

**Submission
No 349**

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

Name: Mr Patrick Murphy

Date Received: 30 September 2019

I am writing to you as a member of parliament, whose job it is, to represent the will of the people, to represent my will too, not just those of farmers.

I respectfully request that you do not pass the "Provisions of the Right to Farm Bill 2019".

There are several problems with it; the first one being the desire to rush through this bill.

It has only given 5 days notice between the media release on the 26 September to final submissions being closed on 1 October.

Why the hurry, is there a hidden agenda behind it?

Let us take a deeper look into the proposed bill, shall we?

One of the first things the media release talks about is, it "aims to promote a farmer's 'right to farm'."

I fail to see the exact meaning of what promoting a farmer's right to farm is, are we becoming like Zimbabwe or South Africa now?

The farmers already have the right to farm, so what exactly is being taken away from them?

This should be more specific, not some vague reference on some ambiguous unsubstantiated claim.

To pass such a bill you should be able to provide a more concrete definition.

That statement alone should be enough to oppose the proposed bill.

Another thing the media release mentions is, "the Bill will increase penalties and introduce new offences in relation to trespass under the "Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901."

I see above, that the proposed new bill, will not only increase penalties, but introduce new offences under this bill.

Recently this parliament passed amendments to the Biosecurity act, (which has more to do with the perceived threat from vegan activists filming farmers abusing the commercial animals on their farms and slaughterhouses, rather than anything remotely to do with their specious claims of biosecurity and "threats to their families").

This very recent and deceptive law has already increased the fines for trespass to a minimum of \$1,000 up to \$220,000, with the possibility of 12 months in jail.

Isn't this enough?

Isn't this double dipping?

Isn't this excessive?

Doesn't it already exist?

What you are agreeing with when you support this bill is; multiple fines for essentially the same offence, as well as inventing new laws and the penalties to go with that.

The right to protest is fundamental democratic right, but that right is being undermined by this proposed bill.

This is an extreme measure designed to shut down dissent everywhere.

Peaceful protest is the sign of a fair and democratic country; attempting to stifle protest by massively increasing the fines for doing so is a move away from what a democracy is all about.

To me, this is egregious, unconstitutional, an overreach of power purely for punitive purposes to protect animal abusers from whistle blowers.

This is quickly taking us down the path of a totalitarian regime.

I state this as another reason to oppose the proposed bill.

I support environmental groups, animal rights groups and civil liberties organisations who oppose the disproportionate and anti-democratic proposed bill; and I expect this parliament to support the will of the people who voted them in, to do their job and represent all their constituents, not just farmers who are pretending to be scared of a whistle blower with a smartphone recording the abuse done to farm animals.