

Submission
No 365

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 30 September 2019

Partially
Confidential

Knowing the NSW Government has introduced a bill to the NSW Parliament that significantly infringes on everyone's right to peacefully protest is unconstitutional and plain wrong.

The "Right to Farm" Bill legislation will unjustly punish citizens for "unlawfully entering and disrupting on inclosed lands" however inclosed lands is defined so broadly it will outlaw peaceful protests in any enclosed area, including schools, offices, ports, banks and even public land. Knowing the bill also introduces a new offence that would make it an offence to organise a peaceful protest, is completely unethical and undemocratic. If the animal agriculture industry has nothing to hide, and are not mistreating the animals, why has this law come about? It is because the animal agriculture companies know their practices, if they were publicized, would paint many of them in a bad light for mistreating and abusing their animals.

Our right to peaceful protest is under attack by the Minister for Agriculture, Adam Marshal, who has proposed laws to quash peaceful activism and silence dissent. These changes would massively increase the penalty for protesting on both private AND public property from \$5,500 to \$22,000 and three years imprisonment! As already mentioned it also introduces a new offence that would criminalise organising a peaceful protest. How is this fair?

The bill has nothing to do with farming. The fact the Agriculture Minister wants to rush through this bill is a testament that it's a smoke screen for many animal agriculture companies to continue with their animal abuse practices. It is designed to silence everyone's voice on issues we hold dear to our heart.

And knowing that if this bill passes it would prevent peaceful actions by students, unions, refugee supporters, knitting nannas, farmers, and other environmentalists, who are standing up and fighting for climate action and other important issues goes against our right to peaceful protest and as already mentioned is unconstitutional and undemocratic.

Amazing and passionate people who participate in peaceful protests are from all walks of life. They stand up and fight for climate action, workers conditions, land rights, animal freedom, World Heritage parks: so many of the freedoms we enjoy have been hard won by courageous actions from peaceful Australians throughout our history - now actions like these are going to be criminalised?

Please vote against the bill.