

Submission
No 104

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 30 September 2019

Partially
Confidential

My concern regarding the 'Right to Farm' bill pertains to the aggressive extent of the proposed laws that go beyond community expectations especially when the comparable existing animal welfare laws often let animals suffer without adequate representation, without adequate penalties where laws have been proven to have been broken. We need to strengthen existing animal welfare legislation, not make it easier for farmers to hide animal cruelty. The Bill as it stands, will impact the ability to report animal cruelty, and even for people to speak out peacefully against existing unacceptable factory farming practices.

There needs to be greater transparency of farming practices in general, especially where high volume of livestock is involved. The farming industry shouldn't need to 'protect' themselves from whistle-blowers if they are openly meeting all legislative requirements. We just need to make those laws better for animals.

I am unaware of any evidence that indicates changing the existing laws will deter future occurrences of trespass or nuisance. If anything, making these laws and the penalties applicable to them, more severe only makes the community worry about what is actually going on behind the closed doors of the farming industry! In most cases, according to the NSW Police, trespass on rural properties is mainly down to illegal hunting. I would thus ask, why do we need to amend the existing laws?

In the recent past videos that have highlighted cruelty within the dairy industry, live export, pork and of course the poultry industry have all resulted in necessary action to bring farmers back into line. If this Bill is passed it would prevent any exposure and therefore any repercussions. Animals will continue to suffer and the Australia public will simply remain in the dark. Most people don't expect farming to involve extensive cruelty, most people would not want an animal to suffer unnecessarily for the sake of their dinner. If this proposed Bill is passed, most people won't have the opportunity to know the suffering involved with the production of their food.

I would argue that the 'Right to Farm' Bill goes beyond what the community and consumers expect is required and I would argue there is no evidence that warrants making the existing legislation tighter. The general public want farmers to be more responsible and open, this Bill implies they have something to hide.

As a voting member of the Australian public, I will not support any Bill that makes it harder for Australians to learn about the cruelty that exists within current mass agricultural practices and makes it easier for farmers to breach existing legislation that is supposed to protect and prevent animals from unnecessarily suffering.