From: [redacted]
To: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Subject: Criminal Code (Trespass Offences) Amendment Bill 2019 submission
Date: Monday, 15 July 2019 10:27:28 AM

Dear Committee Members,

Criminal Code (Trespass Offences) Amendment Bill 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission in respect of the Criminal Code (Trespass Offences) Amendment Bill 2019.

As a resident of Queensland, I believe the proposed Bill is excessive and should be rejected in its entirety.

These amendments are excessive.

The laws are aimed at silencing peaceful protesters who I believe are educating members of the public on important issues that are in the public interest, such as animal cruelty and climate change.

The Bill poses a risk to whistleblowers, investigators and citizen journalists - for example:

1. The Animal Liberation Queensland's exposure of illegal and cruel live baiting occurring in the grey hound racing industry in 2015 may have meant directors could face 10 years in prison for assisting the investigation which led to several arrests, government inquiries and even praise from the Premier for the brave actions of investigators;

2. In June 2019, the Coast and Country's private investigation into alleged illegal works occurring at the Carmichael mine, that included drone footage revealing Adani had already started drilling, without permits; and

3. In January 2019, the Animal Liberation Queensland's exposure of footage of boars (uncastrated male pigs) at a semen collection facility at Wacol, Brisbane. An undercover Citizen Journalist captured evidence of filthy conditions, violent abuse by workers, untreated wounds, and one boar (who was later named Boe) was left to slowly die over several days.

There are existing laws which already cover trespass offences and allow for up to 1 year in prison, as well as new regulations that allow on the spot fines for any biosecurity violations.

This Bill will be limiting whistleblowers, investigators and citizen journalists, and thereby you are placing limits on freedom of information and press in Australia.

By limiting the right for members of the public to gather in public places and conduct peaceful protests, you are taking away a democratic right.

Australian citizens have an obligation to: obey the law; defend Australia should the need arise; and vote in federal and state or territory elections, and in referenda.

By adopting this private members bill, you are placing a law that limits citizens to defend Australia.

The right to protest is supported by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) as well as the International Human Rights Conventions and Covenants. Australia is a party to International Human Rights Treaties and supports the right to freedom of assembly and association contained in Articles 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and article 8(1)(a) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

I encourage you to reject this private members bill in its entirety.

Kind Regards,

Emma Holt

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