



Taroona
Tas. 7053

Department of Justice
Office of the Secretary
GPO Box 825 Hobart TAS 7001

22nd September, 2021

Re Submission regarding Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Amendment Bill 2021

To Whom it may concern

I am very concerned about the re-introduction of the Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Amendment Bill 2021. This Bill in its original form was rejected as being unconstitutional. The current amendments appear to be even more unconstitutional and far reaching in its terms. Current legislation already covers trespass and damage to property. The introduction of new legislation which includes fines and terms of imprisonment that appear draconian and extreme in comparison to other offenses has the potential to criminalise people across all areas of society but especially young people who are likely to be the ones most affected by this anti-protest legislation.

Minister Barnett uses the term radical extremists to label these people who care deeply enough about environmental, social, human rights and civil issues to protest against decisions and actions that they believe are flawed or wrong. Such rhetoric is offensive, inflammatory and ill-informed. If people had not protested, Tasmania would not have a World Heritage wilderness area that is an ecological treasure and a drawcard for tourists. The ill-conceived development at Ralph's Bay would have been built; Hobart would have high-rise buildings that would compromise the historic waterfront area of Hobart. Many decisions that are made by Governments and corporations are not available for debate or input by the Tasmanian public. Some decisions that have the potential to fundamentally change Tasmania are made 'in confidence' without the full implications or quid pro quos ever being made public. The people of Tasmania need to have the civil right to protest decisions that they believe compromise the future of State.

I do not consider myself a terrorist or a radical extremist. The wellbeing of future generations of Tasmanians, including my children and possible grandchildren, is paramount to every decision that I make. If a proposal or decision made by the Tasmanian government, a corporation, company or individual has the potential to adversely affect their future then I believe that I should have the civil right to, if necessary, take to the streets, march or be involved in any non-violent, direct action necessary to ensure that my objection is registered.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Henn (Ms)