

Department of Justice
Office of the Secretary
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Via: haveyoursay@justice.tas.gov.au

RE: WORKPLACES (PROTECTION FROM PROTESTERS) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

And the Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Act 2014 (the 2014 Act)

To whom it may concern,

Thank for the opportunity to make a submission to the Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Amendment Bill 2021.

I wish to make a few comments regarding the above Amendment Bill and the original 2014 Act.

I am very concerned about the existence of the 2014 Act and the current attempts to amend it.

If the government was truly listening to the will of the people the 2014 Act and proposed amendments would be scrapped completely.

This Act threatens the democratic principles under which this country was established and is a significant threat to the democratic future of the country.

The proponents of this Act are clearly full of hatred and are trying to create divisions in the community by the way they categorise certain people. This is blatantly obvious when government representatives describe people who do not agree with the decisions of government as vandals or even terrorists, especially with respect to objections to pro-development and anti-environmental decisions.

In short, these proposed amendments are a cynical attempt to get around the recent decision of the High Court and do not reduce the threat to democracy of the original 2014 Act and the curtailment of the ability of citizens to object to bad government decisions.

I strongly urge you to cancel the amendment attempt and to discard the original 2014 Act.

If the government is sincere about reducing protest activity, they should do it by properly regulating industries and protecting the environment, not eliminating freedom of speech.

Yours sincerely,
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