



June 18, 2009 06:17pm AEST

Police admit man had been shot 28 times with Taser

Michael McKenna | June 18, 2009

Article from: [The Australian](#)

QUEENSLAND police have admitted that evidence shows an officer last week fired a 50,000-volt Taser 28 times into a man who died minutes later.

The admission follows an **exclusive report** today in *The Australian* revealing that an inbuilt system in the controversial gun - which automatically records each time the weapon is fired - had debunked initial police claims the Taser was used only three times in the incident.

The revelations have fuelled opposition to the roll-out of the weapons across Australia, with three deaths now related to Taser use in Australia.

Amphetamines addict Antonio Galeano, 39, collapsed and died while still in handcuffs last Friday morning.

It is alleged police were called to a unit in Brandon, south of Townsville, after Mr Galeano assaulted a woman and confronted two officers with a metal bar.

The Deputy Commissioner of Queensland Police, Ian Stewart, said it was not clear how many times Mr Galeano was actually shot with the weapon and that the investigation was looking at a possible malfunction of the weapon.

"That's obviously a very important question and one that we know the investigation will be looking at," Mr Stewart told ABC radio.

But Mr Stewart said despite the possibility the weapon was flawed, the 1200 tasers currently in use by Queensland police would not be withdrawn.

"We don't intend to withdraw the Tasers from those police who are currently trained to use them because we believe Tasers actually save lives," he said.

On Monday, the roll-out of a further 1300 Tasers to Queensland police was halted to await the findings of a Crime and Misconduct investigation into the incident.

The Queensland death comes just two months after an Alice Springs man died in custody following the use of capsicum spray and a Taser on him during a domestic dispute.

It also follows the launch of an investigation at the weekend in NSW after new CCTV footage appeared to contradict a police report clearing officers over the Taser shooting of a Sydney man on March 29.

In May 2002, NSW man Gary Pearce died of a heart attack about two weeks after being shot with a stun gun when he threatened police with a frying pan.