

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
Date: Tuesday, 8 October 2019 9:58:35 AM

08/10/2019

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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 am 26 years old and after finishing a bachelor of environmental science have been deeply concerned about government inaction on climate change amongst other issues, including indigenous sovereignty. I have protested peacefully in Brisbane many times and have always had good experiences with police and fellow protesters. Where we know our rights and the law stops police from being able to over extend their authority and respect the means and ways we choose to seek change.

This bill would give police unprecedented power and control over people like me who are passionate and ready to stand up for justice. History shows that taking civil disobedient and protest action is one of the key ways of creating change in our society. Indeed, as a woman I would not have the right to vote, be in a bar or have a job without it.

Furthermore, there is no evidence backing that 'lock-on' devices used by protesters are in any way meant to cause police injury.

While these devices have been used for decades, the Queensland government has not offered examples of police being injured or anybody being charged with setting "booby-traps" in devices. This means the accusations can only be speculation. Indeed if these devices had caused police injury that would already be illegal and punishable by the law.

The problem with these laws in particular, is that they give 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. 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.

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.

Please consider my submission.

Regards,

Zoë Buckley Lennox



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which I work a live on, the Turrbal and Jagera people. I extend my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. I acknowledge their continuing fight for sovereignty in so called 'Australia' and the leadership first nations peoples play in environmental and social justice struggles. Always was always will be Aboriginal land.