

**Submission
No 358**

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

Name: Mrs Trisha Jarvis
Date Received: 30 September 2019

SUBMISSION

THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019

I am a former director of Golden Retriever Rescue Inc., (ABN 85 234 554 920), a registered animal welfare charity.

For more than 25 years I have been rescuing Golden Retrievers and occasionally other breeds of dogs. On many occasions I have been involved in the rescue of dogs from cruel, unscrupulous operators of puppy farms and backyard breeders. At times, I have observed other animals at these addresses eg horses, in a terrible state of neglect, emaciated, without food, water or shelter and have alerted organisations such as the RSPCA to investigate.

On most occasions, I have used a “soft” approach to gain access to these properties. I am, however, extremely concerned about the proposed Bill, in particular, “an individual accused of aggravated trespass [will] face up to a \$22,000 fine and up to 3 years imprisonment if they are in the company of two or more people.” I can recall on a number of occasions being in the company of more than two people in order to rescue large numbers of dogs. We were not trespassing as we had received tacit approval to enter the premises on the pretext of purchasing dogs.

I have read this Bill and am alarmed that this Bill will encourage people, particularly in rural locations, to engage in animal cruelty behind closed doors without any scrutiny whatsoever. We should be speaking up for animals and protecting them. The community expects close scrutiny of the agribusiness and it is my view that this Bill will permit animal cruelty to go unseen and unchecked.

I see this Bill as an attempt to stifle whistleblowers and I strongly oppose it.