

Submission
No 184

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

The Right To Farm Bill is an aggressive agricultural gagging attempt that is out of line with community expectations for animal welfare. There is serious concern that this Bill will impact on civil liberties, including the right to peaceful protest and the ability of whistleblowers to report animal cruelty.

There must be transparency in the animal agribusiness industry and there must be protection for whistleblowers.

The proposed changes more than double the existing penalty which is unacceptable.

There is no evidence that there is a need to increase punishment for farm trespass, or that this increase will deter trespassers. Previous attempts by the government to stifle whistleblowers only led to more community concern regarding animal welfare.

While the Bill focusses on the trespass threat posed by animal advocates, this is inconsistent with a statement by NSW Police last month that “the majority of trespass on rural properties was due to illegal hunting not animal activism.”

The Bill will stop consumers from having access to information they want and need about what goes on behind closed doors in the animal agribusiness industry. It affects every member of the community.

This bill therefore does not fit with community and consumer expectations regarding the protection of animals.