

To the Members of the Legislative Council

RE: Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Amendment Bill 2019

We, the undersigned, ask that you vote against this Bill on the basis it is:

1. Undemocratic and illiberal in the way it shields business from public criticism and elevates economic interests of organisations over the civil liberties of individuals.
2. Unjust in setting harsh criminal and financial penalties for those who peacefully assemble on public land to protest.
3. Dangerous in the silencing effect it will have on Tasmanians who decide against participating in public meetings and rallies for fear of breaking the new law.
4. Technically flawed in that few of the concerns and drafting problems identified by independent legal academics or community groups during public consultation have been addressed in the Bill or its supporting information.

We note these same points were raised in a parliamentary petition to the House of Assembly signed by 3,257 Tasmanians and tabled on 4 June 2020 and that the petition has not yet been responded to by the government.¹

Yours sincerely



Richard Griggs
Tasmanian Director, Civil Liberties Australia



Heather Sculthorpe
CEO, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre



Bethan Franke
Tasmanian President
Amnesty International Australia



Jessica Munday
Secretary
Unions Tasmania



Daniel Webb
Legal Director, Human Rights Law Centre



Adrienne Picone
CEO, Tasmanian Council for Social Service

¹ A copy of the petition is available here:

<https://haepetitions.parliament.tas.gov.au/haepet/Home/PetitionDetails/79?title=Petition%20Details>