

**Submission
No 390**

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

Organisation: Australian Workers' Union

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NATIONAL OFFICE

Level 1, 16-20 Good Street, Granville NSW 2142
T: 02 8005 3333 E: members@nat.awu.net.au W: www.awu.net.au
Daniel Walton National and NSW Secretary



ABN 28 853 022 982

Provisions of the Right to Farm Bill 2019

NSW Parliament Committee no.4 – Industry

Submissions of
THE AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

2 October 2019

About the Australian Workers' Union

The Australian Workers' Union (**AWU**) is the nation's oldest union, and also one of its largest. The AWU has broad constitutional coverage in a wide variety of industries which relevantly includes industry coverage of agriculture, horticulture, pastoral and other farming. This is in addition to industry coverage of construction, steel, manufacturing, mining, aviation, and oil and gas.

Submissions of Unions New South Wales

The AWU has had the opportunity to read the Unions New South Wales (**UnionsNSW**) submission to this inquiry. The AWU adopts and supports those submissions, and the brief submissions made by the AWU below are made in addition to those of UnionsNSW.

Summary of AWU position

The Australian Workers' Union makes this submission in response to the Right to Farm Bill. This is only a brief commentary given the short timeframe available, and it focuses on Schedule 2 of the Bill.

The AWU has broad coverage of farming operations. The AWU believes it is important to ensure workers at and operators of farms are able to work without undue interference from protesters. However, we believe the Right to Farm Bill goes well beyond the regulation of actions on private farms. This Bill restricts and criminalises the right to protest on all inclosed land.

The AWU has a proud history of organising and taking part in protest actions on inclosed lands in order to progress the interests of our members. The right to protest is a fundamental tenet of our democracy and should not be criminalised.

The AWU supports the submission of Unions NSW which draws particular attention to the impact the Bill could have on the right to protest and on union activities in workplaces.

Recommendation

The AWU recommends the Parliament opposes Schedule 2 of the Bill. If Schedule 2 of the Bill is not rejected in its entirety, amendments are required which explicitly exclude peaceful protest and union activities from the aggravated unlawful entry provisions.

THE AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION