Submission re Tasmanian Gun Laws Patricia Moran

I am deeply opposed to any changes being made to existing gun laws which would extend the range of guns available in the State or which would weaken the rules on obtaining a licence.

I still vividly remember the day of the Port Arthur massacre and how fearful I was for a friend I had helped get down there that day - luckily she was safe; we were all afraid we would know a victim and of course many of us did in this small state. Worse than that, though, was the realisation that something like this COULD happen in Tasmania.

I believe that the current laws adequately protect the Tasmanian public. I am deeply concerned that any relaxation of these laws would increase the risk of gun violence in Tasmania.

It is disturbing that there seems to be an increasing number of guns not registered and often in criminal hands.

The recent Four Corners program gave cause for even greater concern. The United States model is the last one we should consider following.

There has been no consultation with the public - in our case here in Tasmania, a population many of whom were traumatised by the events at Port Arthur. I believe that if anything, the gun laws should be strengthened, but that is a matter for discussion and clear-headed decision making.

At this point there is no real reason to change the current legislation so I ask you to continue to protect the Tasmanian Community. If at some time in the future the Police or Members of the Community suggest changes then there should be open discussions around the whole State before any changes are made.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Moran