

**Submission  
No 368**

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

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I grew up thinking that the laws we have in place are there to uphold justice. That the decisions made by those up top must be 'right' and 'moral'. That the things we are allowed to do and not do should be respected, because "it's the law".

I grew up thinking that the cops are the ones doing good; the ones protecting, saving, helping, and that those being arrested and jailed must be "bad" people; criminals whom I would not want to know, and would never associate with.

Yet now, as I grow up and start to take off my rose-coloured glasses, I realise that "the law" doesn't always constitute what is right. That "the law" is sometimes a blatant attempt to silence those speaking out against injustice.

We are raised in a society that values kindness, courage, goodwill. We go on about how we Australians are such a developed and strong society. How we send aid to those in need. How we rally beside allies in wars that are not ours to fight.

Yet now, when we try to align those values with our actions, on our own shores; when we try to oppose injustice and barbarity in our society; when we try to question "the law": we are silenced.

You call us "terrorists", but true terrorism is a very real, very monstrous threat in our society, and you know very well that it does not take the form of animal activists. You can pretend that this bill is 'necessary' to 'protect' society from dangerous trespassers, but you're kidding yourself if you truly believe a bunch of people with cameras and phones pose any kind of physical danger.

You're trying to make society fear us, painting us as wicked and crazed, but if you really want to know what fear is, spend a week alongside an animal in Australia's agricultural industry. Have your teeth clipped, your body mutilated, your reproductive system violated and exploited. Be starved, be force-fed, be crammed alongside thousands of other miserable beings, as bodies pile up around you.

Put yourself in their shoes - that's what you always told us to do in school, right? "Think about how you're making the other feel, and how you can change your actions for the better".

Put yourself in a situation where death is more desirable than life. Then tell me who the terrorists are.