

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

Ms Margit Alm
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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It is understandable that (animal) farmers feel threatened by animal rights activists who trespass on farming property and interfere with farming machinery as well as the land. Undoubtedly there are laws in place to punish any unauthorized and vandalizing behaviour. However, well organized animal rights activism must be commended.

Although I would hope that most farmers treat their animals well, it must be remembered that to a farmer a farm animal is stock, inventory, just as any plant and equipment is, and it is being treated as such ignoring that animals suffer pain and discomfort, as humans do, and yearn for space and comfort, as humans do.

On a daily basis am I confronted via the media by cruelty to animals. I sign petitions left, right and centre against such cruelty. It concerns cruelty to farm animals, pets, as well as wildlife. These animals have the same right to a good life on the planet as humans have. Many of them are our equals in that they are mammals and vertebrates - like humans - are. All of them, all other life forms, deserve our respect.

Activists would not behave the way they do, in fact would not exist, if animals would be treated with the respect they deserve.

I opine that it is time that both farmers and activists to get together, bury their difference and work out how to improve the lives of farm animals. At the moment they appear to be at loggerheads with each other.

Humans must remember that from Nature's viewpoint, humans are the most dispensable species on this earth. So, instead of throwing our weight around the way we do, and destroy the environment in the process, we should tread carefully and show respect.

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File1:

File2:

File3: