

**Submission  
No 213**

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

**Name:** Ms Sonya Skok  
**Date Received:** 27 September 2019

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Re: "Right to Farm" legislation.

I am very concerned about the cruelty that is taking place on farms. Australians expect that government regulators set and enforce humane animal welfare standards but time and time again shocking acts of animal cruelty have been exposed. The RSPCA repeatedly fails to enforce existing laws.

The privacy of farmers should not be paramount if they are breaking animal welfare laws. Many breaches have recently been brought to light but rather than punish the perpetrators of this cruelty the focus has somehow shifted to protecting them. The Australian community expect better!

Acts of civil disobedience in these situations draw much needed attention to the serious issues of ongoing and systemic breaches of animal welfare standards in this country. Recently the UK has raised concerns about imported animal products from Australia due to farming practices increasing the risk of food borne diseases including salmonella-linking our "lower standards of animal welfare" to high rates of Poisoning" *The Age* 20th July 2019 p 12.

Laws, regulations and penalties need to be strengthened and increased for the farmers that are acting with impunity-not for the brave souls that expose the appalling lack of animal welfare standards. At the very least, existing animal welfare laws need to be enforced through rigorous monitoring.