**Viewed from ivory tower**

The man who was shot by police had allegedly committed an armed robbery, then fled in a stolen car.

He then allegedly stole another vehicle at knife point and continued to flee from police.

It appears that this man’s alleged criminal actions caused the end result here – his death.

People such as Mr Murphy should remember that for every action we take, there is a consequence – and sometimes those consequences are deadly.

Cameron Murphy is typical of those who don’t have the guts to get off their tailor-made backside and put their life on the line to defend us.

It’s far easier to shelter behind the protection of your high-rise office with views of the harbour and throw criticism at the very people out there – at times dying in the process.

In a television interview yesterday Mr Murphy called for police to stop using Tasers, but then suggested that the police involved in Sunday’s shooting should have used a Taser instead of a firearm.

Perhaps Mr Murphy should put on a Batman suit and go out unarmed and save the world.

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**A relaxed attitude is not apathy**

I WOULD like to say thank you to Janelle Saffin for responding to my open letter.

Malcolm Turnbull, Tony Abbott and Senator Bob Brown have responded.

Both Malcolm Turnbull and Tony Abbott expressed disquiet and concern about the report.

Senator Bob Brown’s office defended the report, and has not yet responded to further questions.

Ms Saffin’s response is certainly in line with the “civility” she speaks of – unlike the displays of arrogance, a patronising attitude and social ineptitude displayed by her leader, Julia Gillard.

But Ms Saffin’s failure to answer my questions, dismissing them as “nonsense” and “political attack”, is a true indicator that Ms Saffin’s government has every intention of restricting our freedom of speech and the freedom to read, and write what we want.

This Government does not want a questioning media writing articles that are critical of it and its actions.

Many of the political commentators and academics who are supportive of the present government are publicly expressing unease about this report.

This is despite Ms Saffin claiming to stand by “having freedom”.

Just so you know, Ms Saffin, I intend to fight your government’s legislation, and I encourage others to do the same.

Do not mistake a relaxed attitude for apathy.

I would also respectfully remind you, Ms Saffin that you are paid by taxpayers to represent the people of Page, including me.

It is my job to deal with questions of the type I have asked and to answer them, not to refer to them as “nonsense”.

My concerns, like those of all your constituents, are your concern and you deserve respect and a direct answer.

**Bimbblebox tells tale all should hear**

I REFER to The Hon Thomas George MP’s affirmation of his support for the mining and coal seam gas industry.

During the recent Byron Bay Film Festival a new documentary was given little prominence.

The film Bimbblebox is one which all Australians should view, so they understand these contentious mining issues.

It is about a group of families who purchased 8000ha (8000 acres) near Alpha in central Queensland, assisted by a government grant of $900,000.

Progressively they turned their land into Bimbblebox Nature Reserve.

The property had not been subjected to broadscale land clearing, so comprises pristine native vegetation, including the bimbblebox tree, which is a type of poplar box.

The CSIRO has carried out studies and research there.

Birds Australia has identified a rare and vulnerable Black-throated Finch.

The property, 60km west of Rockhampton, depicts the real bush of outback Australia.

It is somewhere these families have proudly put 12 years of their lives into and spent all their savings.

Then along comes China First and Australia’s Living Treasure, Mr Clive Palmer, billionaire extraordinaire, who holds the mining rights to the Bimbblebox Nature Reserve’s 8000 ha through Warahat Coal.

The mining rights to the adjacent property are held by Hancock Prospecting.

Mr Palmer claims the Black-throated Finch has wings and can fly, but where to, Mr Palmer? The China First development project in the Galilee Basin has been widely advertised and is acclaimed by politicians as being a very significant future open cut coal mine and a good export earner for Australia.

Under China First, much of the 8000ha Bimbblebox Nature Reserve, plus the property next door, will be open cut mined for thermal coal and will be sent in wagons on a specially constructed rail- way line 25km north of Bowen.

Yes, the coal in the ground at Bimbblebox Nature Reserve will be exported to China, leaving the owners with a blight and useless scar on the landscape.

The beautiful property, which they have put years of their lives into with such passion, will be gone – sold to China.

I recommend you view the documentary Bimbblebox.

It also shows open cut mines near Newcastle and the intrusive coal seam gas wells on rural properties, which are people’s homes and livelihood.

See for yourself how no revegetation has taken place on those open cut coal mines where the very ground of Australia has been put on a conveyor belt.

Put the names into your search engine and read all about it in the comfort of your own home – the consequence which is there today, but may be gone tomorrow if the politicians have their way.

So, here I ask The Hon Thomas George MP, how would you like this to happen to you? Would you like to see all you have strived for in your life, your home and assets destroyed, destroyed, taken from you?

I think you had better get used to being called plain Mr George after the next election.

Because you are there to represent the people, not your own views and interests.

There are other ways to balance the budget than to sell the very ground from underneath us.

MARGARET HOWES,
Empire Vale.