

It is with great interest and dismay that I read this bill. In my opinion, this bill allows no right to the freedom of speech of the public to educate others on business behaviours and processes (which may be legal but are ethically or morally corrupt).

Where is my right to explain to a person that the brand of make up they are wearing was once pasted onto a restrained rabbit's eye at concentrated levels with no pain killers given to the rabbit when it's eye got infected or ulcerated? Or that the LD50 test was used to find the harmful amount of the brand of dishwashing detergent they are buying even though the chemical has been tested many times before? The general public have little idea of what goes on behind the scenes in business and most are educated by animal groups and individuals, who have actively sourced the answers. This bill takes away my right of telling another party the truth about a business in fear that they may not buy that brand and I end up getting sued!

I hardly think that secondary boycotts are 'intimidation or thuggery' as quoted by the Treasurer Peter Costello in the Sydney Morning Herald. Secondary boycotts are often effective as, at the end of the day, the most powerful way for the public to vote is with their 'dollar'. If you are not happy with a business' activities, the best way to let them know is to not buy their product and let other people know about it!

This bill, if passed, will make the people of this country too scared to speak the truth and the businesses with questionable ethics will flourish. This sounds more like a dictatorship than a democracy!

Instead of my tax payer dollars going to fund the possible prosecution of people who are educating the public, I would suggest that the money be used to increase the living standards of humans and animals alike. I feel that some Australian businesses have a poor regard and track record for the treatment of animals (intensive farming, animal testing etc) and the standards should be raised. It sounds like this bill is set to protect those businesses and forget the welfare

of the animals as it will not allow other people to speak out on their behalf. A very wise man once said that the greatness of a nation can be judged on the way it treats it's animals. This bill will not allow fair treatment for people or the animals!

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