

**Submission  
No 24**

**PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AMENDMENT (VIRTUAL STOCK  
FENCING) BILL 2024**

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As a beef producer I have been involved in working towards a workable virtual fence for the whole of my adult life. Successful grazing requires constant stock rotation to achieve the best outcomes. These are multifaceted leading to healthier and happier cattle, healthy soils which cycle atmospheric carbon far more efficiently, healthy water cycles which lead to less erosion, better water quality, and greater drought resilience.

Current rotational grazing is achieved on a broad scale using electric fencing, both temporary and permanent which is expensive to set up and maintain and has no less animal welfare implication than the proposed virtual fences. A virtual fence will warn stock when they stray close to the fence line using an audible signal. An electric wire hidden in long grass gives no warning. Unfortunately the cost and going maintenance of electric fencing is a strong disincentive for many farmers to adopt more regenerative practices which would lead to better environmental outcomes! These outcomes are well proven and virtual fencing would allow them to be rolled out in a widespread manner!