

**Submission on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019**  
07/10/2019



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.

I have been involved with Extinction Rebellion due to my concern for our planet and frustration with government inaction on climate change and threatening of extinction to many species. I have seen the "lock-on" devices used by Extinction Rebellion and know that Extinction Rebellion has a very serious policy on non-violence, so I know that any suggestion that they would use these devices in a harmful way is totally unfounded and fabricated. Further more, absolutely no evidence has been found to support this suggestion and if there was, there is sufficient legal power in existence to punish that.

This law would also give extra power to police to stop and search without a search warrant under the guise of safety. The police already use 'stop and search' powers as a way to hinder and intimidate protesters who have not broken the law and this law will give them even more justification to do so.

These laws will inhibit peoples right to effective. Whilst protesting with the use of lock on devices is causes a lot of disruption, protests such as these have been used in history to bring about change that has given us many privileges we now take for granted. If these laws were in place then, we might well be experiencing a different life than we take for granted today. As a reminder, some of the benefits of these acts of civil disobedience in the past have been the advancement of workers rights, gender and sexual equality, indigenous rights and environmental protection. Many of the national parks we have today are the result of protest activity which used devices of the kind prohibited under this law. Queensland Labor in particular should be reminded of the 1891 shearers' strike, which traces its origin to the use of such an illegal protest.

To put through such a superfluous law, without any evidence is completely wrong and dangerous undermines our democracy as it deprives people of the tools to fight injustice. In this case our climate and biodiversity emergency, which is a much bigger threat than relatively harmless "lock-on" devices.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal line.

Malgorzata Weglarz