
From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 January 2025 16:43

To: Submissions.Strategy.Support <Submissions.Strategy.Support@police.tas.gov.au>

Subject: Feedback on Police Offences Amendment (Knives and Other Weapons) Bill 2025

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To whom it may concern,

I am a citizen of Hobart, Tasmania and I have read the proposed amendment relating to knife searches. While the crimes committed by those illegally carrying knives is abhorrent, I am not in favour of these increased police powers.

Over time, we have seen a continued reduction in the rights and privacy of individuals. Sniffer dogs and now metal detectors which police are able to deploy on any citizen without any reasonable suspicion. It assumes criminality without cause and evidence. Opting out of searches is not possible and considered reasonable suspicion of the offence. What happened to being innocent until proven guilty? What happened to the right of freedom of movement? Protests are considered illegal when they interfere with the public's normal movement - from the Tasmanian Police Handbook: 2.4.1 "Police have a duty to ensure public roads remain open and accessible, and that persons acting lawfully on private property can go about their business unhindered and unobstructed." Performing metal detection searches hinders and obstructs persons acting lawfully and prevents them from

going about their business. While 1 in 5 searches provided evidence of unlawful weapons, four other citizens were hindered and obstructed from going about their business.

I am in favour of searches where reasonable suspicion exists. For example, someone who appears nervous and won't remove their hands from their pockets when requested - someone with a "bulge" in their clothing that is unnatural. But, if I'm on my lunch break and I only have a limited time to perform an errand, as a free and lawful citizen, I shouldn't have to be subjected to these searches.

These types of powers are a slippery slope to the removal of rights and privacy of citizens. I am not in favour of these increased powers and I hope you will consider not continuing them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Kind regards,

