

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019  
**Date:** Friday, 4 October 2019 10:21:56 AM

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## Submission on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

4/10/2019

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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.

What is concerning is such a strong distancing by a Labor Government from peaceful protest, particularly at a time when climate change is accelerating, and government inaction persists.

As we know, civil disobedience has been used by countless historical social movements as an effective tool in implementing transformational change.

In the absence of a national Charter or Bill of Rights, this is even more concerning as there are less protections for our basic democratic rights, and consequently, fewer constraints on governments' power to impinge on our rights and freedoms. This particular legislation is designed to infringe civil liberties, specifically target peaceful activists, and limit their fundamental right to dissent.

Not only do these laws seek to target peaceful protest, but they have no apparent factual basis, and the actions they seek to prevent are already illegal.

It is important to remember that Queensland especially has a dark history of limiting civil liberties and silencing peaceful dissent, and it's vital that we are vigilant in protecting these hard won rights.

Reform has always been driven by the hard work and courage of movements of people who believed in equality, human rights and fairness, often in the face of staunch opposition from entrenched and powerful political and business interests.

I am especially concerned with the excessive police powers within this proposed legislation. Police have broad stop and search powers in Queensland, under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 which they already use liberally to conduct (arguably unlawful) searches on people suspected of being involved in activism.

Greater police discretion means more power for those in charge and more ability to use

force when it is expedient. It is likely that these new powers could be applied in arbitrary and possibly discriminatory ways, impacting members of already marginalised groups further.

Additionally, this Bill will grant Police increased authority to issue fines for activities related to protesting. Vesting police with this discretion about whether certain protesting activities will constitute an offence essentially authorises police to be the arbiters of what constitutes a legitimate protest activity.

I seek a withdrawal of this bill and further protections or the right to protest in Queensland.

yours sincerely,

Mark Taylor

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