

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 Oct 8 2019
Date: Tuesday, 8 October 2019 10:28:17 AM

Jonathan G. Hirst

Dear Members,

Firstly, I appreciate being able to contribute some comments to you on the legislation (noted above) which I believe to be a very dangerous and unfair use of law (lawfare) against peaceful protest.

I am a 61 year old Townsville resident and I value greatly the freedom I have to express myself in public and for the protestors, which this legislation seems designed to stymie, to use, in our increasingly dire climate crisis, non-violent direct action.

What most concerns me are the implications of a bill such as this which enables police further means to stop and search without a warrant and, in doing so, intimidate peaceful protestors. The present laws are perfectly adequate.

I am still waiting to see any actual evidence of a dangerous device being used by protestors which could harm police. It has always and continues to be, clearly, a core strategy among all the Stop Adani and Extinction Rebellion and Climate Strikers that their protests are always peaceful. This is because peaceful protest is the most likely to work. It is a proud history that reflects a deeply non violent, 'turn the other cheek' approach to social change. It would also be plain stupid on the protestors part to initiate a violent action, particularly towards police, which would set public opinion against the protest's aims.

As a Labor supporter over many years I am distraught that such a once proud party could stoop to these utterly non-credible strategies to ensure the go-ahead for Adani.

I implore all members to please not send Queensland back to the Joh era.

This is terrible legislation and must never see the light of day.

Sincerely
Jonathan Hirst