

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Feedback on legislation to outlaw lock-on devices within protest activity
Date: Tuesday, 8 October 2019 9:59:37 AM

8/10/2019

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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.

I am young woman currently travelling through eastern parts of Australia. I worked for a year + to save money to sustain and support myself throughout this year and time to come as I commit to doing my part in saving the future of our planet. I have dropped all other responsibilities and personal desires of how I'd wish to live my life to wholeheartedly give my attention to the climate and ecological catastrophe we are currently facing. As far as I'm concerned, there is nothing of greater importance at this point in human history.

I am currently in total support and engagement with varying environmental campaigns underway in this country. I regularly engage in peaceful, protest activity that always adheres to non-violent principles. Through my observations of our governmental bodies and those in positions of power over the years and the neglect that has been demonstrated to act on behalf of all life forces that inhabit this earth, I feel that this is the most effective means to creating change. These lock-on devices are an essential part of our being able to protest in a peaceful, safe, and civilised manner in that no harm is inflicted on any parties involved. Outlawing them is an act of removal of our human right to protest in the face of inaction by those we would otherwise depend on to be looking out for our future. I am incredibly disappointed to know of the attempts being made 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.

I appreciate your time to hear out my concerns,

Thank you deeply for reading, and I do hope you will consider my points made.

Amelia Cromb

Sent from my iPhone