

**Submission  
No 284**

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

**Name:** Mrs Jessica Bateman

**Date Received:** 1 October 2019

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Name: Mrs Jessica Bateman  
Address:  
Phone:

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

This is a belligerent bill designed to stop well-meaning citizens, whose purpose is to expose the cruelty and abuse that exists in our animal farming industries (both legal and illegal). It does nothing to improve farming practices or ensure the welfare and wellbeing of farmed animals. Also, the majority of people who enter farms and rural properties without permission from the land owner are hunters, not activists. So why are the activists being targeted?

Penalising whistle-blowers and activists for exposing animal cruelty atrocities does nothing to benefit the community or the innocent animals involved. Preventing the truth from being brought into the limelight only allows those who commit negligent and abusive acts on innocent animals to get away with their actions and thus continue to harm.

Consumers and the general public have a right to know what goes on behind closed doors of our animal agriculture industries. As a consumer, we should be entitled to know exactly what we are paying for. Many industry practices are purposefully hidden from public knowledge because they are cruel and inhumane. These include:

- performing mutilations (debeaking, mulesing, castration, teeth clipping) on fully conscious animals, without any pain relief;
- confining pigs to stalls not much bigger than themselves for weeks or months on end;
- cramming hens and rabbits in cages for their whole lives;
- killing newly born calves, pigs and lambs using blunt force.

It is because of whistle-blowers and activists that these practices have been exposed.

Activists and whistle-blowers have also successfully exposed illegal acts in farming and other animal industries:

- Live baiting and mass graves in the greyhound racing industry;
- Forced molting resulting in the deaths of thousands of chickens (Lakesland NSW, 2018);
- Appalling conditions of numerous puppy farms across Australia;
- Suffering and horrific death of thousands of sheep and cattle in the live animal export trade.

Instead of punishing the bearer of truth (ie the activist), the government and animal agriculture farming bodies would be better off improving farming methods and animal welfare practices. Tighter regulations, increased monitoring and inspection, and greater transparency in our animal industries would deem trespassing unnecessary. If humane

practices and regular, thorough inspections were already in place, people would not feel compelled to trespass in the first place.

The majority of people who trespass onto rural and farming properties are in fact hunters, not activists. This was stipulated in a recent NSW Police report. Also, according to a police report, illegal hunting incidents increase on average by around 29 per cent per year.

My brother and his wife own a property near Batlow, farming goats and pigs. They have a big problem with hunters coming on to their property without permission (and shooting wild animals on their land). Several farmers and land owners in that area have also encountered problems with illegal hunters. However, in the 8 years that they have lived at this property they have never had an issue with animal activists, nor known of anyone else who has.

This bill clearly targets activists and whistle-blowers, people who seek to expose the wrongs of our farming industries. It is an attempt to silence them and keep the public in the dark about cruel farming practices.

This bill suggests that the government is siding completely with the farmers (many of whom are carrying out cruel acts on animals). In the end, the most vulnerable, ie the animals, will pay the price if this contentious bill is passed.