INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 28 September 2019

Partially Confidential

It greatly concerns me that so many wrongs in the animal agriculture business have been uncovered not by government, but by private citizens.

While I understand that venturing onto private property is against trespass laws, the penalties proposed in this legislation are overly extreme, and unfairly single out a particular group of citizens.

The fact that such private citizen operations, who seek to document breaches of livestock protection laws, are so often successful in bringing to light unlawful conditions and practices, suggest that 1. there is a significant lack of regular and unannounced government inspection or oversight in the industry, and 2. those citizens / operations should actually be eligible for whistle-blower protections rather than harsh penalties.

This particular legislation also strongly suggests that the NSW government is building higher walls around and protecting the routine breaches of livestock farming, and is happy to turn a blind eye farmer breaches of livestock protection laws.

I strongly encourage NSW legislators to entirely reject, or at a minimum, vastly tone down these extreme proposed penalties.