

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission - Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Thursday, 6 October 2016 11:51:32 AM
Importance: High

Dear Sir or Madam

The Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce Inc. would like to make the following submission to the Inquiry into the above Bill.

This Chamber represents businesses and commerce from the Tallebudgera Creek to the NSW border and beyond.

Our Submission is as follows;-

The Gold Coast area was being intimidated and harassed on a regular basis by members of outlaw motorcycle gangs – “Bikies”, in the period up to 2013 when the VLAD laws were introduced, not to be mixed up with Bikers, (generally men in their 40-50’s and beyond with motorbikes). This disruption and violence was widely reported on in the Global Media of all types and this was damaging to the reputation of the Gold Coast as a family holiday destination. Tourism numbers were down. It was leading locals to change their behaviour and evening activities to avoid some parts of the Coast at night on weekends etc. There were areas of the Coast which were perceived as being trouble spots. There were reports of businesses being threatened and protection money being paid.

Since the implementation of the so called VLADS laws in 2013 this trouble has diminished greatly and the reputation of the Gold Coast has been restored to a great extent.

The Labor Party stood during the State Election in 2015 on a platform including the repeal of the VLAD Laws and was NOT elected to represent any seat on the Gold Coast. This is a reflection of the views of the people who were most affected by the Bikie troubles, that is;- Gold Coasters, and they are also the group which have benefited most from the introduction of the VLAD laws.

The complete removal of the VLAD laws is not acceptable to the people of the Gold Coast as demonstrated at the Polling Booths in 2015. It is possible that a group of Bikers, not associated with Outlaw Gangs have been the un-intended target of some of the workings of this Law and that some modification to the Laws should be considered to remove the sort of profiling that targets anyone in a leather motorbike jacket. However that is not what has been proposed and as a result the repeal of the VLAD Laws is unacceptable to the residents and businesses of the Gold Coast.

Regards

Hilary Jacobs
Interim President – Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce

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