

Submission
No 285

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

The Right To Farm Bill is one of the most draconian pieces of legislation the NSW Government has ever written.

The Bill is an opportunistic, Trojan horse piece of legislation created off the back of a biased media storm. There is no real evidence to suggest why the punishments for whistleblowers and trespassers who would fall under this Bill should receive such grossly enormous punishments.

The types of protests the NSW Government wishes to hinder with the Right To Farm Bill are ones that reveal the truth behind what the government is so desperate to hide. The NSW Government knows full well that whistleblower footage from factory farms reveals animal abuse and atrocities that are not acceptable in our community.

But the only way to continue these inhumane and abusive work practices or make them seem 'legal' is by hiding them from the public.

In June 2018 animal activist footage revealed the terrible conditions hens were being kept in at a property in Picton. 1000 hens were found dead, the remaining 4000 were euthanised, and the owner was later charged with animal cruelty offences.

That farmer, _____ was fined just \$6,500 and banned from owning animals for five years. Under the proposed Right To Farm Bill, animal activists who uncovered the abuse to the hens and attempted to rescue them would be fined \$22,000 and potentially handed three-years in prison.

In that example, the NSW Government is saying it is far more illegal to reveal illegal practices than it is to commit actual illegal practices.

The NSW Government is not interested in the truth. The NSW Government would prefer 5,000 hens die painful, awful deaths, while they fine and jail activists attempting to unveil atrocities in our state that our community and public do not accept.

Recently, Aussie Farms released footage that showed terrible practices at an abattoir in Picton. This footage was labeled with a discretion warning by the media because it contained practices that are so abhorrent and inhumane that they know viewers watching would be shocked.

But the capture and release of this footage would become even harder under the Right To Farm Bill.

If the NSW Government believed the practices at farms and slaughterhouses were so humane and acceptable by the public they would install CCTV cameras in every facility. But the government doesn't want to do the right thing.

For too long, animal abuse in abattoirs and farms has been uncovered and derided by the public. Whether that be physical abuse by workers, ineffective use of equipment or malpractice.

The animals that are raised for slaughter in NSW barely get a chance at life, let alone the conditions they are kept in for the majority of their existence. The very least we could do if we are going to continue breeding and slaughtering them for consumption is to make sure their lives and deaths have some protection under state law.

Right now, the NSW Government would prefer these animals lives are devalued even further by preventing animal activists from uncovering treatment and practices that are actually illegal.

The punishments in this bill do not fit the crime.

Trespass laws already exist in NSW. Increasing the punishments to activists has only been done to protect businesses who fail to adhere to humane treatment of animals. Treatment to animals that is deemed unacceptable by the broader NSW community.