

The Hon Yvette D'Ath  
Queensland Attorney General  
Level 18, State law Building  
50 Ann Street  
Brisbane Queensland 4000

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Dear Attorney General

BY:-----

### **SUBMISSION TO TASK FORCE INTO ORGANISED CRIME LEGISLATION 2015**

I would like the following submission to be considered by the Task Force Into Organised Crime that you have recently established.

I am not an academic, an expert or any of the other illustrious groupings identified in the Terms of Reference but I am a member of the largest group affected by the legislation - a law abiding Queenslander whose very freedoms are threatened by the continued existence of the infamous VLAD laws and their unscrupulous use by whoever is in power in the State.

The abuse of power was evident even before the legislation was introduced. We were lied to that crime in the State was rampant and getting worse, when evidence from Police Statistics was that crime rates were falling and had been for some time. We were further told that Bikies were the cause of all this evil, when in fact evidence indicated that they were involved in less than 1.0% of organized crime activity in the State.

Having sufficiently alarmed the general population the Government then seized upon what has recently been judged a minor fracas, to introduce a raft of totalitarian legislation which has had little if any discernible effect on the crime rate but has undermined the civil liberties of all Queenslanders.

Again demonstrating the arrogance of power, the Government was quick to slander anyone who objected to the legislation as being a supporter of organized crime including paedophilia.

To any one who values freedom, the actual and potential abuse to our civil rights posed by the Legislation, is frightening. For example:

- The introduction of a new crime - association.
- The undermining of the basic principle of separation of powers.
- Indefinite sentencing at the whim of a Minister
- The retrospective application of the laws.
- Shifting the Burden of Proof to the accused.
- The vagueness of many of the provisions of the legislation

One has to ask where would the Newman Government have gone with the unbridled application of this legislation had it not been removed from office. While the

legislation exists the very real risk remains that any government, including the current government, can use its provisions against innocent, law abiding citizens.

Further, there is clearly an overwhelming problem with the administration of the Legislation. Despite the large volume of resources thrown at eliminating the Bikies, resulting in the reported arrests of over 1800 participants and the laying of more than 5000 charges it is reported that only one conviction has been obtained (apparently of someone who was not a bikie)

**This statistic speaks for itself: The Legislation, in its entirety, has to be removed immediately from the statute books.**

The following reported comment from Tony Fitzgerald clearly states the threat to Queensland citizens as long as the legislation survives:

**"History teaches us that claims that repressive laws will reduce serious crime are usually hollow and that laws which erode individual freedom and expand a state's powers over its citizens are fraught with peril.**

**Although free societies provide opportunities which criminals can exploit, in totalitarian states the worst criminals are commonly those in power"**

Sincerely