

Submission
No 330

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

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Partially
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If agribusiness, had nothing to hide, then it would be transparent and the public would know what happens behind the walls. Instead we have found out through hidden cameras, the cruelty that occurs and the suffering of species that do not share our language to speak out. Humankind is meant to be evolving, instead it is retreating. By not allowing freedom of speech and transparency, you are complicit in the greatest crime of humanity, that of torture. Torture of another living being that is vulnerable and we have taken away its rights simply because we assume superiority over it. Humans are not superior over other species. People who work in the industry of farming become desensitised to the cruelty inflicted on other beings. Animals become commodities that are simply a means to an ends. I work in rural agricultural region and cruelty is common place. Animals are treated badly. But economic gain is the biggest incentive of the human world and it is that which rules over ethics. This is wrong.

Many years ago I worked in an abattoir and saw what occurred. We were told we would lose our jobs and therefore our income if we spoke up. Long term employees on the kill floor were devoid of compassion and empathy... they had lost the ability to care and often performed acts of cruelty against the animals prior to the animal's death. The link between children that are cruel to animals that grow to be violent adults is proven. Desensitisation to violent acts via computer games and then the acting out of these to partake of real crimes is also proven. Hence animal workers who lack patience and compassion and are exposed to, or partake of cruel acts show parallels with the exposure to violence and resulting behaviours mentioned above. Any cruel act against any living being is not mentally healthy behaviour. This needs to be exposed. If an illegal or cruel act is being committed, then it needs to be seen and exposed. This bill aims to protect and hide atrocities that occur. Those that made and enforce this bill are therefore complicit with, and condone acts of cruelty and allow it to continue.

CCTV footage on farms and in slaughterhouses should be installed to encourage transparency. This footage should be available for public viewing to educate the public. It is only through education that people can make informed decisions about their choices. Through transparency cruelty would cease and trespass should decrease. This bill is a betrayal of people's right to knowledge and speech, and an animal's rights to be treated correctly and fairly.

The simple truth is 'If there is nothing to hide, why hide?' Be open and transparent. Do not stop progress. Progress is for a better future. Exposing any business, technology or action etc that is cruel or inflicts suffering is good and allows for improvement in that industry. Industry only advances through criticism and advice.

Every species on this planet performs a function. Ours is to do what is right. Not to be ruled by greed.