

Submission
No 108

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I wish to add my strongest support for the proposed Right to Farm Legislation.

As the victim of continuous trespass on our property at Werris Creek over the past 15 years by uninvited pig hunters who have cut and/or damaged gates and fences, left food, drink and ammunition litter behind them, disturbed livestock, particularly cows with young calves, as well as causing significant damage to crops and pastures, it has been very frustrating that we have not been able to take any action against these intruders.

We know who they are but appeals to the police for assistance have always resulted in us being told that unless they are actually caught in the act there is nothing the police can do. Photographic evidence is usually not admissible in court unless trespass signage has been obvious to the intruders. In every case known to us, the intruders have removed the trespass signage and claimed there was no such signage and that they didn't realise they were trespassing. The usual outcome is that the court believes that line and ignores the farmer's complaint.

There is no case for farmers not being able to protect their property and their right to use it as they see fit without interference from people with opposing ideologies and/or a misguided sense of entitlement..

The Right to Farm legislation must be enacted to protect farmers from unwanted intrusion, abuse and intimidation. It is indefensible that we can pay a lot of money to purchase a property and then be subject to invasion by people who think their particular ideology allows them freedom to intrude, intimidate and/or dictate how we can or can't use our property. It is totally offensive that up until now the law has allowed these people to impose their warped ideology on us and other farmers without having to be responsible for their own actions.

As I was once advised by a good neighbour, the only thing harder to get rid of than the feral pigs is the feral pig chasers who, to all intents and purposes, currently have the law well and truly on their side. That has to change.