

PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO PROTEST — BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

To the Parliament of Tasmania

Tasmanians have a long and proud history of peaceful protest.

From decriminalising homosexuality, protecting the Franklin River or fighting for better working conditions, peaceful protests have shaped the lutruwita / Tasmania we have today.

But right now the State Government is putting our rights and freedoms at risk.

The State Government's proposed anti-protest laws are undemocratic and unnecessary. These laws, if passed, will silence communities from having their voices heard.

In fact, the legislation is so broad that people experiencing homelessness could be prosecuted for sleeping rough.

The laws criminalise peaceful protest by targeting protesters with disproportionate and excessive penalties, making non-violent protest equivalent to a serious criminal offence. Under these laws, simply having your say would be treated the same as trespass with a gun.

Without the right to peaceful public protest there would have been no Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and no reforms to our best-practice anti-discrimination laws.

The Tasmanian Government's claim that it will not 'put in place anything that will limit lawful protesting' is simply not true when these anti-democratic anti-protest laws do just that.

**We urge the Rockliff Government to withdraw the legislation,
and we urge all Members of the Tasmanian Parliament to reject the legislation.**

Protect our right to protest — before it's too late.

SIGNATORIES

