



ANTI-SPECIESIST ACTION COLLECTIVE

**RESPONSE TO THE CRIMINAL
CODE AMENDMENT
(AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION)
BILL 2019**

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We strongly oppose the proposed Criminal Code Amendment (Agricultural Protection) Bill 2019.

This attempt to silence whistleblowers and enact protectionism on an industry rife with animal abuse, wanton cruelty and ecological destruction is not for the benefit of the Australian people or non-humans.

It is clear that those proposing such changes are deeply beholden, and many active participants in, the animal agricultural industry. This is evidenced twofold - firstly by the absolute failure to address the documented cruelty that is ongoing and inherent in this industry, and secondly by this blatant attempt to prevent further scrutiny. The authoritarian tendencies of those proposing this, and those supporting this bill should be alarming for those considering this bill, and for the Australian public more broadly.

Penalties for trespass already exist, and the fact that activists already risk fines and imprisonment yet proceed anyway is reflective of the atrocities occurring behind farm gates and slaughterhouse walls. This bill not only seeks to prevent the truth being known about animal agriculture in Australia (akin to the ag-gag laws being increasingly overturned in the United States) but has broader ramifications for whistleblowers and journalists as other industries seek to prevent scrutiny and bad publicity in line with the precedent set by this bill.

At a time when Australia is failing to address rising emissions, and flat out refusing to acknowledge the ecological impacts of animal agriculture, and is yet to seriously address live export or the widespread animal abuse occurring in Australian society, protectionism for the perpetrators is unconscionable.

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