

Submission  
No 282

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

**Organisation:** Anti-Speciesist Action Collective

**Date Received:** 1 October 2019

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Partially  
Confidential

We strongly oppose the proposed Right to Farm Bill 2019.

This attempt to silence whistleblowers and enact protectionism on an industry rife with animal abuse, wanton cruelty and ecological destruction is not for the benefit of the people of NSW or non-humans.

It is clear that those proposing such changes are deeply beholden, and many active participants in, the animal agricultural industry. This is evidenced twofold - firstly by the absolute failure to address the documented cruelty that is ongoing and inherent in this industry, and secondly by this blatant attempt to prevent further scrutiny. The authoritarian tendencies of those proposing this, and those supporting this bill should be alarming for those considering this bill, and for the NSW public more broadly.

Penalties for trespass already exist, and the fact that activists already risk fines and imprisonment yet proceed anyway is reflective of the atrocities occurring behind farm gates and slaughterhouse walls. This bill not only seeks to prevent the truth being known about animal agriculture in NSW (akin to the ag-gag laws that are being increasingly overturned in the United States) but has broader ramifications for whistleblowers and journalists as other industries seek to prevent scrutiny and bad publicity in line with the precedent set by this bill. Already, conservation groups and even farmers themselves have raised concerns about how this bill will be used to prevent dissent, and allow industries beyond agriculture (such as mining, gas, and logging) to blatantly destroy ecosystems and communities without effective avenues for opposition.

At a time when Australia is failing to address rising emissions, and flat out refusing to acknowledge the ecological impacts of animal agriculture, and is yet to seriously address live export or the widespread animal abuse occurring in Australian society, protectionism for the perpetrators is unconscionable.

An example of what your bill will attempt to hide from the public, and indeed endorse through industry secrecy is attached in the below link. It shows footage less than a month old from a NSW animal agriculture enterprise.