

P.O. Box 672  
SARINA QLD 4737  
Mobile: 0419 793 479  
Email: [greenshirtsaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:greenshirtsaustralia@gmail.com)



**MAY 31, 2019**

Dear Sir/Madam,

There is no doubt there is an extraordinarily strong need to increase penalties for criminal trespass. It is not only a breach of the law in the case of farming enterprises, it is a breach of biosecurity as well.

Under Queensland's *Biosecurity Act 2014*, all within the state of Queensland have a 'general biosecurity obligation' (GBO). The implications for this are that everyone has a responsibility to manage any risks under their control and limit the ramifications if an event arises. This is something that landowners must do to uphold their compliance with legislation but also to maintain both healthy stock and a healthy environment. These invasions take away any chance that the targeted individual has to stop any event before there are negative consequences.

We often see stories of stolen so-called 'rescued' animals being transported in conditions that are not only unfit for livestock haulage but are more often than not, non-complying with National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) regulations, Property identification codes (PIC) or requirements for being a registerable biosecurity entity. These measures are in place for the protection of the livestock industry against disease and weed outbreaks and biosecurity risks through traceability of origin. We now however have the situation where people who have a blatant disregard for any laws governing them, can through cross contamination bring with them diseases such as Bovine Johnes Disease, declared weeds, or introduce ticks to a tick free area. All have severe implications to the industry. These are just examples of inadvertent risk but given the increase in occurrences and severity of these farm invasions, legislation and penalties must cater for risks that the industry is exposed to as a result of a direct attack with malicious intent.

The invaders place themselves in situations that are inherently dangerous to themselves, and in some cases, livestock. It also places great risk to the owners/proprietors as they may be placed in dangerous situations while trying to mitigate damage and unrest caused by these invaders. The emotional stress placed upon owners cannot be discounted as we saw during the mass invasions of a few weeks ago on the anniversary of the "Dominion" film release.

Another issue that is little recognised is that many farms are also homes, and many farm children are often working by themselves in performing farm duties. A large amorphous mob of invaders of indeterminate propriety turning up unannounced could lead to these children being placed in close proximity to someone with a dubious past. The responses of carers/parents in a situation like this may be unfortunate but entirely understandable. Thus, it is best for all if there are strong deterrents to this activity.

While we commend the increase in penalties for criminal trespass, we have a number of concerns. *Deterrent* – We have seen how fines are verging on laughable in deterring such activity. Many times, we have seen posted on both social and conventional media, the recipients of these fines doing just that – laughing. They are often repeat offenders. Fines are either crowd funded or suchlike or simply ignored. The vast amount

of money owing the State Government in fines currently is testament to the efficacy of this approach.

The below examples written by notorious activists and their supporters are readily available to view on social media and are but a drop in the ocean of what is seen, when and if the perpetrators actually do reach the courthouse.

**Leah Doellinger**  
May 9 at 6:20 PM · 🌐

Articles on Jessie and I today, 1 below and 2 linked. One has a response from The Green Shirts Movement

We applied for a court location change so we didn't have to appear today and said we would be pleading guilty. The magistrate went ahead and sentenced without appearance.

I received the maximum penalty fine for trespass of \$1,300 and Jessie received \$1000. No conviction recorded.

We were going to pay my lawyer \$2,200 but didn't end up getting a lawyer and the fines worked out the same.

Between us we have over \$4,000 in trespass fines with my 4 and Jessie's 2.

We have been rescuing and doing actions for 3 years and physically saved over 1000 lives and I created Meat the Victims and in year I organised 4 in Australia, Barcelona has had x2, UK x1, Texas x1 and Canada x1. And so many about to have another or new countries about to launch Meat the Victims

Our rescue footage and these actions around the world have helped so many make the connection and go vegan and has inspired vegans to get active.

So \$4000 has been worth the lives saved and the connections made.

Thank you to everyone has supported us along the way and all of the amazing attendees of Meat The Victims. We love you all.

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/.../ringleader-fin.../>

<https://www.beefcentral.com/.../repeat-offender-farm-invasio.../>

#wewillrisetogether

**The WEEKLY TIMES**  
RURAL WEEKLY OPINION LIVESTOCK

A NOTORIOUS animal activist has escaped jail time today over leading more than 100 protesters into a dairy and feedlot on Queensland's Darling Downs. *My dad's surname is Doellinger and it is on my birth certificate*

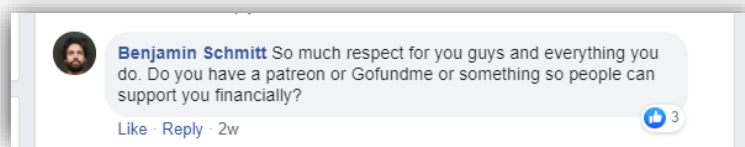
Leah Ava Whetton, 29, did not appear in Toowoomba Magistrates Court, but had her case heard *ex parte* by Magistrate

**Katie Lonsdale** Why do you have to go to court in June?  
Like · Reply · 2w

**Leah Doellinger** For the cattle truck roll over, they charged me for hindering police and I was tacked to the ground by a cop for standing next to a dying cow  
Like · Reply · 2w

**Katie Lonsdale** Do you have a fair idea about what the outcome will be or do you not know anything until the day?  
Like · Reply · 2w

**Jenny McQueen** So pleased for you ❤️ This outcome is amazing!! Do you have a fundraiser?!



The Bill must require presiding officials to record a conviction in the case of these offences. This would assist in precluding the current phenomenon of these activists obtaining public service jobs and thus gaining access to sensitive information which can then be used to assist activists. They would also be in a position to make process infinitely more difficult for anyone interacting with that department by abusing the power they have in any number of ways. This is already anecdotally occurring, and it does beg the question as to what steps government is undertaking to ensure the veracity and integrity of departmental staff. At present there is a vast distrust between these departments and landholders which will be impossible to bridge without definitive and visible action.

Gaol time, included in the amendments, is essential. This is the only real way, along with a recorded conviction that the “foot soldiers”, of this insurgency can be dealt with. The previous lenience has seen this become almost a sport which many regard as fun – with no consideration of the horrible impact they cause. The “hard core” of these groups use less committed persons as “foot soldiers” as there is no real consequence to their actions and thus, we are seeing a growth in numbers involved and thus an vast increase in potential for an ugly incident. We do commend the concept of penalties for those that “organise” such events, however there is a gaping chasm between potential penalties and those manifested by the courts at present and this must be remedied as a matter of urgency.

There is also the potential for serious injury or death, with invaders having no knowledge of potential risks in these places. Activists chaining themselves to equipment that they have no understanding of is essentially a certainty for serious consequence. The major problem is that liability under Qld WH&S laws rests with the owner of the business which is almost laughable. It places an expectation that owners must account for unforeseen and totally illegal actions. There is also the potential through this for invaders to feign injury which will place unwarranted pressure on the business to disprove and defend themselves against such claims. As we have seen, lawfare is a tactic used by these extremists and it is only a matter of time before this strategy is undertaken.

Acts of direct sabotage must also be addressed. In the recent slaughterhouse invasion in Yangan, once the invaders had left the premises, it was found that cattle being herded up a race became very distressed. Upon investigation an offensive chemical odour was detected and upon trying to hose it down, two workers were overcome and were taken for medical treatment. No such chemical substance is used at the abattoir and as this was a “surprise” target it could only be the invaders who placed it there. There is very real potential for catastrophic harm to both animals and people in such actions. This sort of reprehensible action must be dealt with in the strongest manner.

Animal welfare is another area ignored, at the moment by all but a few. Apart from some profoundly serious potential for catastrophe in the area of biosecurity, there is demonstrated mistreatment of animals “liberated/stolen” by these invaders. We have seen piglets, calves and lambs stolen at birth and thus not receiving the essential of colostrum. This has led to a slow death over a few days which these reprehensible and ignorant individuals gleefully document on social media to garner sympathy and thus financial support. We have seen animals kept in urban units that are far more restrained than they ever were on farms. This sort of thing is far from a natural environment and causes great stress to previously free-range animals. We

see fully grown chickens confined in cages the size of shoeboxes, in urban units, once again proudly displayed on social media by the thieves. There are also serious questions posed as to the treatment of animals on rescue sanctuaries. These sanctuaries are paid to care for these animals by charities and well-meaning public. The sums paid per animal seem to be quite excessive when compared to the costs incurred on farm yet in some cases the animals appear in a less than healthy state. It appears that the funds are diverted to less than admirable use. The general public if aware of this would be disgusted and as farmers we see this as reprehensible conduct. There needs to be legislation to control this sort of activity. Merely using the RSPCA or the powers of DAFF are not adequate, as it could be supposed that these individuals are encouraging invasions to thus achieve a personal financial gain.

Continuation of "soft sentencing" has not only emboldened these law breakers but has led to a feeling of extreme frustration, helplessness, and fear for the future amongst many targeted entities. It is only a matter of time before this reaches crisis point as many are already at breaking point due to other influences. It also must be remembered that some have been facing these repeated assaults for an extended period of time. Examples of one Piggery being subjected to 5 invasions and thefts over a two year period, and a Deer Farm being continually harassed over 5 years including during a Christmas function for sick and terminally ill children from the Queensland Children's Hospital are sadly not isolated in their treatment.

Until now targeted entities have shown commendable restraint however one must ask when the dam will burst as it inevitably must.

We would request the opportunity to present in person to any committee, and to answer any question arising from this submission or any said presentation.

Your Sincerely,



Martin Bella  
**National Coordinator**  
**Green Shirts Movement Australia**