



Office of the Mayor

City of Gold Coast

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Justice Alan Wilson
Chairperson
Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Taskforce Into Organised crime legislation 2015
PO BOX 15167
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Justice Wilson

SUBMISSION TO THE TASKFORCE INTO ORGANISED CRIME LEGISLATION 2015

I write in relation to the current review being undertaken by the above taskforce.

As Mayor of the Gold Coast I am voicing concerns about the negative impact that repeal or weakening of the current anti-bikie legislation introduced in 2013 will have on the Gold Coast.

The City of Gold Coast is home to about half a million residents and welcomes about 13 million visitors each year. One of its biggest assets is its reputation as a safe and world-class destination to visit, study, and bring up a family.

This reputation was badly damaged after the infamous Broadbeach Brawl. It was the culmination of an utter disregard by outlaw motorcycle gangs for the rule of law, police and the general public.

Introduction of the anti-bikie legislation in 2013 has restored our City's reputation and a sense of safety to the public. It has sent a strong message to outlaw motorcycle gang members that their actions, intimidations and threats to community's safety would no longer be tolerated.

That is why, just prior to the last State Election, on 13 January 2015 I wrote to the then Leader of the Opposition the Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP and Gold Coast candidates of all persuasions to include "retention of strong and proven anti-bikie legislation" in their respective election commitments. This ranked first in the City's top ten priorities for an incoming State Government.

The recent sentences handed down in relation to outlaw motorcycle gang members involved in the Broadbeach Brawl where in my view and the view of the majority of the community I represent, inappropriate.

Of course, I understand these sentences were issued under the context of the previous legislative regime.

In my view, repealing or weakening of the *Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment (VLAD)* laws, risks re-emergence of motorcycle gangs in the City, undoing of the great work of our police force and an irreparable damage to the City's image.

It would see a weakening of the deterrent factor that these laws enforce.

That is why, I strongly believe it is crucial to retain and even strengthen these laws.

Any recommendation of the review that would lead to a perceived or tangible weakening of the legislation would go against the expectations of the Gold Coast community.

Please accept my apologies for this late submission. However this is due to the late notification period and the unusually short period made available to consider such an important matter.

I trust the taskforce recommendations will adequately reflect the views of the Gold Coast community who are calling unambiguously for the legislation introduced in 2013 to be upheld.

Yours sincerely



**TOM TATE
MAYOR**

