



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Queensland needs tougher trespass Laws**

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Australia's commercial egg industry has had its fair share of people trying to break the law often with the intention to disrupt and frustrate the production of eggs.

These well-coordinated trespass activities involve breaching important biosecurity laws and result in broken eggs, destruction of property and sometimes the death of birds -often only resulting in perpetrators getting a slap on the wrist.

Nationwide there has been moves to strengthen protections for farmers and increase penalties for offenders. However, in Queensland the trespass laws and deterrents remain insufficient.

The Queensland Liberal National Party's private members bill, the *Criminal Code (Trespass Offences) Amendment Bill 2019* proposes tougher new offences for those who break into properties:

- **Aggravated trespass:** maximum of 3 years imprisonment or a maximum fine of 100 penalty units (\$13,055)
- **Serious Criminal Trespass:** maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment or a maximum fine of 3000 penalty units (\$391,650)
- **Organised Trespass:** maximum fine of 10 years imprisonment or 3000 penalty units (\$391,650)

Primarily the Bill will upgrade trespass from a summary offence into a criminal offence that attracts harsher penalties and a criminal record.

These proposed laws will protect egg producers when a person unlawfully enters premises, private land or transport infrastructure with the intent to cause economic loss to producers.

These laws should be passed as they would be a vast improvement the underwhelming penalties that have been issued in Queensland.

Egg Farmers of Australia would like to see similar laws in Queensland as have been passed in other jurisdictions in Australia such as:

- **New South Wales** - Right to Farm Bill includes three years' jail and fines of up to \$22,000 to those who trespass on private land.
- **South Australia** - laws have passed laws with fines of \$10,000 or 12 months imprisonment with compensation to the farmer.

- Nationally - the Federal Parliament recently passed laws to ensure that those who use websites or social media to incite others to break into farms could be sent to jail.

Egg Farmers of Australia will support any moves to increase the legitimate rights of its farmers to humanely and sustainably produce the best eggs in the world for Australian consumers.

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