

**Submission  
No 243**

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

**Name:** Mr Ralph Graham  
**Date Received:** 27 September 2019

---

**Submission to enquiry**

**Re Provisions of the Right to Farm Bill 2019**

A valid and important maxim has always been “let the punishment fit the crime,” and losing sight of this when crafting laws and regulations for Australian society would itself be a crime.

A man or woman who would never seek to hurt anyone may in the course of duty as a soldier have to kill people in order to defend family, friends and country.

**Who will speak up?**

And just as these brave defenders put themselves in harm’s way to defend freedom and the people who depend on it, so does another hero in our society, known as the whistleblower. Such a person seeks not glory but justice, to right terrible wrongs, to improve the safety and quality of our lives. At great personal risk, the whistleblower may even break minor laws to expose heinous and pitiful crimes conducted in secret.

Without such people, much of what we now know that goes on behind closed doors would be unknown to us and the shady perpetrators of terror and injury would carry on with impunity.

Such brave people are rare yet they are supported and lauded across society for standing against injustice and exposing hidden crimes.

Activists are historically the catalysts for social change and rising awareness and serve to gather the evidence of crimes, the illegal and the immoral.

**Public Thinking**

The majority of the Australian people have come to support the better treatment of animals and are shocked and angry at what people who should know better, do to these beings.

The government commissioned report - *Australia's shifting mindset on farm animal welfare*, conducted by Futureeye, is very telling in revealing what Australians think.

90% want to see change.

More than 70% of people think that farm animal welfare is a moderate or a serious issue, and more than 90% of people think that cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens are sentient or somewhat sentient.

The ACT government has just passed a bill recognising the sentience of animals. It is time for NSW to embrace humane change, not to further entrench legalised cruelty.

The pressures of deadlines, quotas and impatient, profit driven employers, drives workers to take short cuts where the animals are easy and certain victims. The greater the drive for profits, the lesser the animals are considered and the greater is the cruelty visited on them.

The frustrations of killing young animals all day long, takes it toll on workers, manifesting as cruelty and even sadism and result in much mental illness in the slaughter industry. A victim without a voice is a victim indeed and these conditions, indescribably abominable in some cases, will never be exposed by the perpetrator.

Should a person trespass in private property, let her or him be charged with trespassing. If a person does damage to another's property let him or her be charged with malicious damage or whatever is appropriate.

When a person, whose obvious intent is the protection of helpless animals, is punished and fined at a level way beyond what the perpetrator of the real crimes to the animals is charged with, we insult our legal system.

The bill will roundly punish those who damage facilities and endanger lives. But it will equally punish and cast as terrorists those who would do no harm beyond committing the comparatively petty crime of trespass in a desperate move to expose terrible, hidden crimes against the animals.

### **Submission from Ralph Graham 3 of 3**

The bill will not serve the parliament nor the Australian people it represents and it will certainly not make life any easier for the animals. It will muzzle brave whistle blowers and the free speech they seek to protect. It will serve the industry in allowing its dirty secrets to remain so. The cruelty and suffering experienced by the animals will continue and increase, and make an absolute mockery of any pretense at improving the welfare of the animals.

Despite the loud claims and the media hysteria, not one home of a farmer has been broken into or entered; no farmer, family member or worker has been harmed, not one. By contrast, activists have been assaulted and shot at.

We make light of the cruelty and terror inflicted on the helpless animals we should protect and we make light of the brave acts of the whistle blower whom we should acknowledge and praise. For such a person to be labelled a terrorist is really a bad joke, in the worst possible taste. While the captains of this industry might be laughing all the way to the slaughter house, the public is not. The public has had enough of being hoodwinked and lied to and the very act of hiding - with thei bill - heinous treatment is an act of lying. This bill will overtly aid, abet and protect the continuation of this terrorism to helpless animals.