

Submission  
No 274

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 1 October 2019

---

Partially  
Confidential

# RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019

## Submission of Opposition

I have trespassed on inclosed lands in order to expose the horrors of animal agriculture that are hidden from the public. This bill would not prevent me from doing so again.

---

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission to the NSW Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry, in response to the Inquiry into the Provisions of the Right to Farm (RTF) Bill 2019. I strongly oppose this bill.

This bill would in no way stop my activism or those with whom I am affiliated. In fact, it has the potential to have the opposite effect. It must be understood that animal rights activists, in Australia and worldwide, absolutely and unequivocally *will not stop*. Preventing methods of peaceful protest may force subsequent underground or more damaging methodologies in order to expose and/or prevent the unnecessary abuse, torture and killing of animals.

This movement is not about to be curtailed with this bill, it is likely to explode.

The publication of the Aussie Farms map highlights to the public the sheer scale of animal abuse across the country. The scale of which has previously been hidden. Every detail on the map was already publicly available information, before release. Labelling the map an 'Attack Map' was simply a provocative move to mobilise industry, despite hundreds of protests, walk-ins and farm investigations occurring before it was even published.

The government claims these changes are required to protect farmers from "dangerous trespassers". Despite there not being one recorded incident of a biosecurity outbreak due to activists. Not once have activists ever targeted a home, family, child or individual and not once has an activist been shown to be violent. Which cannot be said for the farming industry this bill aims to protect; who have assaulted, stalked, drove into and opened fire at those trying to expose the horrible truth of what they deliberately try to hide from the public.

There are already laws in place to adequately cover these concerns. In fact, the penalties for such have already increased tenfold in 2016 to protect the interest of coal mining, logging and gas industries. Again, to prevent the public from hearing the truth.

This bill is a coordinated effort to portray the oppressor as the victim and the true victim to be, as usual, completely ignored. Activists are only ever there in the absence of industry transparency, to share the story of the real victim. They are armed with only cameras, and they leave with the truth.

Although this bill is designed specifically to tackle animal rights activists and to protect animal harming industries, it will clearly impact many other actions and the right to protest of many groups. This includes farmers who campaign for better drought relief or fair prices in supermarkets. To create an offence of “directing, inciting, procuring or inducing the commission” of peaceful protest is equally as ridiculous. To suggest that creating a social media group to arrange a peaceful protest could result in 12 months in prison is a horrific violation of human rights and freedom of speech.

Rest assured, if this bill passes and a dairy farmer dares to protest in a supermarket over fair prices, or in a town hall over drought relief, or any other inclosed land, I will be the first to campaign for their immediate prosecution.

This is not a ‘Right to Farm’ bill’, it is a “Right to Harm” bill . Despite the standard horrific legal practises such as branding, castration, forced insemination, debeaking, macerating, gasing, suffocating, mulesing, clipping, tagging and water deprivation, that the public are completely unaware of, this bill will also attempt to hide all clear and egregious animal cruelty that occurs on a regular basis that the vast majority of Australian’s have proven to be hugely concerned with. If the people who profit from the harm are the only ones able to report it, this can only possibly result in appalling welfare for animals.

If this bill is succesful, the fine for committing animal cruelty will be a tiny fraction of that given to those who expose it. That is draconian.

When a government attempts to impinge on free speech, on the rights of any group, it impinges on the rights of all Australians. It is purely an attempt to stifle dissent.

This bill *must* be struck down as unjust.

Thank you