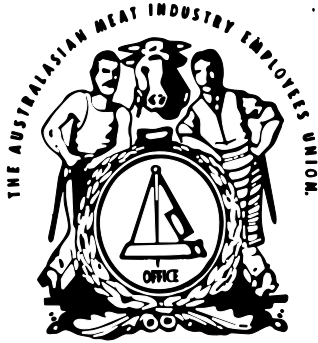


**Submission
No 193**

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

Organisation: Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union NSW Branch

Date Received: 1 October 2019



Patricia Fernandez
Secretary

The Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

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1 October 2019

Re: Submission in Response to the Right to Farm Bill

Dear Committee Chair,

The AMIEU NSW Branch makes this submission in response to the Right to Farm Bill. This is only a brief commentary given the short timeframe available.

The AMIEU NSW Branch has coverage of the red and white meat sectors. Our submission is focussed on Schedule 2 of the Bill. Of particular concern is the impact this has on the right to protest. Our Union is also concerned that this Bill will not appropriately address concerns within the agriculture industry about surveillance.

Our union and our members believe in the just and humane treatment of the slaughter of animals in the broader agriculture industry. Animal cruelty is an issue we take very seriously. It is the interest of our members and industries that cases of animal cruelty are reported appropriately and rectified. As the union representing the industry, we know these cases are rare and isolated.

We do not support unauthorised surveillance of the agriculture industry or our members. This is not an appropriate mechanism for identifying or rectifying concerns about animal welfare. This raises significant OHS issues for our members and the trespassers. Instead, the AMIEU NSW Branch would support the creation of a tripartite body who is responsible for the overseeing of the industry to ensure that at all levels in the processing of animals are treated humanely and where they are not, steps are taken to rectify the behaviour, through education and assistance. We would support prosecution where the behaviour continues.

The AMIEU NSW does not support the Right to Farm Bill. While this Bill seeks to provide additional restrictions about access to the agriculture industries, it goes too far and

impinges on the right to protest. The AMIEU NSW Branch supports the submission made by Unions NSW and their concerns regarding the broader impact of this Bill.

Therefore, given the above submission, the AMIEU NSW Branch recommends the NSW Government reject schedule 2 of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Fernandez
Secretary/Treasurer