

House of Assembly
Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy

Secretary:

Mr Todd Buttsworth

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Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

I do not support any changes to Tasmanian firearm control; unless they are made stronger.

In 2015, Essential Research performed a poll regarding the support for Australia's gun laws. The demographic-normalised poll found that 6% of Australians thought the laws were "too strong", 40% thought "about right" and 45% thought "not strong enough"

In March 2018, Victorian police were set to be armed with military-style semi-automatic rifles to combat terrorism and the increase in gun-related crime.

After what happened here in Tasmania I am shocked to hear there is pressure from various groups to weaken our gun controls. This cannot be allowed to happen.

The Port Arthur massacre took place in 1996 when a gunman opened fire on shop owners and tourists with two semi-automatic rifles that left 35 people dead and 23 wounded.

As a result, with the *gun buy-back scheme*, the government bought back and destroyed over 1 million firearms.

In October 2017, Prime Minister. Malcolm Turnbull said that 51,000 unregistered firearms were surrendered during the three-month amnesty, of the previous estimate of 260,000 unregistered guns.

We are being told by our Premier, Will Hodgman, proposed changes to gun control in Tasmania do not go outside the National Firearms Agreement.

However, research has shown that no state government is currently fully implementing the terms of the National Firearms Agreement, reached in 1996 in the wake of the Port Arthur massacre.

Michael Ferguson MP wrote on behalf of the Tasmanian Government in their earlier submission #109 at

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/CTEE/Council/Submissions/FLR/submissions/109%20Government.pdf>

"...while having no impact on the safety of Tasmanians..."

The government simply cannot guarantee this and such comment I believe is completely irresponsible.

I was a member of a rifle team. I was trained by the army and went on to conduct range safety. Sadly, some people just do not get it! I have no desire to own a firearm.

A Freedom of Information release shows some people own 2-300 guns! This is madness.

I see no reason for anybody to have more than one firearm and this is providing they have a legitimate use to own it and it is re-registered with full checks carried out annually.

Following is a list of how many guns are owned by the top 100 firearms owners in NSW. **It excludes firearms held by collectors and arms dealers.**

<http://www.toomanyguns.org/top-100/>

Silencers should be illegal. There is no need for a private person to own assault type weapons.

I was always taught, "Never point a firearm at anybody or anything unless you want to kill it!"

There are more than enough firearms out there in the community. There has been enough killing.

Community expectations require our politicians to do the right thing. Politicians have no social licence to water down our firearm laws. Please think of the consequences before you act.

REMEMBER: The biggest threat to Tasmanian people is thinking, or being told, there is no threat at all.
We know better!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive M Stott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Clive M Stott
25/10/2018