

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

Name: Ms Franklin Hynes

Date Received: 30 September 2019

Partially
Confidential

Date: 30/09/2019

Name: Franklin Hynex

**SUBMISSION:
PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019**

The Right To Farm Bill is an aggressive agricultural gagging attempt that is out of line with community expectations for animal welfare. There is serious concern that this Bill will impact on civil liberties, including the right to peaceful protest and the ability of whistleblowers to report animal cruelty.

[Include points referring to]:

- Your beliefs regarding the need for transparency in the animal agribusiness industry and the protection of whistleblowers. If possible give special reference to your personal experience.

Example facts you could reference:

- The Bill will make aggravated trespass punishable by up to \$13,200 and 12 months imprisonment. At the moment, the maximum punishment is \$5,500 and no jail time. This is more than doubling the existing penalty.
- The Bill will make an individual accused of aggravated trespass face up to a \$22,000 fine and up to 3 years imprisonment if they are in the company of two or more people.
- The Bill also changes the definition of aggravated trespass to include “wilfully or negligently” releasing livestock.
- There is no evidence that there is a need to increase punishment for farm trespass, or that this increase will deter trespassers. Previous attempts by the government to stifle whistleblowers only led to more community concern regarding animal welfare.

- Your beliefs regarding the issues with the proposed bill and how it may affect ordinary members of the community. If possible give special reference to your personal experience, particularly if you live near a farm and may be personally affected by these laws.

Example facts you could reference:

- The Bill seeks to provide protection for farmers against nuisance lawsuits*, at the expense of the rights of individual property owners.
- While the Bill focusses on the trespass threat posed by animal advocates, this is inconsistent with a statement by NSW Police last month that “the majority of trespass on rural properties was due to illegal hunting not animal activism.”
- The Bill will stop consumers from having access to information they want and need about what goes on behind closed doors in the animal agribusiness industry. It affects every member of the community.

- If you think that this bill doesn't fit with community and consumer expectations regarding the protection of animals in the agribusiness industry, say so! Talk about why it is important you, your family and friends to know what is going on behind closed doors.

* A nuisance lawsuit is one that is brought by neighbours regarding a substantial, unreasonable and ongoing interference with the use or enjoyment of their land. This includes issues of noise, odour, chemical spray drift and the use of pest control (including 1080 baits). Under the Bill, individuals will have serious difficulty taking legal action against farmers who create these ‘nuisances’.