



Criminal Law (Criminal  
Organisations Disruption)  
Submission 007

Easyriders Australia Social Motorcycle Club  
Established 1975

20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**Submission to:** Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee apropos to the Queensland Governments Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013.

The following brief notes are submitted without prejudice and with the clear intent of providing public feedback to the recent Queensland Government legislative introduction of what have become commonly known as the “Anti Bikie Laws”.

Given the limited time we have been allowed to review and reply, the included points are for general discussion purposes and do not fully allow for in-depth review, supportive commentary or research. They do however reflect the broad opinions of the membership base of Easyriders Social Motorcycle Club.

**Introduction:** It is a difficult thing to know exactly where to start however as the President of Easyriders Social Motorcycle Club, a father, Christian and taxpayer I am concerned firstly with the welfare of my immediate family, their safety and ability to carry out freely their personal and professional endeavors legally in contributing in a positive way to our communities.

Like all fathers, the safety of my family is paramount and if there is an element within the “outlaw motorcycle” groups causing public safety issues then I fully support them being brought to justice. It seems however that the target is the broader 99% of the motorcycling fraternity that are being profiled and targeted simply based on who they associate with as opposed to what they have done, been convicted of or shown just cause as to be singled out.

Nowhere else is this type of Profiling allowed these days, you cannot pre judge someone because they wear a Burqa, follow a certain faith, are from a certain country, Education or suffer from a disability or any other form of targeted bias based on pre conceived unsupported view.

Is my primary concern because I love riding bikes...no, it's because I am to be pre judged, profiled and have my liberties challenged without any recourse or consideration for who I am as an individual. Australia's history and record around civil liberties and the treatment of individuals it deems unworthy is appalling on the world stage, look only to the Indigenous or the Asylum seekers, something a little closer to home then how about those with disabilities, still not a believer then what about the treatment of our soldiers in every theatre of conflict and their treatment.

We fully support the targeted actions against any “outlaw motorcycle” group where any illegal activities have been identified, but to go from a surgical approach to this proposed blitzkrieg of the 99% offers me and my family no comfort other than I will be profiled and pre judged irrespective of my personal views, community work or decency as a human being.

1. "The mere fact of membership of an organisation of that kind should not have criminal consequences,"
- 2."We enjoy the freedom of association, the freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of action in this country and to truly outlaw - because that's what the Government is doing - clubs and membership of clubs is, in my view, a step too far.
- 3."Legislation of this kind would be totally impossible in the ACT and Victoria where they do have human rights legislation in place .
- 4.If all these bikies are criminals why aren't they charged and/or already in jail? If they're not ALL criminals why do we need legislation to say they are? I thought the law was supposed to differentiate between criminal and non-criminal based upon actions not associations.
- 5.VLAD legislation. These laws can be applied to any group that is arbitrarily added to the list of criminal organisations.
- 6.These laws are in breach of several UN human rights laws, they remove the right to be treated equally before the law and they impinge on the separation of powers between the judiciary and state.
- 7.These laws are already being used to harass social riders , intimidate and persecute people who have and have never had any criminal history.

I thank you for the opportunity, albeit brief to submit this short reply. I trust it receives your favorable consideration.

I make myself and our club available to you at any time to discuss this matter in more detail and/or directly.

Beyond this, we extend an open invitation to you or any others you choose to join us for a day out getting to know some of our members and to see how we conduct ourselves as a social motorcycle club and as a group of individuals with a social conscience.

Warm regards,