

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: The Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 (the "Dangerous Devices" Bill)
Date: Tuesday, 1 October 2019 6:13:04 PM

I make this submission, in my personal capacity, not representing any organisation. I am an Australian citizen, a resident of Brisbane, have been admitted to practice law in Australia (not currently practicing) and am conducting research in the field of public health as part of my PhD studies.

I wish to express my concern at both the unjustified expansion of police powers and the needless introduction of new offences in The Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 (the "Dangerous Devices" Bill). I am concerned that this amendment will seed conflict and unnecessarily exacerbate tensions between police, protesters and the public. I have participated in climate change protests in Queensland this year, and have been impressed at the professionalism and respect shown between both protesters and police, and frequently the public, with all parties behaving peacefully, responsibly and respectfully. As a climate change protester and citizen, I have taken the time to attend at the Roma Street Police Station this year to lodge an acknowledgement of the police force for their calm, professional and personable responses that I have observed.

I am concerned that this bill will both undermine respectful and non-discriminatory police responses to protesters and erode Queensland citizens' democratic rights, and as such may spark a backlash that provokes the very harm that all parties have been avoiding to date. I call for the bill to be withdrawn, or for substantive evidence to be provided as to why the amendment is necessary at this time. Non-violent activism is an important and well established mechanism for social change, through which many important human rights have been recognised.

Sincerely,

Rachael Brennan BA, LLB, MIntH (pronouns she/her or they/them)

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