

From: [Don Willis](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013
Date: Wednesday, 20 November 2013 1:04:53 PM

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to provide the following brief comments on the above bill. I note that public consultation on the bill, which was introduced to Parliament yesterday, is only open until 5pm today.

1. While the community rightly expects its governmental leaders to protect their safety and interests, given the extensive impact of the bill and its potential to affect innocent Queenslanders it is very unfortunate that more time was not allowed for it to be considered by the committee and experts in the field so as to ensure that it does not contain errors and oversights such as those which have been identified with recent associated legislation.

2. While the explanatory notes to the bill contain some treatment of the bill's contravention of fundamental legislative principles (FLPs) under the Legislative Standards Act 1992, my question for the committee to consider in the brief time available is whether any aspects of the bill could contravene the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or other relevant international instruments (treaty obligations) to which Australia is a signatory? Another question is: does the amendment to the Bail Act 1980 contravene the FLP principle of natural justice, in particular the need for relevant decision makers to be unbiased, with sufficient justification?

3. My only other observation is that any bill which proposes vast intrusive powers for use against citizens, even those of minority groups that may not have the affection of the wider community, should be subject to intense scrutiny to ensure the exercise of such powers is strictly supervised and not open to abuse or misuse or applied in circumstances beyond those originally anticipated.

Yours faithfully

Don Willis

[Redacted signature block]