From:	
To:	Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Subject:	Summary Offences
Date:	Monday, 7 October 2019 11:41:58 AM

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 actions proposed by this Bill are already illegal.

As the police already have stop and search powers under Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, it is unnecessary and the proposed new laws will grant police increased authority to issue fines for activities relating to protesting. No evidence has been provided by your Government to support claims that 'activists' are using 'sinister tactics'. In fact the Premier has formally refused to provide evidence.

* there is a prioritisation of business interests (especially the mining companies such as Adani, as the Queensland Resources Council was consulted by your Government for input into these proposed laws) over the rights of us the people of Queensland, with the excuse it is in the interests of public safety.

* inconsistent with our democratic rights and freedom of expression (protected by S7 of the Human Rights Act (Qld) and Articles 19 and 20 of the ICCPR.

It is apparent to me that your Government's view is that it is only acceptable if a peaceful protest does not disrupt people going about their ordinary business. However it seems to be okay if private companies running triathlons, marathons, beach parties and the like close motorways, roads, parking areas, beaches for hours on end disrupting people going about their ordinary business.

To allow legislation that actively undermines the efficacy of protest activity is a disservice to our social growth.

I urge the committee to reject this Bill.

Yours sincerely, Coral Serisier

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