

**Submission
No 22**

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM
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Name: Paul Hildred
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Most people agree that animal cruelty has no place in modern society. However this new legislation has been used as a political tool to vilify those who seek to expose the inherent cruelty in animal agriculture industries. As I have spent many years around farms, sale yards, dairies, abattoirs, and dairy processing facilities I can honestly say that majority of the footage exposing cruelty hasn't even scratched the surface of the actual cruelty. Not the frequency that it occurs, nor the severity of the individual incidents. If we can't rely on industry to be open and transparent, if current means of inspections are corrupt so that these perpetrators are made aware of visits beforehand, or that the inspectors work with organisations that also profit from maintaining the status quo, how are the consumers ever going to be made aware of the reality of their choices? Activists do important work. There have been zero cases of violence, zero cases of biosecurity breaches, zero cases of "children or families" being targeted, zero cases of dwellings being targeted etc. All of which however has been concocted by the media and perpetuated by politicians to push a false narrative (even as far as labelling activists as terrorists). If legislation is needed to eliminate the need for activists to collect footage, stage protests or rescue injured animals then perhaps creating legislation to force transparency in these industries rather than duplicating laws for trespass is the logical response. The labelling of activists as "terrorists" by media and politicians for legitimate peaceful protest or the collection of abhorrent cruelty by activists is insulting to all victims of real terrorism. The use of this and other inflammatory words are as disgusting as the people who try to move the focus of consumers away from the industries who perpetrate the cruelty. We know animal agriculture industries are the cause of major climate devastation and cause significant health risks to the people that consume the products and significant health risks to the communities which have these facilities in their areas. If we trust in scientific evidence then we must act accordingly and take heed of the very clear message that's coming not only from animal activists and climate activists, but also the world's leading experts on climate science and human nutrition. These industries are suffering (not as much as the animals though), people are slowly moving away from cruel unhealthy unsustainable products and this is why there is push back from industry. These obscure practices will be phased out by consumer demand as more people become informed. What is needed are plans to assist these industries transitioning to sustainable more profitable practices that doesn't involve the exploitation of animals. In closing, there is no need to duplicate existing laws, there is need for transparency to negate the need for trespass.