

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

**Organisation:** Love Rescue Collaborate

**Date Received:** 1 October 2019

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Partially  
Confidential

This submission is based on the documents as provided at  
<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bills/Pages/bill-details.aspx?pk=3670>

## Contents

Key Issues.....	1
Evidence.....	2
Case Studies .....	8
Recommendations .....	9

## Key Issues

There are very few laws for protecting animals used as “livestock” in the production of food for people or other animals. Cases of extreme animal cruelty have been exposed by various people who have been shocked by the conditions and actions managed by the farmers and abattoir workers in charge of the animals. These people who expose cases of animal cruelty are being labelled “activists” in a derogatory way with hate-speech, when in reality, generally all animal activists are peaceful and kind hearted to all animals including humans.

I strongly support not having the Bill become a law/ACT, or if it is passed that the amendments to the Right to Farm Bill are included, to address the following key issues.

**Exposing animal cruelty in farms and abattoirs has been dependent on the capture and public release of footage/video/photos. Farmers and abattoirs are not known for self-regulation and being transparent about cases and actions to minimise animal cruelty. Exposing extreme cases of animal cruelty has been achieved by people who care about animals, providing footage to broadcasters, program makers and internet based animal welfare and rights organisations such as Animals Australia.**

**New legislation is evolving in Australia to recognise animals have feelings, feel pain, etc, as sentient beings, and following this or with this comes the need to embrace improvements to related legislation for the care of animals. The Right to Farm Bill in its original form is out of alignment with this assessment on animals and its growing movement of support, not only in Australia but world-wide. That animals are sentient beings has been proven by scientists, and it has been accepted that animals should not be treated as an asset or property in many countries and cities including: New Zealand, France, Slovakia, Brussels, Quebec, and Ireland with the United Kingdom likely to agree post BREXIT.**

**The current Right to Farm Bill sets animal activists almost on the same level as terrorists, the penalties are set at an inappropriate extreme level which exceed the penalties for animal abusers themselves, the Bill appears to protect and favour industry business interests.**

**The approach in the current Right to Farm Bill is aimed at stopping the reporting of cases of animal cruelty. From this it can be construed that the NSW government is condoning animal cruelty and supporting or colluding with farmers and abattoirs to continue to practice cases of animal cruelty.**

**It should be mandatory that all livestock farmers install CCTVs to provide transparency and appropriate monitoring of the treatment of animals under their care.**

**NSW and federal governments should establish a truly independent animal welfare officer, independent of government and business collusion and influence.**









1 October 2019

Right to Farm Bill Submission



## Case Studies

I am one founder of Love Rescue Collaborate, an evolving organisation of like-minded people who care about all animals. We will be growing this organisation as a charity in the near future. Our current followers are only around 500, however I have a reach to others via networks on social media to more than 100,000 in Australia and other countries around the world. People in other countries such as NZ, South Africa, UK, European, Central and South America and Asian countries also have the same care, concerns, issues and rational need for improvements in animal rights and welfare.

Our group is officially expanding from companion animals to also support rescued animals from farms and also wildlife who cannot be returned to their own environment. If you are a true lover of animals then that care is not limited to a single species.

We abhor animal abuse of any kind, and support the communication, spotlighting, revealing and whistle blowing of incidents in all places. We condemn animal abuse, unnecessary pain, that is performed anywhere and by anyone.

When we see evidence of animals suffering it makes us physically and emotionally ill. We have high levels of empathy with others, including all animals, and we undergo the same physiologically suffering as the animals.

Having emotional empathy means that we suffer distress akin to the animals who are abused and suffer unnecessary pain at the hands of people showing no degree of care for an animal's suffering.

Having compassionate empathy, we support and seek an end to cruel animal practices, especially in the food production field and are keen to see improvements in many ways to decrease the unnecessary pain incurred by animals.

We have major concerns about the clauses including forms of "inciting" that is open to interpretation and may be applied even to those who share footage of activists and animal cruelty cases in sites. Australian laws appear to be becoming oppressive in shutting down "free speech" and sharing factual information.

I and others in my network assess that the Right to Farm Bill is not necessary nor appropriate, and at the very least the amendments are quite reasonable, logical, and fair to animals and the farmers.

## Recommendations

1. Strongly support and recommend the Bill is not ethical to pass as an ACT/law, and if it does then the amendments to the Right to Farm 2019 are to apply.

The relevant laws need to be adjusted to exclude from penalties where animal cruelty is evident in the incidents. If livestock farmers are not guilty of animal cruelty then any trespasser, including animal activists, will be appropriately penalised. Other traditional trespassing laws already provided adequate legislation. The Bill and amendments need to align with:

- a. Evolving and emerging legislation to recognise animals as sentient beings with feeling, experiencing pain etc
  - b. A fair and reasonable approach to the peaceful actions of animal lovers, rather than questionably favouring industry business interests over painful suffering by animals who are emotional and feeling beings
  - c. Enabling severe cases of animal abuse and neglect to be reported, rather than the government being seen colluding to cover up and therefore also condone and encourage animal cruelty for any business
2. Have all livestock farmers install CCTVs to provide transparency and appropriate monitoring of the treatment of animals under their care. Some farmers are already using CCTV to monitor their farms for food production and also for monitoring trespassers.
  3. Establish a truly independent animal welfare officer, independent of government and business collusion and influence. This has been raised before, and is still very much needed for transparent processes within agriculture.

Yours sincerely

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