

Submission  
No 384

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

**Name:** Mrs Marie Bennett  
**Date Received:** 29 September 2019

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Partially  
Confidential

**Date: 29/9/2019**

**Name: Marie Bennett**

**SUBMISSION:  
PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM BILL 2019**

The Right To Farm Bill is an aggressive agricultural gagging attempt that is out of line with community expectations for animal welfare. There is serious concern that this Bill will impact on civil liberties, including the right to peaceful protest and the ability of whistleblowers to report animal cruelty.

I'm angry that this bill is more than doubling the existing penalties from the current maximum punishment of \$5,500 and no jail time to \$13,200 and 12 months imprisonment. And that the Bill will make an individual accused of aggravated trespass face up to a \$22,000 fine and up to 3 years imprisonment if they are in the company of two or more people. The Bill also changes the definition of aggravated trespass to include "wilfully or negligently" releasing livestock.

There is no evidence that there is a need to increase punishment for farm trespass, or that this increase will deter trespassers. Previous attempts by the government to stifle whistleblowers only led to more community concern regarding animal welfare.

***Example videos of the horrors this Bill is trying to cover up:***

The Bill seeks to provide protection for farmers only since when has a Bill been made to protect on group of people against a community who just wants the truth?

While the Bill focusses on the trespass threat posed by animal advocates, this is inconsistent with a statement by NSW Police last month that "the majority of trespass on rural properties was due to illegal hunting not animal activism."

The Bill will stop people like me from having access to information they want and need about what goes on behind closed doors in the animal agribusiness industry. It affects every member of the community. I want to know if there is cruelty to animals as yes this will change my purchasing behaviour. Further I want to know what is in the food I'm eating – the truth!!!

The industry throws around words like humane but then I see videos that are far from humane. They say it's only a one off not indicative of the whole industry, that farmers love their animals. Then I see more videos from lots of farms around NSW and Australia. I'm tired of being lied too. I want the truth and it appears that the only way I can be sure to get it is by people brave enough to go in and get it. Put CCTVs up or let everybody go in for a tour whenever we want then there would be no need for whistleblowers.

Don't blame and punish truth tellers!!!