

Submission  
No 341

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 29 September 2019

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Partially  
Confidential

Date: 29 Sept, 2019

**SUBMISSION:  
PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019**

The Right To Farm Bill is an aggressive agricultural gagging attempt that is out of line with community expectations for animal welfare. There is serious concern that this Bill will impact on civil liberties, including the right to peaceful protest and the ability of whistleblowers to report animal cruelty.

***Reasons I oppose the Right To Farm Bill***

- The penalties outlined in this bill are severe and are much higher than a person conducting animal cruelty or other more severe crimes to people and property.
- The bill is not in alignment with free speech, transparency, journalism or a democracy.
- Farming bills should act to improve animal welfare as a recent study shows 90% of Australians are concerned about animal welfare in factory farms. (1)
- The bill claims to protect families however there has been no attack on families by those trespassing out of concern for animals.
- The ACT (2) and New Zealand recently recognise animals as sentient being which is proven beyond any scientific doubt. NSW should be heading in a progressive direction such as this.
- Transparency such as CCTV in factory farms and abattoirs and sale yards is a viable option - that would both forward animal welfare and negate the need for concerned members of public to trespass.
- This bill does not address animal cruelty - rather it blatantly acts to cover the atrocities exposed in countless footage: linked below

***Media to view - the emphasis of any farm bill should be transparency and improving animal welfare***

***Concerns for this bill in my local rural community***

- The bill is a concern for me as a resident of rural NSW. I have lived on the land for decades and never been bothered by trespassers. In fact, I have more often been helped - alerting me that there is an ill animal for example. With this bill, it will scare and confuse people in the community from helping animals and farmers.
- In providing care for non-human animals, it is often necessary for people to come on to a another property - for example to tell of cows on the road, check on a horse that appears to be down, retrieve straying stock. This bill will deter people from helping others rural communities.
- The bill does not support the majority of rural land holders and is based on a small percentage of properties reporting issues.
- Animal welfare in any progressive society should improve over time - not be hidden. This appears to confirm that what happens on these farms behind closed doors is unacceptable to the general public.
- 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. People deserve accurate information about what they purchase and how it is produced,

(1) <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/animal/farm-animal-welfare.pdf>

(2) Bill passed in ACT Thursday September 26th, 2019 - legislation covers pets only

\* 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'.