

Submission
No 294

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Whistleblowers and protesters are a fundamental part of any properly functioning democracy. Our civilisation as we know it today would not be as (relatively) civilised as it is without protest against - and scrutiny of - power.

Whistleblowers and protesters generally act on their own time and generally take great personal risk - physical and financial - in standing up for their causes. These risks should be recognised and accounted for when seeking to undertake any punitive measures directed towards these activists.

Specifically to the current 'Right to farm' legislation:

The dietary and environmental benefits of reducing meat consumption and production are well documented. Credible reports such as the IPCC's latest AR5 Synthesis report even encourage reassessing our farming habits in regards to this.

As such mass meat production is now clearly less necessary, from nearly any point of view. The only point of view it is necessary to continue with meat production the way it is is from the meat producers themselves. Of course, as consumers we all benefit from cheap meat. But as stated above, we don't need that much of it any more - if we need any at all - and the planet, from an environmental aspect, certainly doesn't need mass meat production to the current scale.

Therefore, through the "economic rationalisation" of current mass meat production processes we are needlessly harming millions of animals.

Whistleblowers are trying to highlight this fact and seek only for us to genuinely question the status quo. As a society we owe them gratitude, not extra punishment.