

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 6:09:22 PM

7/10/2019

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Dear Members,

Thank you for accepting this feedback on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

I am writing to you to let you know that I am deeply worried about people being stopped from peaceful protest.

These new laws, are not based on known facts, are an over reaction and undermine Democracy if they were to be implemented.

These Laws will also hurt people who are justifiably and carefully organising to protect your environment and everybody's.

The disrespect for the environment shown by successive Governments in QLD is legendary across the world. You will be part of this if you pass this Legislation.

The building of Adani is an environmental horror story... an economic nonsense and a terrible way to treat our land and waters.

This law will add to the environmental disaster which is currently Queensland...

The Law needs to be shredded and the environment respected along with protesters.

The people protesting need support. You need to meet with and sort this with them, with the First Nations people and all of us. The days of busyness as usual really are over! The dollars will not hold up climate change... we all need to change and we need leadership which can face that and protect what is left!

Please embrace the facts and start to change. These protests and protesters are vital! Your good reality check and action on climate change and wrong use of land and waters is paramount.

You are supposed to be listening to the facts, not making them up as basis for really poor legislation!

– 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 were used by the suffragettes in England to demand the vote for women!

They 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.

I am sure that if such a device actually hurt a police officer it would be across the media!

– 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.

The use of stop and search laws also lends itself to other inappropriate

uses of this intrusion on innocent people.

– 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. This undermines effective free speech and in so doing cuts Australian democracy.

– 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 limited 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.

Yours sincerely,
Janine Guice
Queensland Resident,
voter and ratepayer

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