



Tasmania

PREMIER

25 JAN 2007

Ms J Morris
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Morris

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 December 2006 inviting the Tasmanian Government to comment on the Inquiry into the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (National Investigative Powers and Witness Protection) Bill 2006*.

Generally, the Bill appears to fulfil the Australian Government's commitment to introduce national model legislation on assumed identities, controlled operations and the protection of witness identity. I also note that appropriate safeguards, consistent with those contained in the corresponding Tasmanian legislation, have been incorporated into the Bill so that controlled operations will not be authorised if such operations involve conduct which would endanger the health or safety of persons, cause death or serious injury, involve the commission of a sexual offence against a person, or result in significant loss or serious damage to property (other than illicit goods).

I note that the Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill indicates that Australian Government law enforcement agencies will be able to investigate State offences incidental to multi-jurisdictional crime.

Although it may not be necessary to include notification provisions in legislation, it is imperative that the Tasmanian Commissioner of Police be fully informed, at the earliest opportunity, of any proposed investigation or controlled operation which may involve State offences. This will ensure that the necessary co-operation occurs between agencies and will minimise the risk of resources being duplicated and mistakes occurring.

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Subject to these remarks, the Tasmanian Government supports the Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lennon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Lennon
Premier