

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 26 September 2019

Partially
Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam, Re: Right to Farm Bill
Aggag Law I write to you today to vehemently oppose this bill in every respect. Outrageous instances of animal cruelty have been filmed by brave animal activists in order to bring attention to current farming practices. I just received an outlandish email from the National Party claiming that "vegan activists" are not interested in Animal welfare but are more concerned with stopping Australian farmers from farming. This is an horrendous insult to those who are brave enough to risk being charged with Trespass if they do not, on request from an owner, leave the property. The penalties being prescribed by this new bill are out of all proportion to the infringement committed. I am of the opinion that if this bill is passed the activists involved, if they are charged and convicted will be seen as "heroes" and their fines will be paid by concerned citizens (like myself). There will then be a lot more pressure on farmers to change their ways and for farmers who perform acts of animal cruelty to be prosecuted. A great many members of the Australian public have only recently become aware of abuses committed by some farmers. For those still unaware, the film "Dominion" has been widely distributed and is becoming available to more and more members of the public. I wish to know how animals are farmed and I wish that CCTV cameras were installed in all slaughterhouses and particularly "factory farms". I also wish for harsher penalties to be imposed on those who commit animal cruelty. There are many farmers who manage to perform good animal husbandry, there is no reason in the light of current public opinion why all farmers can not commit to good, safe practices also. It is essential that knowledge be made freely available regarding farmers who do not employ humane methods. Recently I became aware of a piggery at _____ which was filmed showing unacceptable abuse of pigs. Pigs were left to die in their closely confined "sow " and "boar stalls" and rats were observed on film eating the dead pigs. Dead pigs were left in piles on the floor with rats eating their remains. The owner of the piggery stated that "there were no rats" when clearly, according to the film there were. This is not just an animal cruelty issue but also a health issue. It is essential that these practices become known to the general public so that pressure can be put on farmers to improve public health, seeing as how the public will be eating this meat. Thank you Catherine Macleod.