

**To:** Strategy Support (DPFEM) <[strategy.support@dpfem.tas.gov.au](mailto:strategy.support@dpfem.tas.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Consorting Laws

To whoever this may concern,

I must say I find these consorting laws draconian and disgusting. Tasmanians and Australians in general have an inherent and constitutional right to basic freedoms, which include the basic liberty of socialising with whoever they choose. Our justice system is based on the premise that everyone is innocent until proven guilty, yet these laws imply that anyone who has a criminal record and associates with someone else with a criminal record is undertaking illegal activities without evidence of any kind. That's not acceptable.

Interstate these laws have shown to be ineffective. How many meaningful convictions have been made in other states using these laws that wouldn't have been possible with the existing legal framework? I also find the banning of outlaw motorcycle clubs a bit counterintuitive. Surely making them easily identifiable would make policing easier, instead of driving them underground and into obscurity. Also, the classification of outlaw motorcycle clubs as a criminal organisation is not based on any true evidence beyond media and falsified/misquoted reports. The primary purpose of any club still remains riding motorcycles, hence all members have to ride a motorcycle. There goes the key definition as being formed for the purpose of committing crime.

I do not argue the ranks of many clubs include criminals or that many members are involved in criminal activities. But to say all members are purely involved for the purpose of committing crime is absurd. I would say perhaps tax payer dollars and police efforts would be better spent pursuing all criminals and drug dealers, instead of targeting a particular minority to quell media and public concern.

As a social and unaffiliated motorcyclist I am concerned the new laws will result in the increased police harassment of all motorcyclists seen in NSW and QLD. Owning a motorcycle (especially a harley davidson) and wearing a leather vest does not warrant continuous police attention like I have experienced in the states that already have these ridiculous laws.

I strongly urge that the government reconsider these laws, as they will only result in the destruction of the key values of this great country that I love. Are we the public to be told who to talk to and what to think like some sort of communist regime? Are we not capable of maintaining and enforcing our current laws without resorting to this nanny state mentality? The police make many meaningful arrests that result in meaningful convictions with the current laws, do we hold so little faith in their ability that we need to continuously remove freedom in order to limit unlawful behaviour? I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposed law, not for what it means to me but what it means to all Tasmanians moving forward and the precedent it sets for further loss of liberty.

Sincerely,  
Max Weidenbach