

08/10/2019

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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 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.

As an Australian Citizen, I believe that the right to protest is a fundamental and critical feature of our democracy, one that should be valued and encouraged, not suppressed as if we are some authoritarian state.

I am extremely concerned about the new laws proposed, because there is simply no evidence that activists are using 'lock-on' devices to attempt to injure police and safety officers. It is disappointing and disturbing that the Queensland Premier would make such accusations and smearing protestors without offering any evidence.

Furthermore, the new laws will give police additional powers to search without a warrant. This is an unacceptable development for a democracy like Australia, because it will provide police with the ability to intimidate and stopping protest activity.

In summary, I believe that the proposed new laws are unnecessary and dangerous, and if passed will represent a dangerous erosion to our democracy and right to protest. Our existing laws are already sufficient to punish any illegal activities by protestors. Rather than trying to push through unnecessary new laws aimed at limiting citizen's right to protest, the Queensland government should actually focus on tackling real emergencies like the climate crisis, which is already hurting Queenslanders and Australians all across the country.

Regards,

Jason Wu