



ALPA SUBMISSION

Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

TO:

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Committee
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Introduction

The Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association Ltd (ALPA) submission is in response to the public consultation into the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 which amends various Acts to address a number of impediments in the agriculture; animal management and welfare; forestry; and fisheries sector.

ALPA is the national peak industry body for livestock and property agents. ALPA represents more than 1,200 agency businesses across Australia. Collectively this group plays an important role in livestock, wool, merchandise and rural property sales and marketing. ALPA members handle in excess of 97% of rural agency business Australia wide.

ALPA is one of the largest national organisations of small rural business men and women relied on to protect the interests of agents and producers nationally.

Within Queensland ALPA represents over 200 member businesses including Elders, Landmark, Ruralco and private livestock agencies.

ALPA appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission.

Comment

Addressing the risks posed by certain protest actions

ALPA commends the government for introducing legislative changes to address the risks posed by certain protest actions by increasing jail terms and fines for creating a biosecurity risk.

ALPA members in the saleyard sector are greatly exposed to the actions of activist groups. ALPA is aware that animal activists have attended saleyards over the years both in groups and as individuals. This unwarranted attendance poses many risks including the health and safety of a person or food, or a risk to animal welfare or biosecurity or is likely to cause economic loss to a business.

In September last year, there was a serious animal activist demonstration at the Victorian Livestock Exchange (VLE) at Pakenham. Up to one hundred activists stormed the facility creating distress to all in attendance. The demonstration which could have turned violent had rippling effects and went beyond disrupting the livestock sale which included but was not limited to: staff were threatened and intimidated; livestock were agitated and held longer than necessary, which had resulted in animal welfare concerns; truck drivers were delayed, which had log book implications; and police were called, which was an unnecessary burden on emergency services.

ALPA is also aware of another serious saleyard demonstration that took place earlier this year in Muchea, Western Australia.

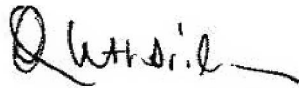
The increase of animal activism may force some saleyards to implement changes to their operating procedures which will come at a cost. This is already evident in the VLE example which has incurred additional unnecessary costs. This will be particularly detrimental to smaller saleyards, which will be unable to absorb these increased costs resulting in their closure. This will directly impact the rural communities who rely heavily on selling centres for the associated economic benefits and intangible social and

community benefits. There are also potential animal welfare implications if livestock need to be transported longer distances for sale.

ALPA concurs with the statement on page 6 of the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 Explanatory Notes, that "the amended offence will address the combined seriousness of the broad range of risks that may be posed by inappropriate protest action on such land."

Again, ALPA applauds the government for addressing this concerning issue.

Yours faithfully



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