

INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019

Organisation: Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union (Newcastle &
Northern NSW Branch)

Date Received: 1 October 2019

Dear Committee Secretary,

The AMIEU Newcastle and Northern Branch Union make this short submission to the Right to Farm Inquiry, particularly Schedule 2 of the Bill.

We are concerned by the impact the Bill will have on the right to protest. This Bill goes well beyond regulating actions on farms and seeks to criminalise the right to protest on all inclosed lands. Our Union supports the submission made by Unions NSW which outlines the broader impacts of this Bill.

As a union in the meat industry we understand the importance of ensuring the safety of workers on site and respecting the treatment of animals. Our industry has appropriate safeguards in place that balance these two needs. This Bill is an overreach which does not strike an appropriate balance.

The AMIEU Newcastle and Northern Branch support the right to protest. As a union, our members have a proud history of using protest as a tool to fight for and win working conditions and rights.

The AMIEU Newcastle recommends the Parliament reject Schedule 2 of the Bill as it is an unnecessary restriction on the right to protest. If Schedule 2 of the Bill is not rejected in its entirety, amendments are required which explicitly exclude peaceful protests and union activities from the aggravated unlawful entry offence.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Regards

Grant Courtney
Secretary

AMIEU Newcastle & Northern Nsw Branch

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