

**Submission
No 28**

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM
BILL 2019**

Name: Lindy Stacker
Date Received: 25 September 2019

To : Hon Mark Banasiak MLC

Committee Chair

Re Provision of the Right to Farm Bill (NSW) 2019

Dear Mr Banasiak, It has recently been brought to my attention that new laws preventing peaceful protests will soon be introduced, in terms of 'workplace' locations. I find this comparable to the AFP raids on journalists & whistle blowers. Without these brave individuals (especially whistle blowers) there can be NO democracy, it is the linchpin to a functioning impartial secular /democratic system. There are already a myriad of laws against trespass/assault/damage to property etc To criminalise protests against farms of any description/ forestry operations /factories is simply UNAUSTRALIAN. Women didn't get the vote because men were obliging...they had to protest & fight for it. Indigenous land rights didn't just happen, they too had to risk their lives & protest over generations . In fact First Nation Jackeroos HAD to walk off farms in order to achieve fair pay & decent working conditions. Any environmental wins have come about through sheer struggle/protest and a courageous risk of life. We saw this with many forest protests in Tasmania over the past 40 yrs. IF THE FRANKLIN RIVER WAS LOGGED TOURISM WOULD BE GREATLY DEPLETED , which is ironic as tourism is Tasmania's major income generator. Prime Minister Bob Hawke made the right call , which is acclaimed and praised to this day.

The magnificent pristine forests of the North East (NSW) like Terrania Crk & Protesters Falls were saved ONLY due to prolonged protest camps in these threatened native forest areas. Agricultural corporations (most aren't small farm holdings) are not genuinely concerned about Bio security threats but are doing their best to conceal the cruel reality of their farming practices. Animal welfare groups are non violent, just like ecological NGO's and refrain from violent activities. Farmers have not been hurt (ever to my knowledge) their properties have NOT been damaged, they have not entered private homes or hurt individuals. Their purpose it to alert the public to what is hidden from view. I could not say the same for those opposing these ideals as I have seen how dangerous forestry workers have acted & how dangerous those 'threatened' by progressive ideals or social change have acted. I remember many years ago when farmers drove their trucks (in a protest) through the glass doors of Federal Parliament. What happened to them ? Probably nothing or minimal fines ?

In terms of farm protests, sometimes & only sometimes a few ill or injured animals are taken for a better life & to save them from slaughter. The cruelty imposed on these voiceless & innocent animals, would never be halted UNLESS people took direct peaceful action. All these issues are of public interest & sadly need to be fought for. They are NOT legislated against by politicians , simply because they are cruel, draconian, unnecessary etc ALL of societies reforms & progress have come about because of peaceful protests & rallies. NONE have been achieved because they are simply immoral/ dispassionate / or unethical by our legislators, they are hard fought for achievements & thus outcomes that required great sacrifice. I was told as a child that these freedoms (like freedom of speech) came about because men & women fought 2 World Wars so that our secular society could thrive & progress and that no one would have to be afraid of their governments. Change & enlightenment is only fostered via healthy debate, legal challenges, community action and individual awareness. To remove the right of protest is a paradox for a capitalist society that says it values FREE SPEECH & the right to peacefully protest. CAPITALIST IDEOLOGY THAT CONDEMNS A COMMUNIST APPROACH TO BRUTALLY SILENCING IT'S PEOPLE , SHOULD NOT BE EMULATING THE SAME ??? What hypocrisy and how shameful it is that Australian citizens are now responsible for having to fight for the resurrection of our dying democracy. Peaceful protest is a HUMAN RIGHT. Some things are far more important than profit...like Free Speech and compassion.

OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END

THE DAY WE REMAIN SILENT ABOUT THE THINGS THAT MATTER.

DR MARTIN LUTHER KING These sentiments however, require ACTION & SACRIFICE.

Yours sincerely Ms Lindy Stacker