

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Alarm about proposed legislation that limit rights to protest.
Date: Saturday, 5 October 2019 8:03:46 AM

Dear Members,

I am taking this opportunity to provide feedback on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I am very concerned about the nature of these laws and the reasons for their proposal.

Police will be given more discretionary laws to clamp down on the right to protest. Given Queensland's history of suppressing normal civic dissent in the Bjelke-Petersen years, this is highly alarming. Protesting is a valid and valuable form of democratic engagement and must be protected. We cannot hand over what constitutes reasonable or unreasonable civic engagement over to police. We've been there before and it is unhealthy for a society; leading to serious government corruption.

It is obvious these laws are the government's attempt to address its own failings in response to the climate crisis by vilifying protesters. So very sad. Once these laws are put in place, they are so difficult to walk back. We can't have it that the response to climate change is repression of people who wish to address it. We are doomed to failure if we increase surveillance rather than ramp up a significant and effective response to climate change.

Let's call a spade a spade. This is a campaigning effort due to Queensland's significant loss in the Federal election as well as the need to satisfy large donors whose business model is about fossil fuels. We can't dive to the bottom of the barrel if we are to collectively address this issue. Laws that address this problem must be based on evidence not short-term convenience.

Let's engage humanity as we move forward on this difficult road to transition to the society we need to be to live sustainably on this planet. We must do it without sabotaging it with reactive, populist law-making

I urge the committee to reject this Bill.

Yours sincerely,
Jo-Ann Lancaster

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