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**From:** Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture  
[REDACTED]  
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

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#### **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I am very concerned about the cruelty that is taking place on farms. The Australian community expects that government regulators set and enforce animal welfare standards-so where is the RSPCA in these situations where shocking examples of animal cruelty have been exposed?

The privacy of farmers should not be paramount if they are breaking animal welfare laws. Many breaches have recently been brought to light but rather than punish the perpetrators of this cruelty the focus has somehow shifted to protecting them. The Australian community expect better.

Acts of civil disobedience in these situations draws much needed attention to the serious issues of ongoing and systemic breaches of animal welfare standards in this country. Recently the UK has raised concerns about imported animal products from Australia due to farming practices increasing the risk of food borne diseases including salmonella-linking our "lower standards of animal welfare" to "high rates food poisoning" The Age 20th July 2019 p 12.

Laws, regulations and penalties need to be strengthened and increased for the farmers that are acting with impunity not for the people that are exposing the appalling lack of animal welfare standards. At the very least existing animal welfare laws need to be enforced through rigorous monitoring.

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File1:

File2:

File3: