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From: Andrew Postregna [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 3:01 PM
To: CSO <CSO@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Animal Rights Activism Submission

Dear Parliament

I am writing to express my concerns about the damage Animal Activists can cause our industries. I have been farming all my life and I understand the many issues our industry has which people on the outside do not know or understand. These issues keep changing and are very dynamic which is a major concern and activists do not care or have any idea about.

One major issue is bio-security. Just recently there have been cases of exotic salmonella detected on certain egg farms around the country. This has had a devastating effect on many families, businesses and communities. Activist could easily spread this bug by going from farm to farm with no consequences as it now stands. This could have a massive negative impact on the Australian egg industry.

Another issue I have is the impact the activists actually have on families that have been farming over many generations. I watched a documentary a few years back which showed a piggery invaded by quite a number of activists. The farmer was in total disbelief at how they treated him, his animals and his family. This is very sad to see as the farmer did absolutely nothing wrong.

Another issue is that activists should not be allowed to come onto any premises and destroy businesses such as the Gippy Goat Café. This is a disgrace. They were running a legitimate business and doing everything by the law, but were constantly targeted by animal activists.

It is not only the individuals that need to be charged, but also the organisations that support them. These organisations are the ones that give the individuals the information and money they need to raid the farms. I believe even the RSPCA needs to have its government support taken away from it as it is not a charity, but an activist organisation.

I know that if I broke into a house I would be charged and have appropriate penalties applied. I do not see why it is any different to an activist breaking into a farm. The penalties at the moment do not fit the crime and these should be reviewed by the government.

I hope I have shed light on some issues I see in our farming industries and that appropriate laws are made to protect and serve the law abiding farmers that work so hard to feed our nation.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Postregna
Manager

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