

Submission
No 288

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 1 October 2019

Partially
Confidential

I feel the “Right to Farm” bill represents a covert means of criminalising people who protest against the logging of our native forests.

Right now we are in a time of climate emergency and are facing an extinction crisis.

Protecting forests is increasingly recognised worldwide as a critical measure to slow climate change, this Bill is not in the public interest.

Do you want the koala to have a future - outside of zoos?

Citizen scientists are contributing to the protection of these and many other endangered species, firstly by doing ecological surveys critical to identify and hopefully protect the habitat of endangered species, and secondly by keeping forestry operations fully accountable. These volunteers check the operations of logging contractors to make sure they are complying with things like proper exclusion zones around creeklines, nesting sites and making sure rainforest exclusion zones are not logged.

This bill would make these people liable to fines and imprisonment.

More than ever before in the history of this planet people want to see an end to the destructive practise of logging native forests, and an increase in the sustainable practise of planting and harvesting plantation timber.

Successive state governments have failed to embrace this approach, instead focussing on where they are going to make short term dollars, and appeasing voters in logging regions.

Hence anti logging protests have continued - and will continue in direct opposition to these unsustainable practises.

I feel the “Right to Farm” bill represents an unprecedented assault on the common person’s civil rights, and is aimed at stopping any future actions they might want to take to protect our native forests and public lands.

The bill is intended to increase penalties for logging protests in an attempt to stop any future peaceful protests that hinder logging operations, so I believe this bill is aimed at outlawing effective protest.

For 50 years our native forests have been sacrificed for woodchips. This has taken a heavy toll on our forests and their unique wildlife. Many people are keener than ever to stand up for them and see an end to this unsustainable practise.