



**POLICE
ASSOCIATION
OF
TASMANIA**

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All correspondence to
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E-MAILED
PSA 4/5/17
COP & MINISTER

4 May 2018

Mr Darren Hine
Commissioner of Police
47 Liverpool Street
HOBART 7000

Dear Commissioner,

Organised Criminal Groups Legislation

I am writing on behalf of the Police Association of Tasmania (PAT) in relation to this organisation's full support for the proposed Organised Criminal Groups Legislation.

It is the view of the PAT that the Tasmanian public and our members have been left behind in relation to strong legislation that particularly targets Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCG's) as exists in other jurisdictions. There is no doubt that the failure to have legislation in place is tantamount to sending an invitation to all OMCG's throughout the country that they are welcome here and that Tasmania is open for their business.

Tasmania Police has obviously taken note of the poorer aspects of legislation in other jurisdictions and the proposed legislation is careful not to target motorcyclists in general. As you are aware, there are members of the Executive of the PAT (including myself) who are avid motorcyclists and we regularly ride in small to large sized groups. We have no fear of this legislation in any way.

OMCG's are wealthy organisations that have run fear campaigns about legislation throughout Australia. Other jurisdictions have held firm but have also reviewed and fixed any unfair laws. The PAT is of the belief that the legislation must be structured in a way that there cannot be any collateral damage to clubs such as the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club.

There are enough checks and balances in the proposed legislation that ensure this cannot occur, however the PAT would be willing to look at further safeguards.

There is evidence and intelligence in Tasmania that is irrefutable when it comes to OMCG's and their links to drugs, particularly ICE. The same applies to assaults, rapes, standover tactics/intimidation and murder. It is a very foolish person that believes any different. They wear the 1% badge to show their disdain and disregard for the normal rules of society.

Through prior associations I am aware of their activities, and I am very aware of the fact that the Bandidos OMCG intend to set up a chapter in the South of the State (but I will not reveal that location in an open letter). I am also aware of their media savvy and the funding of a campaign that they are running through social and other media to scare ordinary bikers and clubs (other than OMCG's) into believing they will fall foul of the legislation.

The only alternative to strong legislation would be for Government to provide Tasmania Police with extra funding to properly resource the fight against these organisations. That does not include the 125 over the next 4 years which the Government has committed to First Response urban and rural areas. We envisage that this would include large increases to surveillance areas, the Serious Organised Crime Division, the hiring of Civilian Experts (such as Forensic Accountants), equipment and related funding.

I assure you that the PAT will not remain silent on this issue. This is a matter of safety for our members and the 99% of law abiding Tasmanians that do not want to be subject to the ICE scourge and the increased crime relating to the import, manufacturing and sale of drugs.

The PAT will campaign hard to have these laws passed or the extra resources provided.

For your information I will be providing a copy of this letter to the Minister.

Please feel free to call me at any time if you wish to further discuss this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Pat Allen
PRESIDENT