

**Submission
No 200**

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

Name: Ms Candace Chidiac

Date Received: 28 September 2019

I am writing this submission today as an Australian, as an individual of our society concerned about animal rights in this country, and as someone who is deeply disappointed by our government and their relaxed attitudes to incalculable animal suffering.

The relaxed laws around animal abuse and the lack of criminal justice we see is the most disappointing part. How many cases of cruelty have we seen where the law fails the victims and the abusers are let free? Whistleblowers sacrifice everything to expose horrendous animal abuse, only for the government to completely ignore it.

Now, in the case of these backwards laws, you are aiming to shut down whistleblowing altogether. I cannot fathom where this government gets off knowing how much animal abuse is happening in Australia right now, and are now trying to silence those who are brave enough to expose it. It is a disgusting use of your power and I am truly ashamed to be an Australian when I have to spend my spare time when I'm not working and paying my tax to write to you to BEG that you do not send whistleblowers to jail for something you yourselves should care about – whether animals are tortured before they are killed, whether animals boil alive of ships before they killed overseas, and many more horrors. Ultimately though, you are saying to all Australians: we do not want you to know these animal abuse stories, because we want to keep lying to you.

For the record, vegans are not against farmers. They do what they do *for the animals*. This war between animal activists and farmers is completely your doing.

If you consider yourself to be a human being who doesn't condone despicable animal abuse, then you would oppose this draconian law that drags us backwards rather than forwards. Do the right thing and allow whistleblowers their basic human rights.

I am an Australian and I feel completely alienated by my government. That should mean something to you at least even if animals mean so little to you that you have allowed such barbaric laws to even be considered.

Lastly, I understand that all of you in government are scrambling to ingest the fact that we are currently in a climate crisis, but animal farming cannot continue the way it is. How many more droughts will it take before you finally understand that we need to move to a plant based system of agriculture? If you think you are helping farmers by propping up their practices, you are wrong. To protect farmers is to help them transition to a sustainable way of farming that adapts to the Australian climate and the Australian values of loving animals and wanting them to be free of pain and suffering.

But I fear all of this is falling on deaf ears. When it comes to animal rights in our government, we are speeding backwards and it is very sad to see. I hope at least one person reading this can understand how much pain and sadness animal abuse causes to Australians like me and how these laws don't only impact the animals they doom to abuse behind locked doors, they also impact people too. I want to live in a society that has transparency in animal farming, not secrecy. Please, if you haven't already, watch the documentary Dominion. If you have not watched this documentary yet, it means you are not qualified to speak or vote on this issue.

Sincerely,

Candace Chidiac