

**From:** Maia von Erkel-Bromley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 April 2022 8:10 PM  
**To:** Have Your Say <[HaveYourSay@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:HaveYourSay@justice.tas.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** HPE CM: Anti protest laws

Dear Secretary

I am writing to register my opposition to the proposed anti-protest laws – the POLICE OFFENCES AMENDMENT (WORKPLACE PROTECTION) BILL 2022.

These laws aim to ban the rights of people standing up for what is most crucially important in our society today - protecting our natural environment from human initiated destruction.

They are both unjust and unneeded. The opposite of what is needed at present.

These laws are aimed at protesters attempting to protect what remains of the beauty of this land's wilderness. The forests. The habitat for countless species of animals, not least endangered species. The great beauty, the greatest allure of the island. To protect these is to protect the natural environment as we enter the catastrophe of a climate crisis, it is to protect the tourism industry. And is it not a greater crime for the vestiges of ancient forest and pristine wild ecosystems to be exploited by increasingly out of state and country profiteers, for old growth forest to be turned into wood chips at the profit of foreign investors than to stand in protection of nature?

These laws aim to put conscientious and caring people - passionate about protecting this land as we move into the future - in jail. And they will not stop peaceful protest, they will only make the systemic treatment of peaceful protestors entirely and completely unjust.

To protest, is a right. One integral to humanity in the extant society. To attempt to quell this, to attempt to make this human right illegal, is a cowardly and ultimately destructive act. To fight the right to protest is to fight democracy. For who is it benefiting? Ultimately it benefits no person and will damage all; peaceful protest is one of the greatest tools we have in protecting the planet, and to put nature first, is to put everyone first. We as humans are not separate to, we are intertwined with and entirely dependent upon the natural world. Protect the rights of people, of protest, of democracy, and protect the earth. Nature has no voice for herself that we as humans in a western society seem to hear, to protest is to stand for that voice, to give tongue to the cries of ecosystems in anguish, of habitat torn apart, of land, raped, torn, scorched and cast away.

For me, to stand in a logged coupe, is to stand in a graveyard, a massacre scene, with the bodies left behind.

I encourage all who are involved in making these decisions to visit the forest. Spend a day amongst the trees, the ferns, the moss. Then take yourself to a logged sight. Hold these two realities within yourself as you make these decisions.

Think deeply,

Maia

Sent from my iPhone