



## Australian Chicken Growers' Council

To: The Hon John R Quigley LLB JP MLA, Attorney General of Western Australia

Email: [Minister.Quigley@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Quigley@dpc.wa.gov.au)

Cc: The Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Western Australia

Email: [Minister.MacTiernan@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.MacTiernan@dpc.wa.gov.au)

12 April 2019

**RE: The need for stronger legislation against illegal farm entries and harassment of farmers**

Dear Attorney-General,

The events conducted across the nation on 8 April 2019 by animal activists demonstrated both their complete disregard for opinions or values other than their own, and their contempt for the concepts of privacy, property security, animal welfare and a livestock sector.

On behalf of Australian chicken growers, I am writing to you and your counterparts in the other states to urge your soonest attention and efforts toward a coordinated national review of the laws and penalties associated with trespass and harassment, particularly where they relate to the activities of anti-farming extremists.

I also strongly encourage you to consider how the interactive map on the 'Aussie Farms' activist website, showing the location of many Australian livestock farms, may be removed. The primary purpose of this map is to assist extremists to plan illegal farm invasions, with the ultimate aim of putting an end to livestock farming in Australia.

The Australian chicken industry operates under high standards of regulated animal welfare: all commercial birds are raised on farms compliant with national welfare standards, and the majority of chicken meat sold in the nation comes from farms that are accredited above and beyond regulated standards by RSPCA Australia, the Free Range Egg and Poultry Association, or both.

Should extremist action result in the shutdown of part or all of the Australian chicken meat industry, through disease introduction, sabotage or harassment, Australians would quickly find themselves buying chicken imported from countries with welfare standards that cannot compare to Australia's.

The Australian Chicken Growers' Council believes that strong penalties are the best approach to this problem; unfortunately, we do not consider that negotiating with these activists is a realistic option. They have demonstrated that they are dogma-driven and not open to alternative views, and in some ways their behaviour appears to be similar to that of cult members.

Please understand that we do not object in any way to the nutritional and clothing choices of these activists. It is their commitment to the malicious harassment of livestock owners and workers and the illegal invasion of people's properties and homes that we feel must be legislatively brought to an end for the good of the nation.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours,

Allan Bullen

President, Australian Chicken Growers' Council

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LIVESTOCK AND RURAL TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

Hon John Quigley MLA  
Attorney General; Minister for Commerce  
5th Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

I note recent press reports indicating you intend reviewing the legislation surrounding trespass and animal activism.

Our members transporting livestock are frequently on the receiving end of negative actions from animal activists. Livestock vehicles are visible to the public and are an easy target for activists intent on interfering and disrupting our legitimate business activities.

In the past we have experienced actions from activists that have placed animal and human safety in jeopardy such as unfastening gates on livestock crates and disturbing livestock whilst in the crates. In the most extreme example, a person locked themselves on to a livestock vehicle without the driver's knowledge which could have resulted in serious injury. Our association therefore supports moves to strengthen the law to protect individuals going about lawful business activities. We urge you to ensure that any proposed changes also protect livestock transporters as well as farmers.

I look forward to understanding the detail of your proposals. The association would be pleased to provide you with additional information should you consider it necessary.

Yours faithfully

Andy Jacob  
President