

**Submission  
No 157**

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

**Name:** Ms Nanette Nicholson

**Date Received:** 27 September 2019

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I wish to make a submission to the inquiry into the Right to Farm Bill 2019.

I oppose this bill.

I am a farmer and I have no problem with anyone inspecting my operation as I am confident my animals are treated humanely at all times. Secrecy is not required.

I am strongly opposed to the treatment of animals as mere industrial units with all the deliberate and incidental cruelty that this entails. If those involved in animal industries were confident about their practices they would be happy to make them publicly visible and not hidden.

Whistleblowers revealing cruelty in animal husbandry practices should be given more rights not less. It is vitally important for us as a humane society to be open about our animal husbandry practices. They should not be concealed under the guise of "rights to farm". If it is cruel then it should be exposed.

However, my main objection to this bill is that it is far more than a cover-up for institutionalized animal cruelty. It is an attempt to stifle the fundamental rights of citizens to protest.

This is not what a democratic society does. Business does not have the overarching right to trample on democratic rights.

If this bill comes into law we as a society will have lost one of our most precious rights - to reveal and object to bad practices.

I am 67 years old and I fear for the future of my precious grandchildren. In this time of escalating problems in our society, our industries and our environment, it is not the moment to silence those who point out these problems.

This bill should be rejected.

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