

Submission
No 335

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

Name: Mrs Moira Ferres
Date Received: 29 September 2019

Partially
Confidential

I am writing to make a submission on the Provisions of the Right to Farm Bill 2019

I see this Bill as a belligerent agricultural Gagging attempt that is totally out of line with the communities and Australian peoples expectations for animal welfare.

I believe that if the Animal Agricultural Business' Industries need more transparency and should take more responsibility for their work practices.

I believe that Whistle Blowers should be protected for their courage in speaking out for unethical practices and for breaches to an already flawed animal welfare legislation.

If this Bill is accepted it would remove all transparency and allow the exploitation of so many sentient defenceless beings for example:

The Bill will make aggravated trespass punishable by up to \$13,200 and 12 months imprisonment.

At the moment, the maximum punishment is \$5,500 and no jail time. This is more than doubling the existing penalty.

The Bill will make an individual accused of aggravated trespass face up to a \$22,000 fine and up to 3 years imprisonment if they are in the company of two or more people.

The Bill also changes the definition of aggravated trespass to include "wilfully or negligently" releasing livestock.

There is no evidence that there is a need to increase punishment for farm trespass, or that this increase will deter trespassers. Previous attempts by the government to stifle whistleblowers only led to more community concern regarding animal welfare.

I have listed some of the videos of the horrors that this Bill is trying to cover up:

Although I do not live in New South Wales and I do not live near a farm or slaughterhouse, I have witnessed via video the unbelievable cruelty and inhumanity that takes place on farms and in these industries.

I would like you to take into consideration the following facts for your reference"

The Bill seeks to provide protection for farmers against nuisance lawsuits*, at the expense of the rights of individual property owners.

(* A nuisance lawsuit is one that is brought by neighbours regarding a substantial, unreasonable and ongoing

interference with the use or enjoyment of their land. This includes issues of noise, odour, chemical spray drift and the use of pest control (including 1080 baits). Under the Bill, individuals will have serious difficulty taking legal action against farmers who create these 'nuisances'.)

While the Bill focusses on the trespass threat posed by animal advocates, this is inconsistent with a statement by NSW Police last month that "the majority of trespass on rural properties was due to illegal hunting not animal activism."

The Bill will stop consumers from having access to information they want and need about what goes on behind closed doors in the animal agribusiness industry. It affects every member of the community.

I sincerely believe that this Bill does not fulfil the communities and consumer expectations regarding the protection of animals in the Agricultural Business Industries.

The Australian people and consumers need to know what is happening to the animals in these Industries instead of them being hidden behind closed doors.

If the Animal Agricultural Industries have nothing to hide and are abiding by the law and treating defenceless sentient beings ethically and controlling their employees and insisting that they do the right thing they should be transparent in their dealing with the public and the community and invite animal advocates to peacefully observe the day to day workings of these industries.

I do not believe in trespassing. Every one is entitled to be safe.

I do believe however that all living beings have the right not to be exploited. I believe in a compassionate life style that supports fairness. equality and freedom to all living beings

Yours sincerely
Moirra Ferres