



Submission No 33

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

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The Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

INQUIRY INTO POTENTIAL REFORMS OF NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.

Tasmania Police does not intend to provide a submission in relation proposed changes to the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979* and *Intelligence Services Act 2001*.

Tasmania Police makes the following submission in relation to proposals concerning the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979*.

- ***Strengthening Safeguards***

Tasmania Police supports steps to strengthen safeguards and reduce costs to agencies where an appropriate balance associated with wider reform is evident.

Reforms to mandatory record keeping aimed at reducing duplication and simplifying oversight arrangements are also supported.

- ***Reforming the lawful access to communications regime***

Tasmania Police along with other State and Territory police services and the AFP have access to interception powers as part of a nationally consistent approach to combating serious crime. There is a mix of other agencies involved in police integrity investigations, anti-corruption and serious and organised crime that have access to interception powers. It is understood that the reduction of agency eligibility proposal relates to these latter agencies and on this basis Tasmania Police is supportive.

In relation to standardisation, Tasmania Police supports any move to simplify the TIA Act warrant application processes.

Tasmania Police similarly supports the creation of a single warrant with multiple powers.

- ***Streamlining and reducing complexity in the lawful access to communications regime.***

Tasmania Police supports simplifying information sharing provisions particularly where the ability to record and share information within agencies for future intelligence needs, in line with privacy considerations, is also enhanced.

- ***Modernising the TIA Act's cost sharing arrangements.***

Tasmania Police does not support any proposal that will result in an increase to cost sharing amounts (proportional 'unit' commitment) for interception agencies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.

Yours sincerely

D L Hine
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE