

**Submission  
No 226**

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

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It is a terrible mistake to legislate that it is illegal to provide evidence of wrongdoing, especially where severe suffering is endured by the victim/s of such wrongdoing. It is shocking that there would be legislation passed which would make the disclosure to the public of such wrongdoing, be in line for a far greater penalty than the actual perpetrators of cruelty would be likely to face. This legislation makes it possible for any degree of animal neglect or cruelty to proceed unquestioned under the guise of a right. It makes any such behaviours free of consequences under a noble/ idealistic sounding phrase 'right to farm' which disguises the truth of its aims. To begin with, 'farm' has connotations to most of us of paddocks of golden grain, happy cows, baby lambs skipping, and everyone is appalled at such tranquillity and fruitfulness being disturbed; the noble farmer providing food for the nation. But this is not the reality. Pigs and hens, rabbits and ducks, are crowded into huge sheds where they spend their whole lives in misery. If they were cats in a hoarding situation or dogs in a puppy mill there would be criminal charges laid for such conditions. All farmed animals suffer a violent death which should not be hidden, any of this, from the scrutiny of the public. This law enshrines the right to animal abuse and penalises those who would protect the victims. It is unfair and sinister. People have the right to be aware of what they are paying for. If farmers had nothing to hide such laws would never be suggested. We should aim for a society where we can all see how our food is produced without feeling horror. These new laws instead, validate secrecy. Animal abuse is a crime, but this law makes it a greater crime to reveal the crime. We should be protecting the victims, not the perpetrators of suffering. The 'Right to Farm' Bill is Orwellian in every way and should not be part of Australian legislation. It is shameful. Thank you, I hope my words are considered.