

Submission on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

03/10/2019

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Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

I am writing to you to express my deep concern and opposition to these new laws, which are disproportionate, overreaching, and appear to have no evidential basis.

I am concerned that these laws will make it more difficult for members of the public to express dissent through peaceful protest.

Although I am from NSW, I am concerned about this bill as an Australian citizen – because the ability to peacefully express dissent is an essential aspect of our free and democratic society.

I understand that the bill especially targets “lock-on” devices. These devices may appear alarming, and their use by protestors certainly causes disruption. However, there is no evidence that lock-on devices are harmful. They are a legitimate non-violent protest method. The use of lock-on devices by protestors may be inconvenient, but there is no sound democratic reason to outlaw their use.

I urge the committee to reject this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Melinda Marshall