

It is great to have a chance to tell the ministers what we think about the laws they are bringing in.

We have been farming for over 60 years now and never have we had so much red tape and hurdles, to do what we have always done, which is to look after our land to the best of our ability and to make a living off it at the same time.

Things have changed and not for the better:

- We own the land, not hold the land
- Over 18 degrees is not steep, over 30 degrees is
- We should not ever have to self-incriminate, nor should we be guilty until proven innocent
- Governments choose to be ignorant to the fact that our farmers are suiciding at a greater rate than ever – a combination of natural disasters and draconian vegetation laws – Politicians need to own and acknowledge their part in this problem
- Farmers are the only stakeholders, no one else has the right to tell us what to do on our own places
- We have no trust in any departments – most have a green bias and no common-sense
- Environmental regulations allow for excessive fines – and gaol time – not in line with the crime - The threats of prosecution hang very heavy over us
- Offsets schemes should be for a designated length of time – not in perpetuity
- Any trespass on our land must be treated seriously, charges must be laid with fines that will discourage future trespass

We have been disappointed with the Governments treatment of farmers.

We are the backbone of the country, who work long, hard hours, with very little return. We supply clean, green food to the world, with little to no support from you.

The erosion of our rights has been gaining momentum, until soon, there will be nothing left to lose.