

To the Members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. My name is Anthony Tenniswood, I am a Life Member of the Rebels Motorcycle Club Australia, I have no Criminal Convictions, I am a taxpayer and am fully employed. In the passed few weeks I took the time to read the breakdown of the current Govts amendments to the VLAD Legislation, along with the amendaments to the various other adjoining laws and I would like to make a submission regarding my thoughts and opinions on this set off laws. The main point I believe that needs to be made, and appears to be forgotten by successive Govts is the Common Law point of "Equality under Law", while I understand these laws can be used against anyone, they particularly target "Bikies". In parts of the laws they seek to ban the wearing of "Colours" or Club insignia in public, on the grounds these are used for "intimidation" and are a Public Safety matter. I submit that any public fear or intimidation is more the result of a Political and Media fear campaign, as we saw in the Gold Coast Bulletins January 22nd 2016 story relating to a "Bikie Murder" that turned out to be a victim of a stubbed toe being transported to Hospital, stories such as this are endless, with the LNPs continued "the Bikies are coming back" rhetoric is at the top of the list. This onslaught of propoganda and fear mongering has caused more "fear and intimidation" than anything else in the 50 plus years of Motorcycle Clubs in Queensland. In this issue, I don't believe anyone would have a problem if these laws were to be used against an individual, if they have been proven, in a Court of Law, to be using Colours or Insignia in an intimidating way, but to blanket all Club Members in this way is to "Tar all with the same Brush", something we are told time and time again in regards to other matters, we must not do! In regards to the Consorting Legislation we must ask how far do we go, the previous Public Inquiry has shown there is little or no time limits on a Warning. A convicted person can and will be subject to these laws, wether recidivist or not, long after their Court ordered sentence is completed. Do we accept that a person, convicted of a crime, sentence served, then continue to be ostracised for an indefinite period on the off chance they may or may not "conspire" to commit another crime while socialising with a friend or relative, be it in person or via phone or internet? In regards to other sections of these amendments, the "Separation of Powers" is overruled, by Mandatory Sentencing, suggesting that Politicians believe they have a greater understanding and knowledge of the Law and its uses than the Judiciary itself. The reversing of the "Onus of Proof" is take away a right accepted under Common Law as a right of every citizen of the Land, "Innocent until Proven Guilty" is a standard all fair and equal Courts accept. I respectfully request that the Committee be fair in their viewing of ALL of this legislation, and bring it into line with our accepted standards of Equality under Law, Right to a Fair Trial, Innocence until Proven Guilty and the right to see and argue any evidence to be used against a person in a Court of Law. All we can ask of the Committee in the end is for a fair and responsible outcome ensuring the legislation does not infringe on our civil rights as equal citizens of Queensland. Respectfully Anthony Tenniswood.