INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

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. This draconian Bill is an attempt to appease agribusiness, and to hide the extreme cruelty that goes on inside the farming industry. Punishing those who are trying to expose animal cruelty is not the answer. Rather the NSW govt should be looking at ways to make the industry more transparent particularly in intensive farming of animals. Farm animals are sentient beings with emotions and feelings. If we are going to consume them then we must ensure that it is done in the most humane and cruelty free way. If the industry was more transparent then there would be no need for activist to try to expose the cruelty that is taking place. Anyone who has seen the footage taken by animal activists would agree that they are exposing horrific cruelty perpetrated by farmers on defenceless animals. Farmers have a right to farm but only if they do it in a manner which does no harm.