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**From:** Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 July 2019 12:44 PM  
**To:** aglawsinquiry  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Inquiry into Animal Activism in Victoria

The main thrust of my submission will be a plea on behalf on all 'sentient beings' to end the heartless cruelty that has become commonplace in most global cultures. Australia could and should become a leader in instating laws that protect all animals from unnecessary and cruel treatment. Who would allow their beloved pets to be treated so terribly? Animal activists are the 'conscience' of a society that allows itself to feel and care for those who have no voice of their own. Without animal activists hidden realities would not be discovered and exposed. Whistle-blowers need to be protected, not punished. They are not risking much for their own personal glory. They care and feel deeply for 'living, feeling, creatures.'

I am not intending to suggest that all who work with animals, (farmers especially) fall into the worst category of animal abuse and cruel insensitivity. And to my knowledge, it is not those who treat their animals sensitively who are ever targeted by animal activists. A law that clamps down strongly on animal activists can only worsen the general situation. Where will the checks and balances come from? I have no confidence in self-regulation or political will to take this seriously. A government department dedicated to animal welfare would at least provide an avenue for those who care for our living, feeling 'relatives' to work with policy makers and investigate suspected and reported abuses. There could be a strict 'code of conduct' that puts animal welfare ahead of profit; a way of balancing economic and welfare. We are not dealing with inanimate objects here. I again emphasise that my essential plea here is to realise that animals are precious 'living beings'.

The New Zealand Parliament has recognised in law that animals are sentient beings. This is an important step in a process that is long overdue in my opinion.

I am not going to list the many abuses that animal activists have brought to light. Others have amply already done that. My argument is on another level, if you will. Historically, activists highlighting all manner of abuses have been heroes. Without them many horrific activities would have continued unabated. A regulated society that punishes activists for doing whatever they need to in order to prove abuse, is in danger of a type of 'social control' and 'institutionalised criminality' that has no effective response. Laws that punish animal activists for actions that cause no harm to people or property are the tip of a dangerous iceberg. Australia runs the risk of being perceived globally as being one of the worst perpetrators of animal cruelty, environmental and species degradation and of ignoring the related area of a climate emergency.

I am consciously not providing data from studies and other sources. That is not my 'brief'. My brief is from my heart. It maybe is a voice calling in the wilderness, but I know it's a voice that many, many others resonate with. Like so many others, I love Mother Earth and all the sentient beings (mosquitos are a challenge) that share this planet. My submission is a plea to the heart of whoever reads these words. Not only the heart. An intelligent mind would be aware that all life is inter-dependent. When human culture treats animals cruelly we actually violate ourselves, and further the destruction of our civilisation and future survival. This is a 'blind spot' that keeps humans in a state of cold feeling-less disconnection. I contend that passing laws against animal activists would be a regressive step and counter-productive. Please on behalf of living sentient beings and those activists that truly care for them, move Victoria and Australia a step closer to being a sensitive, caring, kind and most of all 'just' society.

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File1:

File2:

File3: