



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO.4 - INDUSTRY

## MEDIA RELEASE

### REPORT TABLED - INQUIRY INTO THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 October 2019

An Upper House committee inquiring into the provisions of the Right to Farm Bill 2019 today tabled its report. The report recommends that debate on the bill proceeds in the Upper House, and that the NSW Government address stakeholder concerns during debate.

The Right to Farm Bill 2019, a bill introduced by the NSW Government, aims to promote a farmer's 'right to farm'. If passed by the Parliament of New South Wales, the Bill will increase penalties and introduce new offences in relation to trespass under the *Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901*. It will also prevent an action for the tort of nuisance being brought in relation to a commercial agricultural activity where it is occurring lawfully on agricultural land.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, said 'despite the short timeframes for this inquiry, hearing from stakeholders including legal experts, unions, industry groups, civil liberties bodies, animal welfare and environmental groups has added much to our understanding of this important bill.'

'We note the amendments made to the bill in the Legislative Assembly on 16 October 2019, after the committee took public evidence from concerned stakeholders. These amendments address some of the more contentious elements of the bill.'

'Future debate of the bill can now take into consideration stakeholder perspectives. These are insights the Upper House would not have had were it not for this inquiry.'

The inquiry received 391 submissions and several thousand proformas, an indication of the strong level of interest in the bill.

The report can be accessed via the committee's website:  
[www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/portfoliocommittee4](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/portfoliocommittee4).

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