INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019

Name:

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Ruth Haig

As an individual elector in the seat of Lismore I wish to make a submission to the NSWLC's Portfolio Committee NO4 in relationship to the proposed Right to Farm Bill. I am 83 so I have a perspective of 70 years of political awareness. I have been involved in anti Vietnam action, Peace actions and Anti CSG actions as well as present Climate Action. My husband stood for parliament on four occasions, including at State and Federal level in the 1970s so I have been involved in many forms of democratic action.

* Firstly Right to Farm is a misnomer. It has nothing to do with the right to farm it is all about bringing in draconian legislation to cut back on citizens rights to the freedom to express their concerns about government action. In other words to restrict democracy. This is part of similar actions at state and federal level to introduce a police oriented state.

* Secondly, this is rushed legislation and needs much more time for consideration.

* Thirdly, there is more than adequate legislation and penalties to deal with any criminal action of protesters. Big Miners and Big Finance and Big Water certainly need to have their actions criminalised and appropriate punishments metered out as their actions so often affect the whole community and the whole environment. Fines in most cases are ludicrously low and imprisonment, very rare.

* Fourthly. sadly the present government does not represent the vast majority of electors on many issues and has to be dragged kicking and screaming to act for the whole community. Here I would draw attention to The Gay Marriage and the decriminalisation of abortion as cases in point. This is also particularly so of Action on Climate warming. Yes in NSW some action is happening on renewables, but the lack of respect by the Coalition at federal and state level for those who want action based on best scientific understanding is abysmal. The mess which NSW has helped produced in the Murray/ Darling, because action was based on finance rather than scientific reality has been a disgrace as has been the lack of supervision. We need strong monitoring of all major initiatives, whether on Murray/Darling, the building of High Rise residential blocks or major infra structure. There is very good reason for Red tape.

I have been trying to make submissions over the last few days and do not think these have gone through. part of the short time line.

We are in a new paradigm and our actions need to bring about a very different world if humans and the earth are to be the life supporting paradigm of the 1950s/1960s.

Please accept this as my submission.