To whom it may concern,

I wish to submit my profound objection to the amended Workplace (Protection from Protestors) bill. The original Act of 2014 was deemed flawed by the High Court of Australia. The amendments to the original Act may address legal flaws identified in the 2014 Act but they fail to address the fundamental issue that the Act is aimed at prosecuting protesters in a brazen attempt by Government to silence dissent. The removal of the focus on “protesters” and reference to “business access areas” from the Act is merely cosmetic and does nothing to change the Act’s intent.

The facility for members of the public to protest the activities of institutions, be they government or private enterprise, is at the very core of enabling and fostering democracy. The right of people to voice their opposition to, and if need be impede, an activity they find morally, ethically or environmentally repugnant should be enshrined in legislation. Instead this Government seeks to enable legislation to outlaw such dissent. This is despite the Act enabling an activity which is contentious, widely unpopular and involves resources that are part of the “commons” (crown lands, parks, reserves etc), which belong to the very public the Government seeks to exclude.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely

Sent from Mail for Windows 10