

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Farm animals are not covered by the same protections afforded to domestic animals under POCTAA. The RSPCA has a conflict of interest as it is under the portfolio of the Minister for Agriculture and it is underfunded, understaffed and unable to respond to cruelty in a herd larger than ten animals (these cases are referred to DJPR). We desperately need an independent office of animal welfare to ensure that animals do not come second to the economic interests of those in animal industries. Furthermore, compulsory CCTV within farms and abattoirs would negate the need for activists to enter farms. If the farmers and slaughterhouse workers are treating the animals as well as they claim then there should be no issue with this transparency. NSW's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 imposes a maximum penalty of 6 months' imprisonment or a \$5 500 fine whereas this oppressive Right to Farm Bill proposes that animal activists face 3 years' imprisonment or fines of up to \$22 000. This further highlights a clear intention to safeguard industry interests and an unwillingness to take animal interests seriously. We live in an age where people are divorced from the reality of how their food is produced. Of course farmers seek to portray their businesses in the best possible light and without activists the public would have no idea about the reality of animal agriculture where sentient animals routinely face cruelty, deprivation, misery and untimely death.