

SUBMISSION TO THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE  
ON  
THE SUMMARY OFFENCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2019

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1. This submission opposes this proposed measure in its entirety.
2. The proposed Bill is not justified by the evidence, as there is no evidence published to support the numerous assertions made in the Explanatory Notes.
3. It is noted that the Premier has officially declined to publish or disclose any evidence that she or the Government has that would justify the need for this Bill.
4. The Explanatory Notes have been written in emotive and provocative language that is not fitting or proper to be included in such a document.
5. For example, see this sentence –  
“Alarming, some people have made use of attachment devices that have also been constructed or designed in such a way as to endanger themselves, emergency service workers and potentially members of the public. It has been reported.....”  
This type of statement fails to give reasonable citizens any assurance that this proposed Bill is necessary or justified; instead, it acts to intensify the widespread belief and suspicion that this Government is acting due to pressure from the QPS, the extractive industry and some sections of the conservative mainstream media.  
In other words, it is politically inspired rather than a genuine and serious response to actions arising out of Government decisions or inaction.
6. There is good reason to believe that the provisions in this Bill are constitutionally invalid as they severely restrict the common law rights of all citizens to political freedom, dissent and expression. There is precedent in law for this assertion.
7. Imposing further penalties on citizens who take action to publicly protest would only act to create political prisoners and martyrs of stable and normal citizens, who are well aware that severe penalties including imprisonment will only act to further encourage dissent and protest.
8. Most people in this State thought that the repressive and autocratic system that existed here during the 1970s and 1980s had been removed forever and were part of a shameful history. It is now clear that this has not happened.
9. This statement, made without full and detailed evidence, is not correct –  
“These types of devices(dangerous attachment devices) represent a real risk of injury or death to a person, emergency service workers and the public as the incorrect disassembly or removal of these devices may lead to serious injuries, not only for the person attached to the device but anyone in the vicinity.”  
It is clear from publicly available media reports that there have been no dangerous attachment devices discovered in this State; no specific cases quoted, no video or pictorial evidence, just land assertions to try to create alarm and fear in the public.
10. I note that the Explanatory speech has still not been provided on the Committee’s website by the closing date for submissions.

END

Author            David White