

Defence Amendment (Call Out of the Australian Defence Force) Bill 2018

My name is Ian Brooke. I am farmer producing grass-fed beef for the Gold Coast market. I am also the sole director of Hotel Armed Robbery Defence p/l, a company that leases CCTV to retail outlets in Australian airports.

Submission

Please restrict our government's use of the defence forces to international assistance of our allies and threats to Australia or Australians off shore, and to assist the plight of all people fleeing threats of violence in all its forms.

Within Australia the defence forces could be used when there is a clearly identifiable threat to the lives of Australian citizens and where state or federal police are not equipped to handle that threat.

BUT PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW LEGISLATION THAT HAS EVEN THE REMOTEST POSSIBILITY OF BEING USED AGAINST AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS PROTESTING AGAINST GOVERNMENT POLICY OR PROJECTS WITH OR WITHOUT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL THAT PROTESTERS DEEM TO BE AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF FELLOW AUSTRALIANS.

I have used capitals to emphasize my concern that the approval of Defence Amendment Bill 2018 could work against the interests of democracy as we now know it and advantage corporate and/or political interests.

I trust that the learned committee will appreciate that such powers have historically been promoted to enable governments to stifle internal protest, and worse.

The committee, I trust, is also aware of historical and contemporary examples where such powers have been used to prop up governments that don't necessarily have a democratic percentage of public support to enact their programs.

My secondary concern is that the Minister for Home Affairs be appointed as the alternative authorising minister. I think that a politician is a lesser choice than the head of the relevant defence force in question as that head would likely to be influenced by potentially politically biased objectives and far better equipped to manage technical issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this very important subject,

Ian Brooke