



Creating a compassionate world

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8 October 2019

Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000

Sent by email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 **Submission on behalf of Animal Liberation Queensland**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission in relation to the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. We wish to take this opportunity to raise our concerns regarding this legislation.

Animal Liberation Queensland (ALQ) is an independent animal advocacy organisation founded in 1979. ALQ is a not-for-profit organisation in the state of Queensland and a registered charity. ALQ campaigns on a broad range of animal protection issues and represents the interests of all animals. ALQ is well known for our investigation that exposed the cruel and illegal practice of live baiting in the greyhound racing industry in Queensland, as seen on 4 Corners in February 2015. More information is available at www.alq.org.au.

The proposed laws are disproportionate and appear to have no evidential basis. We are concerned the Premier has made statements to justify these laws and failed to give the public, the media, or even other Members of Parliament evidence to justify such claims.

We also wish to raise concerns around the rushed nature of this Bill and the short consultation period. As a matter of good process the public should have a right to appropriately consider and respond to important matters of public interest.

These proposed laws are squarely aimed at peaceful protestors who take a stand against activities that may be unjust or contrary to the public interest. It is important to note that these laws are not limited to environmental protests and may have far reaching ramifications for other sectors of society. While we do not advocate for people to break the law, and historically ALQ has not used 'devices' as described in this Bill, it is important to recognise that non-violent peaceful protest plays an important role in democracies.

Police already have existing powers to search on certain grounds, as well as powers to arrest protestors disrupting a public place, trespassing, or obstructing traffic for example. Any expansion of these powers we believe would not be in the best interest of Queenslanders, and puts us on a slippery slope to even more draconian laws that limit freedom of expression and peaceful protest.

We encourage open debate around these serious issues of public interest and concern. The government, and all members of parliament, should play a key role in this debate and in addressing the public's concerns. This Bill is an attempt to silence members of the public who have grown frustrated by the government's perceived lack of action to address issues of strong public concern and therefore take part in peaceful protest.

Instead of looking at laws aimed at stopping peaceful protest, we recommend looking at ways of addressing concerns of protestors and increasing dialogue between government and those who hold strong concerns - whether that be concern around animal protection or climate change or any other social issue.

We recommend this Bill be rejected in its entirety.

Thank you for considering these views. If you require further information in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully



Chay Neal
Executive Director

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