



New inquiry examines impact of animal rights activism on Victorian agriculture

The Victorian Legislative Council’s Economy and Infrastructure Committee has commenced a public inquiry into the impact of animal rights activism on Victorian agriculture.

Under the inquiry’s [terms of reference](#), the Committee will consider the effectiveness of legislation and other measures to prevent and deter activities by unauthorised persons on agricultural and associated industries. This will include an examination of the type and prevalence of unauthorised activity on Victorian farms and related industries.

“There has been much recent community and media attention directed to the way in which animal rights activism has impacted on farmers and this inquiry will be a thorough investigation of all the issues concerned,” said Committee Chair Nazih Elasmr.

“Through this public inquiry, there will be an opportunity for individuals and organisations to present their perspectives and we invite written submissions from anyone who has information or views to share with us,” Mr Elasmr said.

Workplace health and safety as well as biosecurity risks are among the issues the Committee will be considering, along with animal rights activists’ compliance with relevant legislation.

The civil or criminal liability of individuals and organisations who promote or organise participation in unauthorised animal rights activism activities will be looked at as part of the inquiry.

“These issues have been raised with our Committee members by people living in their electoral regions, so it’s important that we investigate these activities thoroughly and make appropriate recommendations once we have collected all the evidence,” Mr Elasmr said.

“As these issues have not just arisen in our state, we will also be looking at the incidences and responses of other jurisdictions in Australia and internationally.”

The Committee is inviting written submissions by Friday 2 August 2019 and will then conduct public hearings.

The terms of reference for the inquiry and more information on making a submission are available from the Committee’s [website](#).

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