

I am making a submission in support of the farm trespass bill.

Farmers live on their farms. Those that trespass (or encourage others to trespass) onto farms in pursuit of nefarious acts and reasons are trespassing upon both homes and places of business. Farms are the homes of families and in some cases whole generations live and have lived on these establishments for many decades without hinderance, while plying their legal trades farming a whole array of animals and in horticultural pursuits. In my view there is little difference between gangs of youths trespassing upon urban houses and animal activists trespassing upon farms and farm lands. Both groups cause shock, distress, anger and in some cases cause damage to property (personal and business) and to livelihoods. They should be prosecuted in similar ways with similar offences. These activists should be encouraged to protest in the usual legal ways without trespassing illegally or posting appalling posts on social media.

These activists also bring with them significant bio security risks onto farms. These farms may be exporting organisations. Should, as result of activist biosecurity incursions, tainted product be exported, this could shut down whole export markets for Australian product(s).

I am in support of jail terms and heavy fines for those who trespass on farms.

Ausveg Director
Farmers.

past Independent member ARC member Australian Dairy

The views expressed are personal and may not reflect the views of Ausveg or of Australian Dairy Farmers