

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Summary Offences and other Legislation Bill 2019
Date: Thursday, 3 October 2019 4:43:25 PM

Submission

Dear people,

It has been brought to our attention that this Bill, known as the "Dangerous Devices" Bill will introduce an unacceptable expansion of police powers and additional, vaguely defined crimes. What is threatened here is the essential right of civil disobedience and non-violent protest that are historically accepted as fundamental to democracy. There is an disconcerting attack on our Civil Rights being promoted by this kind of unnecessary bill and, without a Bill of Rights protecting citizens, we must be alert to such threats to our free speech and resist the encroachment on our peaceful behaviors. This is another example of vilifying peaceful activists and introducing draconian 'solutions'.

Yes, civil disobedience will increase in the coming years in the face of the government's inaction on the accelerating climate crisis. But that is the fault of the 'authorities' that continue to deny the facts of global warming, and to attempt this kind of bill is only to enable more suppression of the opposition to the present destructive policies.

New offences are ill-defined and aimed at protecting the fossil fuel industries that, it could be argued, should be charged with crimes against humanity. To be allowed to search vehicles and personal belongings without a warrant, looking for "dangerous attachment devices" which includes padlocks, ropes, climbing gear, is a direct threat to everyone's personal freedom. And kindly note that this unnecessary bill is aimed at citizens that are committed to non-violent, peaceful protests that pose no threat to the police or bystanders. Their actions may be inconvenient to 'business as usual', but that is no reason for this over reach by the government. And, as we will all soon discover, the fossil fuel 'business as usual' is a death sentence to many species, and indeed threatens our own future. We urge you NOT to approve this unnecessary Bill.

Regards,

Jonathan Peter

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