

HIGH COUNTRY GAME MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

The HCGMA, Inc. is an Incorporated Recreational & Sporting Shooting Organisation located in Tasmania.

The Clubs area of operation is in the Central Highlands Region where it manages game numbers on STT's: Diamond Tier and Barren Tier properties, Waddamana Forestry and some adjoining farming properties.

Game numbers are controlled with firearms of various types and calibres and all members of the Club have been screened by providing references from property owner's from where they have operated before and have provided their individual Police Reports before membership is granted.

We agree with the Tasmanian Government that some changes are needed to stop what occurred at Bondi which was religiously motivated and sadly has been going on for thousands of years, perpetrated by different cultures however we should not lose sight of the matter that many things can and have been weaponised: motor vehicles, knives, bats, etc.

The approach by the Tasmanian Government to consult with firearm owner's and stakeholder's is to be commended. A firearm for farming, game management, recreational hunting or target shooting is a tool of trade and no caps on numbers should apply. It is simply having the right tool for the job.

Licensed Australian citizens should be the only ones permitted to own firearms and intelligence sharing between all jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies is required. Misuse of firearms need to be punishable by significant penalties. We see at the moment the Judiciary handing out paltry fines or sentence's that are too lenient. Heavy sentences are required because unfortunately someone's life is usually at risk.

We seen this recently at 'Coles Bay' with the attack on an elderly firearm owner.

The 'buy back' amount at one and a half times the value of firearm's proposed by the Tasmanian Government is a sensible approach because of the fact that there are quite a few other costs to the licenced firearm owner involved. For instance, registration, firearm licence, telescopic sights, recoil pads, rifle straps, ammunition and cartridge belts, trigger locks and gun safes, security systems, etc. It is unfortunate that law abiding firearm owners are always held responsible for someone else's stupidity and failings of another jurisdiction's responsibility.