

**Submission
No 143**

INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019

Organisation: Friends of the Forest (Mogo)

Date Received: 1 October 2019

Friends of the Forest (Mogo) is writing this submission relating to the Right to Farm Bill 2019[1] currently before the NSW Parliament.

This is in relation to the Right to Farm Bill 2019 including forestry as an agricultural activity and makes any activity that hinders, or attempts or intends to hinder it an 'aggravated offence' liable to a \$22,000 fine or imprisonment for 3 years if a person entering "inclosed lands" is accompanied by 2 or more other people.

The two million hectares of State Forests are open to the public, including the 1 million hectares subject to logging. The public cannot be subject to criminal proceedings from legitimate group activity in state forests.

State forests are public land and logging teams can be encountered on any drive through local forests. Last year logging teams were operating at the back of Mogo Tourist village on the South Coast of NSW and recently on the public Buckenbowra Road. People also walk through the forest on large groups bushwalking and would not know the location of harvesting operations. Locals complete ecological surveys in state forests as part of citizen science to trigger ecological protection of threatened species which have this protection under the ECPB Act. The community also check for compliance of logging contractors to check that creekline exclusion zones, nesting site and rainforest exclusion zones are not logged.

As areas are remote, and roads rough, carpooling in 4WDs is necessary so the surveying can be done in one trip. So there can be up to five people per car. Also on such trips it is important to show other stakeholders key feature for example indigenous or post settlement history, so there may be two to three cars on a field trip.

Yours sincerely