduction of the Australian Gun Laws there were 13 mass shootings in Australia resulting in 104 deaths, there has only been one mass shooting since in Margaret River.

The reasons provided by Rene Hidding and Will Hodgman for the gun reforms are weak and stupid at best, and it would be laughable if it was not that serious. Farmers and shooters don't require fast fire military style weapons, it is my belief that the reforms are to appease the gun suppliers and manufacturers.

Another issue that infuriates me in this decision to reform the law, is the manner in which it was done, announced on Poll eve, where a media black-out was in place, as such voters on the Saturday had no idea what the government had announced or planned.

If the current Liberal Government had any intestinal fortitude it would take this issue to the people of Tasmania for their vote, this is not a decision for Hidding and Hodgman to make on our behalf, nor any politician for that matter.

The approval of these new gun laws will at some time in the future be the subject of questioning as there is no doubt that at some time in the future a weapon of the type planned will fall into the wrong hands, and again an unnecessary shooting will result, whereby people will be forced to attend funerals for unnecessary deaths brought about wholly and solely by Rene Hidding, Will Hodgman and any other person or Committee which approves these reforms.

Kind Regards

Garth Johnson

