



14 November 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Protecting Tasmanian's right to work

The Hodgman majority Liberal Government is committed to ensuring Tasmanians can go to work and run their business in a safe manner free from threats and disruption.

Today the Government introduced legislation to provide Tasmanians with the strongest laws in the country to protect against trespassers targeting businesses, workers and their families.

These laws are needed following an upsurge in business disruption caused by organised actions across the country, much of it unfairly directed at farmers.

The Australian Government has introduced new legislation with bipartisan support and the NSW and Queensland Governments are also moving to tighten laws.

The *Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Amendment Bill 2014* gives effect to a fundamental principle: that our laws should protect people who are undertaking lawful business activities.

This means that people should be able to earn a living without trespassers interfering with their work, threats being made in an effort to shut down their business, or roads being obstructed in order to stop their business operations.

The *Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Amendment Bill 2014* retains the strongest maximum penalties in Australia for trespass on business premises with the intent to impede business activity – up to four years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for a corporation.

The Bill addresses matters raised by the High Court in the *Brown* case. It has been drafted to apply to all people and only to actions which affect or have the potential to affect the lawful rights of others.

The Government is strongly committed to the right of people to protest, but not at the expense of the right of workers to earn a living or the right of business to operate safely and free from interference and disruption.