

I wish to express a deep sense of concern in relation to the proposed changes to various federal laws which will occur with the adoption of The Anti-Terrorism (No.2) Bill 2005.

The greatest areas of concern are the fact that people will be able to be held without being charged, which implies the person is guilty, this goes against the legal system which is place in Australia at present. The potential for these powers to be used for means of political control rather than promotion of a peaceful society are great indeed.

The section dealing with sedition offenses is open to abuse by politicians who feel the need to get rid of opposition. These new offenses could stifle debate, artistic expression and perhaps pave the way for the formation of a police state, where peaceful dissent and discussion could lead to a prison perhaps even without being charged.

The present laws are strong enough to see the country through two world wars and numerous overseas engagements with the Australian way of life intact.

I trust the Senate will consider these issues during the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Martine Moran

Gunnedah