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Mr Jim Woodward

To: The Inspector
Email: strategy.support@dpfem.tas.gov.au
Legislation & Development Review Services
GPO Box 308, Hobart, 7001

Dear Inspector at Legislation & Development Review Services,

I am writing to you as a motorcyclist in Tasmania, I have owned a few motorcycles since I learned to ride at one of the Pre Learner Training courses at DECA in 2009 and have ridden almost every day since regardless of the weather.

To some motorcycling is a pass time for the weekend and for others, like myself, Motorcycling is a primary mode of transportation in rain, hail or shine wearing appropriate safety gear.

I feel it right to mention that I am currently a member of the South Motorcycle Riders Association Inc. committee however; this submission reflects my own concerns and not that of South MRA in any form.

I have concerns regarding the new anti-association laws proposed by the Minister of Police as well as the Legislation and Development Review consultants and members.

Whilst reading the proposed changes and amendments to the Police Offences Act 1935 I have a number of concerns despite Tasmania Police's assurances that this will not affect social groups and some of the motorcycle clubs and associations.

Whilst I do appreciate Tasmania Police taking positive steps to tackling the ongoing concerns surrounding organised crime and the impact of those who are members of groups being targeted by police providing a risk to the safety of the public and the larger communities.

Members of the community should feel safe to walk up to a motorcyclist as we have worked hard to build a positive reputation, I believe these law changes will lead to a tarnished perception of good member of the motorcycle community.

Motorcyclists are one of the most vulnerable road users and are often the first to assist when somebody is in trouble or at the scene of a motor vehicle accident, it is important that the motorcycling community are seen as approachable people.

Riders and the public should have the right to feel safe and I am concerned that the safety of the community is at risk if I were to describe these changes likened to an analogy of removing the visible vests of police officers or ambulance personnel.

The public seek help from a police officer because they identify as such, you know you can seek help from Ambulance paramedics because they identify as such through their clothing.

The opposite is true also, somebody that wears clothing that may contain racist or offensive logos, these people may not be committing any crime but there is a visual representation that you can make a personal judgement of without having to approach or engage the individuals concerned.

I feel that these changes to the legislation are a potential violation of or individual rights to express
_____ decide to do, these changes have a flow on affect that will
censure a small part of the greater community effectively punishing the many for the actions of a
very small few.

I don't believe this new legislation is in the spirit of this great country of ours, we should learn from
the mistakes of other countries, not target a particular minority or motorcycle road users and deal
with the larger issue which is crime performed by individuals not groups.

The legislation proposed is a dragnet approach one big net pulling up a sea worth of fish to catch a
few sharks and I believe the end result will be an erosion of trust and respect from the motorcycling
community towards the police and an erosion of trust and respect from the greater community
towards motorcyclists.

We need the motorcycling community working with police; we need the good people in these
targeted groups to be able to assist the law enforcement bodies catch real criminals.

My real worry is that the good things that the motorcycling community do for the greater
community such as the annual MRA Toy Run for the Salvation Army be put under greater scrutiny to
the point where such events can no longer occur. Such events are an essential fundraiser for the
Salvation Army and the people in need that they support, it is also a beautiful example how a
minority of road users can unite to provide a positive showing of charity and companionship.

To have the reputation of motorcyclists tarnished with these legislative changes has the potential
undo decades of hard work by volunteers and organisations working to show the positive and
generous side of motorcyclists in our community.

I would please ask that you consider the reputation and lives of innocent riders and their families
when reviewing these changes.

It is important to consider the impact of amendments to laws to target a particular group that use a
particular method of transport will have on those that have no involvement with those targeted by
these law changes or who may be inadvertently associated with through no fault of their own.

I personally do not ask for people's criminal history before I go for a ride with a group, I am not a
lawyer and I feel I should not need to seek legal counsel for every ride that I decide to join, please
don't punish the innocent as a whole for the actions of a very small number of individuals.

Kind Regards,



Mr. Jim Woodward.