

**From:** [Andrew Ricketts](#)  
**To:** [Todd Buttsworth](#)  
**Subject:** House of Assembly, Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy  
**Date:** Friday, 26 October 2018 3:57:18 PM

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Dear Mr Buttsworth

I made a submission to the Legislative Council inquiry on the 13th August 2018 and wish to state I expected that Inquiry to complete.

I consider this subsequent inquiry to the House of Assembly, Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy, which was always intended, I argue, to deliberately and strategically supplant the previous Legislative Council Select Committee inquiry, to have very little legitimacy indeed. I applaud the other party's representatives for being involved.

I understand my previous submission has been carried over to this Inquiry. That does not exonerate the Liberals' behaviour.

Please consider this further submission to the House of Assembly, Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy.

I note this is a very small Select Committee in terms of numbers of people making deliberations over such important matters. It is worse when you consider that Shelton, the Liberal chair has a casting vote. That is ridiculous and unwise, especially in the circumstances. The terms of reference should be amended.

Secondly I consider that most people in Tasmania will be confused and will not realise that a new committee is deliberating over this critically important matter. Thus in essence the Liberals have quietly foisted another committee process upon the public without adequate publicity.

Regarding the new Terms of Reference (in bold below), please see my comments underneath:

**(1) A select committee be appointed with power to send for persons and papers to inquire into and report upon current firearms laws, with the following terms of reference:—**

**(a) current and future firearms licensing regimes, including training and testing, licence renewal, licence infringements and licence categories;**

On the 22nd October 2018 the ABC Four Corners Program aired a special on how the Gun Lobby is determinedly influencing Australia wide law makers regarding and aiming to achieve the watering down of gun laws. ABC Four Corners Program stated The Gun Lobby had written the proposed new gun laws and policy position for the Tasmanian Liberal Party.

I seek that the House of Assembly, Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy call upon and or subpoena the ABC Four Corners Program of the

22nd October, including the provision of a transcript to the Inquiry.

I seek that the reality and implications of how the Tasmanian Liberal Party caved into the gun lobby needs to be explored by the Select Committee in this Inquiry. I favour a Royal Commission of Inquiry to do this work as it is beyond party politics and has greater powers than a House of Assembly, Select Committee.

It is clear that democracy is being undermined by the Liberals and that they have hopped into bed with the big boys of the Gun Lobby. You know, Katter's mates and so forth.

I am in favour, in regards to the subject of "future firearms licensing regimes" (as you put it), a tighter and more restrictive set of conditions and processes. That is: No watering down of the gun laws but rather a tightening.

I seek that The Select Committee would obtain and consider all of the material from recent interstate inquiries and reviews, such as the Martin Place Siege Joint Commonwealth – New South Wales Review. The Review was drafted in response to an incident on 15 December 2014, in which Man Haron Monis entered the Lindt Café in Martin Place, Sydney, and took customers and staff hostage with an illegally obtained shotgun. "The review found Monis never legally owned a firearm or had a license to hold one. It appears that he procured a firearm from the illicit or grey market. (This review) also recommends that the regulation of the National Firearms Agreement be strengthened and simplified."

**(b) compliance with the provisions of the National Firearms Agreement;**

I call upon the House of Assembly, Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy to consider whether it has the expertise to deliberate over whether Tasmania firearms law meets, exceeds or does not meet the terms of the National Firearms Agreement. If it determines that it does have those resources and ability then my submission and expectation is that best it do that work in a systematic and comprehensive as well as transparent manner.

I argue it is not sufficient to rely upon representors and the public to make submission. A diligent and complete review of the laws and compliance is required.

As for the Tasmanian Liberals now aborted election policy - a debacle, perhaps those gun industry acolytes within the Liberal Party still think it is a Policy but it has been in essence withdrawn and it had no legitimacy - absolutely none. I seek an explicit statement on Liberal Gun (Firearms) Policy.

In any case when a proper Liberal proposal is developed in the cold light of day and not the day before an election, it should be subject to rigorous independent analysis and a well researched background report including from the Tasmania Police, before it goes out for public comment.

**(c) the roles of Tasmania Police, Firearms Services (FAS) and creation of a broad-based consultative group;**

I remain opposed to any firearms related legislation which gives some sort of greater legitimacy to the gun industry than the rest of society. If this were to appear as a Bill it would be subject to challenge and be considered to be a discrimination. I consider there is virtually no public interest benefit in establishing what amounts to a legislated and hence funded lobby group over guns.

I seek that the Liberals be called to explain whether that mooted "broad based consultative group" would include the people who wrote the Liberal Party's Election Gun Policy in the first place.

I remain opposed to the Tasmania Police Firearms Services (FAS) section being privatised or diminished in any way. Indeed, may I strongly suggest it be the work of the Committee to improve the viability and effectiveness of the Tasmania Police Firearms Services (FAS) section.

**(d) consideration of public submissions to the Legislative Council firearms laws inquiry in relation to (a), (b), and (c) above; and**

Please consider my previous submission of the 13th August 2018 titled: Proposed Firearms Law Reforms Inquiry in the context of the information available in the public sphere at the time. The grave implications of some of the new information over the gun lobby and the Liberals had yet to surface.

**(e) any other matters incidental thereto.**

It is disgraceful the Liberal Party in Tasmania would appear to have become a sycophantic arm of the gun lobby. The Liberal Party in Tasmania would basically appear to be the gun lobby's captive political party in fact. This fact should be confirmed or denied by the Liberal Party of Tasmania.

The amazing allegation made by the ABC's 4 Corners program that the gun lobby actually wrote the Tasmanian Liberals Gun (Firearms) Election Policy should be confirmed or refuted with evidence supplied by the Tasmanian Liberals.

Indeed a full investigation into how the gun lobby came to write the Liberals Gun Policy needs to be conducted by the Select Committee. I also seek a full release of all correspondence and material including copies of the original drafts and information about who exactly wrote what by the Liberals to this Committee over how the gun lobby came to write the now supposedly aborted Tasmanian Liberal Gun (Firearms) Policy.

I seek to be advised whether the gun industry lobby group that turned the Liberal

Party into its play thing was backed by five of the largest Australian firearms wholesalers?

The Policies of all political Parties in Tasmania on any aspect of firearms should be submitted or rather sought by this Committee and included in the Committee's final report.

Funding and a strategy to do further work to reduce the number of illegal firearms in Tasmania is obviously required and I propose should be a strong recommendation from this Committee.

I also seek an opportunity to make an in-camera verbal representation to the Select Committee over the behaviour of gun toting rural land managers and their aggressive and threatening use of guns in the period prior to Port Arthur in a certain location in northern Tasmania and how behaviours have changed since.

**(2) That the following Members of this House be appointed to serve on the committee:—**

**(a) Mr Shelton (Chair),**

**(b) Mr Brooks,**

**(c) Dr Broad (Deputy Chair), and**

**(d) one Member nominated by the Leader of the Greens.**

**(3) The Chair of the Committee has a deliberative and a casting vote.**

**(4) A quorum for any meeting of a committee shall be three (of whom one is the Chair of the committee or Deputy Chair)**

**(5) That the committee report by 14 March 2019.**

**(6) That should the House not be sitting, a report may be presented to the Speaker of the House, or in their absence, the Clerk of the House, and any report so presented is taken to have been published by order of the House of Assembly.**

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Yours Sincerely and Disgusted  
Andrew Ricketts

