

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback on Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill  
**Date:** Sunday, 6 October 2019 11:19:38 AM

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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 would like to express my deep concern about this legislation which appears to impinge on every Australian's right to peaceful protest. Granting police even greater powers to search and detain people with no direct evidence ("reasonable suspicion" is not evidence) is a step towards taking away the rights of the individual.

The right to protest against decisions we do not agree with is an important part of our democratic foundation as a nation, and we are taught from an early age that our country is a place of freedom and prosperity. When the government seeks to impose greater controls over this right to raise our voices, this inevitably leads to greater restrictions and the official silencing of any criticism.

This type of legislation is too open to corruption and misuse, and appears to be a hasty reaction to the recent media hysteria over protests around the world. "Dangerous attachment devices" seem to include any device more technical than a rope, according to the proposed amendments.

Making a statement by peacefully stopping a work site or transport route is something all Australians have benefited from, as this type of protest action has led to major positive social changes in our country in the past.

I believe in our government system and also our right to have a say in the running of our country. I would like to speak up and make my voice heard. I ask you to reject this Bill.

Yours sincerely,  
Joanne Vlismas

[REDACTED]

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