



3rd February 2014

MADGE Australia Inc would like to register our extreme concern about the changes to the Summary Offences Amendment Bill 2013.

This is being rushed through without proper public or parliamentary discussion. It appears aimed at preventing citizens from freely gathering and expressing themselves.

Governments worldwide, including in Australia, are preferencing the profit-making desires of corporations above the wishes, voices and interests of their citizens.

This is called "Inverted Totalitarianism". "A faceless corporate state pays lip-service to democracy but has so corrupted the levers of power as to make the citizens impotent." (Chris Hedges)

The discussion of issues such as the East West Toll Road, logging in State Forests, the imposition of a McDonalds in Tecoma and the desire to enlarge mining in Victoria is lacking. It appears this bill in part is an attempt to shut down dissent in these cases.

The decisions of previous governments that have immense economic, social and environmental effects on the citizens of Victoria are never assessed. . For example: Allowing the moratorium on growing GM canola to expire, City Link, North South pipeline, and the Wonthaggi desalination plant. Therefore governments are lacking in accountability for their actions. It increasingly appears to be an exercise in brut power with no need for reflection, proof or reasoned discussion as to the way to spend public resources and energy.

We are also extremely concerned that the police are being used as enforcement troops for these unwanted projects. This is a misuse of the force and puts it in conflict with their protection of the public.

The moral and ethical aspects of the right of the Government to limit their citizens' right to have a voice needs to be discussed.

Please do not support the amendments to this Bill.

Yours truly

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