

## QCCL PRESS RELEASE

### COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES SUPPORTS RIGHT TO PROTEST

The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties has called upon the State Government and the City Council to stop trying to break up the Occupy Brisbane Movement and instead to make arrangements for the protestors to have a place to conduct their protest which both meets their needs and those of the public.

QCCL President Michael Cope said the Government's proposal to move protestors off the Roma Street Parklands was completely inappropriate.

"There is no freedom of speech in a place where you can't be heard", Mr Cope said.

"So far as the Council is aware the protestors haven't assaulted anyone or prevented anyone from conducting their daily business. All they have done is occupy a portion of public space."

The QCCL president said it seemed to the Council that Queen's Park was a place perfectly suited for meeting the needs of the public and the protestors.

"If the park becomes needed for a public event the protestors can be moved to another place. There are plenty of public spaces in the city."

"Even if the protestors were causing some level of inconvenience, that would be a worthwhile price to pay for having our democracy", Mr Cope said. "Freedom of speech is far more important than temporary inconvenience to city office workers having their lunch."

"To those who say the Occupy protestors have had enough time to make their point the Council would ask how much do you really believe in democracy? How would those, for example, who protest the Carbon Tax feel if they were told 'You've had nine months to protest, you can shut up now and go home?'"

"Brisbane has pretensions to be an international city", Mr Cope concluded. "If an international city like New York can make arrangements to accommodate protestors surely Brisbane can manage it as well."

Queensland Council for Civil Liberties  
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