The Inspector
Legislation & Development Review Services
GPO Box 308
HOBART TAS 7001
strategy_support@dpadm.tas.gov.au

Re: PROPOSALS FOR POSSIBLE REFORMS TO THE POLICE OFFENSES ACT 1935 REGARDING ORGANISED CRIMINAL GROUPS LEGISLATION

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my opinion, and that of 18800 responses regarding the proposed changes to the above Act.

I have many concerns regarding the proposed new Organised Criminal Groups Legislation, one of them being that it has been suggested that the majority of the Tasmanian public feels threatened and intimidated by Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs. I personally do not believe this statement to be true, so I took it upon myself to initiate a Facebook poll regarding the issue.

As a result of that poll, there has been a unanimous response indicating that the public are not threatened or intimidated but quite the contrary in fact that 97% of 8800 odd people who participated in the poll said that in no way did they or have they ever felt threatened or intimidated by Outlaw Motorcycle Club members.

Of the 3% that felt somewhat intimidated, it was more so from groups of loud motorcycles passing them on our roads, whether wearing their club colours or not.

I have also launched an online petition on change.org, against the proposed laws of which has attracted the attention of around 10 000 people who have signed the petition, opposing the new proposed laws.

So, with a combined response of around 18880 people it would seem to me that the public do not feel threatened or intimidated by Outlaw Motorcycle Club members and would like to be consulted more on this issue, before any changes are made to the legislation and more research needs to be done on this matter.

It is our job as members of the public to inform our politicians and such what we want, and you as politicians and government have a job to deliver that. Not change the rules as you go. Not change laws as you feel, without listening to us. That’s the Australian constitution. That’s the Australian way.

I believe that by not allowing Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs to wear their identifying colours, that the work of police will be so much harder. If the public can’t identify who they are dealing with to the police if they have an issue with a club member, then how on earth are the police supposed to identify them? I put to you that you actually ask the police around the state how they feel about these clubs losing their identifying patches.
Everyone on a motorbike is going to look the same. Everyone on a motorbike will be pulled over and harassed, everyday members of the general public will now be treated like a criminal because members of Outlaw Motorcycle clubs, according to government and police, are all classified as criminals. Which brings me to the subject of discrimination.

It is wrong to assume that every member of an Outlaw Motorcycle club are bad people. Yes, there are bad people among them, but there are bad people among every group, every religion, every aspect of life and I don’t see them being discriminated against. And those bad few should be treated and charged as individuals as the present law permits. Those minimal bad few should not determine the way all members are looked at. That in itself is discrimination at its worst.

Many of these club members that have been so wrongly labelled as bad are hard working “normal” everyday blokes that just so happen to be a member of a motorcycle club, whether deemed to be a member of an Outlaw Club or otherwise. They love their bikes, they love their mates and they feel a sense of belonging. For some people, these clubs are the only family they have, they have mentors among them that help them through the tough times or with life’s choices.

They have families of their own, they are grandfathers, father, uncles, brothers, cousins and sons. Their input into society is amazing and they also pay their taxes. Let’s not forget the amount of charity work that a lot of these blokes do. A lot of people hold them in high regard.

I understand the urgency in solving Tasmania’s drug problem but I don’t believe this is where the problem lies. The problem lies with how easy it is to get drugs into Tasmania. There is only two ways to achieve this and that’s by air or by sea, in the eyes of the public it’s that simple.

I urge you to please, as a concerned member of the Tasmanian public, take all of my concerns and findings into consideration.

Please find attached my findings from the online poll, online petition and petitions from the “Support your local MC colours Day”

Regards

Narelle “Doris” Smith and many concerned citizens of Tasmania.
We, the undersigned respectfully call on Tasmania’s Assistant Police Commissioner, Glenn Frame, and the Tasmanian Government to scrap the proposed new laws regarding Outlaw Motorcycle Groups in Tasmania. We believe that the majority of the Tasmanian public do not feel threatened or intimidated by Outlaw Motorcycle Groups as stated by you.

Concerned Citizens of Tasmania

Thank you.
Scrap the new “bikie law” legislation

Doris Narelle Smith started this petition to Tasmania's Assistant Police Commissioner Glenn Frame and the Tasmanian Government

We, the undersigned, respectfully call on Tasmania's Assistant Police Commissioner, Glenn Frame and the Tasmanian Government to scrap the proposed new laws regarding Outlaw Motorcycle Groups in Tasmania.

We believe that the majority of the Tasmanian public do NOT feel threatened or intimidated by Outlaw Motorcycle Groups as stated by you.

We believe that by taking away club colours, there will be no way to tell who is who and all motorcyclists will then become part of the 1% and harassed every time we try to enjoy our freedom.

We believe that changing the law is taking away our human rights and nothing short of discrimination.

Thank you
Concerned Citizens of Tasmania

NAME
Gray Phillips
Kay Wells
Joan Gasset
Alisa Conkie
Kara Andrews
Clare Best
 Neil Dug
Lee Roberts
M. O'Callaghan
N. O'Connell
Craig Hensley
Les Davison
Ron Towner

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Liverstone
East Devonport
Devonport
Cavendish
Youngtown
Heybridge
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