

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission about Lockon Laws
Date: Monday, 7 October 2019 9:32:56 AM

6.10.2019

Dear Committee,

I am writing this letter to your office because of the legislation the government is proposing to introduce concerning the outlawing of lock on devices.

I believe the government is wrong to say that the devices are dangerous to police and I'm asking you to consider the fact that the police have laid no charges and there have been no incidences recorded where any harm was caused to police or anyone else by any lock on device.

I feel distressed that government is not listening to the evidence of the scientists who have un deniably proven we are experiencing not just a climate emergency but environmental breakdown which may be irreversible. I have children and grand children, i am deeply concerned for their future.

I have written letters and signed petitions, joined marches to no avail, so decided to join with Stop Adani and participate in non violent direct action. So I've experienced the non violent principles permeating every aspect of the campaign.

I have seen the lock on devices they are completely non harmful to anyone and if they were made to be harmful to police they would also be harmful to the protester. As i have already mentioned, the police have laid no charges stating that anyone was harmed by any lock on device.

There is a groundswell of anger and realisation that the government are betraying the people by not acting on the massive amount of scientific evidence that we are in a climate emergency caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

More than a thousand people have come already, and more keep coming from Australia and all over the world to the Stop Adani camp in hot dusty central Queensland to join in and stop the Adani coal mine, because that's the only avenue available to us to stop the largest coal basin in the Southern hemisphere being mined.

It is the mining of fossil fuels that should be outlawed not non violent lock on devices.

Please do not pass this legislation which is not evidence based and would further erode our civil liberties and our right to non violent protest.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Agar

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Submission on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

8/10//2019

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[REDACTED]

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.

The basis given for the drafting of these laws, that activists are using “lock-on” devices to attempt to injure police and safety officers, is not backed up by evidence. These devices have been used for decades, yet the Queensland government has not offered examples of police being injured, or anybody being charged with setting “booby-traps” inside lock-on devices; only speculation.

The legislation in fact misrepresents the devices by including sinister-sounding terminology like “sleeping dragon” and “dragon’s den” which is not used by the activists themselves.

If it was the case that activists were trying to use lock-on devices to injure police, that would already be illegal and the law has sufficient power to punish that.

The law gives police extra powers to search without a warrant. Police already use “stop and search” powers as a way to intimidate and hinder protesters who have not broken any law, and this law will give them more justification to do so.

Under the guise of safety, the government is bringing in laws which are really about stopping protest activity. The right to protest is a recognised pillar of democracy, and this right should include not just tokenistic free speech but actual effective protest activity as developed by historical protest movements.

Australia has a proud history of successful protest movements using civil disobedience. These have advanced the rights of workers, gender and sexual equality, indigenous rights and environmental protection. Many of our national parks today are the result of protest activity which used devices of the kind prohibited under this law. Queensland Labor, which traces its origins to one such illegal protest (the 1891 shearers’ strike) should recognise this.

To bring in superfluous laws, with no evidential basis, to restrict protest is very dangerous. Not only does it erode our democracy, but it suppresses one of the vitally needed tools we have to address the climate crisis we are currently facing – something which, unlike lock-on devices, actually is a genuine threat to health and safety.

Please do not pass this proposed legislation.

Yours faithfully,
Lesley Agar.