

From: [Anne L-B](#)
To: [Todd Buttsworth](#)
Subject: Submission into Review of Tasmanian Gun Laws
Date: Friday, 26 October 2018 4:28:19 PM

Submission into Review of Tasmanian Gun Laws

Mr Todd Buttsworth
Secretary
Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy
todd.buttsworth@parliament.tas.gov.au

To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission

It deeply concerns me that changes to existing gun laws are being considered, and that such changes would extend the availability of a broader range of guns in Tasmania than is presently the case, and potentially weaken the rules around obtaining a firearm license.

While the current laws are adequate to protect the Tasmanian public, it is deeply concerning to learn they are under review and may be relaxed, without any consultation or input from the community. Why would any responsible government even contemplate risking possible increased gun violence in Tasmania by weakening firearm legislation? Tasmanians have long memories, and no government should wish to be instrumental in relaxing rules around gun ownership that may enable a repeat of the Port Arthur massacre.

Of course many of Tasmania's farmers, and those in the agricultural sector, require a firearm to control pests, or to prevent stock suffering unnecessarily, but a firearm license for this situation does not require the use of an automatic or semi-automatic weapon.

According to media reports crimes involving guns appear to be on the rise, and it is disturbing that an increasing number of guns are finding their way into Tasmania that are either unregistered, or are in the hands of those with criminal intent. Or both.

The ABC Four Corners program that was broadcast recently gives cause for even greater concern. No responsible government should even contemplate adopting the US model, or weakening the existing regulations.

Tasmanians were appalled when changes to gun legislation were being flagged by the Liberal Party just days before the last state election. If legislative changes are deemed necessary then a responsible government would ensure these are able to be discussed openly at public forums, and meetings with interested stakeholders in the broader community. I'm unaware there has been any such proposition or discussion to do this – which is both disappointing, and high-handed, on the part of the state government.

There currently appears to be no clear reason to change existing legislation designed to protect the Tasmanian community. If at some time in the future Tasmania Police, or the Tasmanian community call for changes to be made, then these should be canvassed widely first, with opportunities for open discussions around the whole state before any changes are approved.

Yours sincerely

Anne Layton-Bennett

