



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LANDOWNER PROTECTION FROM UNAUTHORISED FILMING OR SURVEILLANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 October 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Farmers need greater protection from trespass and unauthorised surveillance

A parliamentary committee tabled its report on the need for farmers to have greater protection from animal welfare activists trespassing on their properties and taking unauthorised surveillance. The committee was informed of incidents where covert surveillance devices had been placed in animal sheds by welfare activists, with the devices later retrieved and then footage distorted and published on social media. The committee heard directly from farmers who had been impacted by this issue, with evidence taken about the personal toll and financial impact on affected businesses.

The committee also heard from animal welfare activists who were concerned about animal cruelty within certain industries, and maintained that existing laws were sufficient in dealing with these matters.

While balancing these different views, the committee made several recommendations, some of which focus on increasing transparency of animal husbandry and investigation of animal cruelty offences, and others on trying to improve the enforcement and prosecution of offences that already exist to protect landholders from these illegal activities.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Robert Borsak said 'While these are difficult issues to address on a broader level, farmers are entitled to carry on their business without interruption by animal welfare activists. The NSW Government needs to review, strengthen and focus existing laws to ensure that trespass and unauthorised surveillance offences are duly investigated and prosecuted. The vigilante activities of certain animal rights groups have doubtful long run motivations and goals that go further than beyond just animal welfare'.

To access a copy of the committee's report and other inquiry documents, such as submissions and transcripts, please visit the webpage: <http://bit.ly/landownerprotection>.

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For further information please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, on 9230 2850.