

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
Date: Monday, 7 October 2019 5:35:27 PM

07/10/2019

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Dear Members,

I write to provide feedback on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

I am deeply concerned and opposed to these new laws which I believe are disproportionate and seem to have no evidential basis. 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.

Lock-on devices have been used as non-violent direct action to stand up against many social injustices that occur in the state. There is a history of successful protest movements using civil disobedience throughout Australia. These movements have resulted in the advanced rights of workers, gender and sexual equality, indigenous rights and environmental protection.

If activists had intent to use lock-on devices to injure police the existing law has sufficient power to punish that. My observation of non-violent direct action has always been with the intent to 'do no harm' and I have never seen any evidence to demonstrate that activist intend to cause injury to police officers. In fact the opposite is true in my experience, where they are given due respect and curtesy. The right to protest is a recognised pillar of democracy and I that these proposed laws will prevent the right of everyday citizens to exercise this right.

I am concerned about increased powers for police to search without a warrant and I worry where laws that allow this will lead. To restrict protest by imposing these laws, with limited evidential basis, 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. The climate crisis is a real threat to our society and the future of the human race on earth.

Regards

Georgina Coghlan