



TASMANIAN FARMERS & GRAZIERS ASSOCIATION

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

TFGA Submission – Criminal Code Amendment (Agricultural Protection) Bill 2019

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) is the leading representative body for Tasmanian primary producers. TFGA members are responsible for generating approximately 80% of the value created by the Tasmanian agricultural sector.

The TFGA appreciates the opportunity to provide comment to amend the Criminal Code Act to introduce two new offences relating to the use of carriage service to incite trespass, property offences, or other offences on agricultural land.

The TFGA believes this Bill to be significant to Tasmanian producers with the increasing prevalence of activists targeting farms across the country.

We are supportive of the proposed amendments, as we need to protect farmers and their workers from anti-farm activists, who go on to farms and harass and intimidate.

The one area that hasn't been included in the proposed Bill is the use of drones for surveillance. The Civil Aviation Safety Authority provides an overview of drone safety rules, which vary depending on whether you are flying commercially or for fun (recreationally). While the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* also details the provisions applicable to unmanned aircraft generally. However, it would seem the rules and regulations are absent on clarifying if someone uses a drone to take video footage of someone's property/farm without their knowledge.

The TFGA recommend that the proposed Bill includes the use of drones as an action to constitute using a carriage of service to transmit material to incite unlawful damage, destruction or theft of property on agricultural land.

Please contact the TFGA if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Skillern
Chief Executive Officer
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