

A submission regarding the Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Amendment Bill 2021.

I consider myself a normal, active member of the Tasmanian community. As such I consider it my democratic right to express my opinion on matters concerning the environment in which I live. At times conventional public expression of criticism is ignored, especially when environmental matters are involved. In such circumstances there must be a right to protest which may obstruct commercial activity, just as there are rights for unions to strike in some circumstances.

Current laws relating to trespass, property damage, injury and wilful obstruction are perfectly adequate to deal with any illegal behaviour which might arise. In as much as this act attempts to criminalise and penalise actions against particular industries or activities, it is a perversion of the justice system and a denial of the rights of Tasmanian citizens. This act must not be allowed to proceed.

Dr Nicholas Cummings

Riverside, TAS 7250

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