

**Submission  
No 378**

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

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To the Legislative Council Select Committee on the provisions on the Right to Farm Bill 2019.

**SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY ON THE PROVISIONS ON THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019-09-30**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a view on the provisions on the right to farm bill 2019 in NSW.

Transparency is crucial in most organisations, businesses and Governments throughout the western world in 2019. Indeed the general public would be outraged if they felt there were happenings which were covered up and kept secret by the politicians they voted for, and trusted to work for the best interests of their constituents.

In most shopping centres there are CCTV cameras. They are also used by transport systems and in many suburban and city streets as well as in many businesses.

However, in abattoirs and farms they are totally non-existent! Why is this so? It has been argued that they interfere with the right of people to carry out their work without being watched. This argument cannot be substantiated. Checkout operators in supermarkets, for example, have CCTV cameras recording their every move. Indeed, some footage from one of our local supermarkets helped to find a man who was guilty of assault, by matching a supermarket docket found at the scene of the crime he committed with footage from a supermarket CCTV camera.

Activists have managed to capture footage of some serious animal cruelty carried out on farms and in abattoirs. These people have risked their well-being and even their lives, by subversively entering farms and abattoirs in an effort to provide transparency about some of the cruel practices which can, and often do, occur there. They have nothing to gain but to try to help the animals who do not have the power to help themselves.

The laws need to change regarding the transparency of animal agriculture. The responsibility for the wellbeing of animals has to rest with the operators of these industries. Punishing the very people who fight for, and speak on behalf of, agricultural livestock appears to support covering up the misdemeanours of many in the agricultural industry and does not provide the transparency that is needed, and demanded in all other areas of commerce.

Sonia Parker