

Submission
No 311

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 29 September 2019

Partially
Confidential

I have been following recent news around the new ag laws. I am writing to you to express my concerns with some of the statements made, penalties and who you are targeting with this law.

If bio security is of such significance to the country, I would like to understand why is it not legally enforced with stricter punishment and regulation for farmers, abattoirs and all areas connected to the animal agriculture industry to protect this?

I would also imagine that your main goal is protecting farmers and the industry from losing profit, in which case, it would also be good to understand what action and steps you are taking to address climate change and ensuring a fair price is charged to consumers for the cost of this produce (which is substantially higher than what supermarkets are currently charging)?

I am personally rather concerned about the treatment of animals in these conditions and without any CCTV footage to regulate either the treatment or hygiene of these facilities, then your new laws will not address the issues you claim to be concerned about.

Will you consider adding CCTV into all animal agriculture facilities?

While you may be representing a lobby group, who yes, provide food for the country, you are also paid by taxpayers, and they deserve to be informed about the products they are purchasing. By suppressing important information you are directly manipulating and concealing facts that are critical to our freedom of choice.

As someone who is slowly transitioning from a meat eater and dairy consumer, I am incredibly grateful for the work of activists (they are NOT terrorists and I find it incredibly inflammatory and immature that you are using this statement as marketing/propaganda); without having this footage available, I would have been uneducated and ill-informed by the current marketing ploys of the industry. (If you are claiming the food labeling of plant based milks is misleading, then I would imagine you would be extremely concerned about how misleading the meat and dairy industry is about how animals are treated and what conditions they live in or?)

We are facing the 6th mass extinction, and I wonder how you are prioritising addressing this issue? With no water or healthy soil to farm on, then we can all forget about protecting farmers.

It would also be great to understand what steps you are taking to support farmers and individuals who want to focus on the rapidly growing plant-based food industry, and therefore helping to save the planet and farmers.

It would be great to understand when we are facing a water crisis how activists are a priority vs. introducing better farming methods and reducing water consumption, of which cattle farming is known to be a particularly water intensive industry?

Please do your job accordingly, it is your duty to act in the best interests of the broader public, not a small minority. Our environment needs help, please don't penalize those who are supporting that and also helping the farming industry by bringing it to people's attention that there needs to be drastic changes in regulation towards farmers (not activists)