



14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

The Secretary,

Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy

Parliament House,

Hobart, TAS 7000.

Attention Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy

## IDENTIFICATION OF REPEAT FIREARM THIEVES.

SFFP Tas have been actively pursuing strong workable measures to increase public safety with regard to illegal use and theft of firearms. The focus of theft is always directed to Lawful firearm owners who are continually targeted with increased regulation. The focus should be on the offenders.

At the recent Firearms Enquiry in Hobart on Friday 30th Nov, the Hon. R. Woodruff rejected the proposal of a creating a separate crime of Firearm Theft, stating she believed those details would be made available to sentencing Justices... this is true but only to a point.

The details of the CURRENT crime presently before the Justice are made available to the Court but where the system is fundamentally flawed there is NO avenue to show PREVIOUS offences /crimes of offenders modus operandi of actually targeting and stealing firearms on previous occasions.

What occurs is the current offender/criminal upon sentencing has prior convictions produced before the court to enable the sentencing Justice knowledge to impose a sentence in line with public expectations and previous criminal history... previous firearm theft are simply recorded as Stealing, normally associated with the crime of Burglary.

The recording of the crime of stealing could be property such as garden implements, electrical equipment ect ... or it could be numbers of firearms .....

THERE IS NO CURRENT PROVISION FOR THE TYPE OF PROPERTY STOLEN/TARGETED ON PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS BY REPEAT OFFENDERS TO BE RECOGNISED BY THE COURTS.

# SHOOTERS FISHERS and FARMERS Tasmania



In the case of theft of lawfully owned firearms SFFP TAS believes this should be treated more seriously than common property theft. It can be argued that the theft of lawful firearms may be a more serious public safety risk than common property theft. Particularly when repeat offenders continue to target lawfully owned Firearms as primary targets of theft.

The provision of a separate crime of firearm theft will readily identify repeat offenders to sentencing justices and enable these individuals to be sentenced severely particularly with Public Safety considerations.

Also this separate conviction readily identifies recidivist firearm offenders to Law Enforcement Agencies and would show to be a valuable tool for Intelligence Services, particularly in the changing political environment and types of crimes we, unfortunately have seen on Mainland States.

Also, I would argue this separate crime would prove to be a deterrent to common thieves/burglary's while are responsible for the majority of crime who currently steal firearms as crimes of opportunity. The risk of conviction of the serious crime of Firearm Theft may deter some of these firearm thefts.

Currently we have the crime/offence of firearm trafficking which addresses the on sale of illegal firearms but NOTHING to identify, deter the firearm theft at the source.

As a Tas Police Officer for 20 yrs and most of that as a Detective , this is illogical.

Also SFFP TAS would support the fixture to every Firearm Storage Safe in this State a notice/sticker , warning would be offenders that Firearm Theft is a Serious separate crime punishable with serious penalties.

This may deter some common burglary offenders, one prevented firearm theft is success in our view. In any event it would be difficult for offenders to argue ignorance of this crime after unlawful theft of firearms from a safe fitted with a notice.

A public awareness campaign could accommodate the creation of this crime, emphasising the seriousness of this crime

It is becoming well known that certain criminals are recidivist offenders specifically targeting legally owned firearms.... police sources have confirmed this fact. They are however generally sentenced on prior convictions of simple property theft..... not identified as repeat firearm thieves.

I have discussed this issue with many serving Tas Officers and to a man they have supported this idea for the reasons listed above.

If you, as Government representatives charged with ensuring public safety truly believe in making the State safer from illegal firearm use, as we at SFFP do, I fail to see how you can reject this proposal.

Wayne Turale  
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