

[REDACTED]

From: Sonya King [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 6:27 PM
To: aglawsinquiry
Subject: Submission on inquiry on the impact of animal rights activism on Victorian agriculture.

I am writing to make a submission on the inquiry into the impact of animal rights activism on Victorian agriculture.

I am full time employed professional, I am post graduate qualified and pay my taxes in the top bracket. I contribute to society and care deeply about the welfare of animals.

The laws that protect companion animals (which are already far too weak and need to carry tougher penalties) do not protect farm animals. Much of the animal cruelty occurring every day across Australia is legal. This needs to change.

Many decent Politicians like much of the public, are unfamiliar with the nature of Australian animal farming and slaughtering and most decent people are horrified when they find out. It should be mandatory for any politicians having input into legislation that affects animals to first inform themselves by watching Dominion.

After decades of investigations, uncovering hundreds of acts of cruelty, almost no prosecutions or repercussions have been imposed on the perpetrators. The Department of Primary Industries or equivalent in each state has the conflicting responsibilities of monitoring animal welfare and ensuring business prosperity; it is, in effect, an industry that regulates itself.

If animal cruelty/abuse were illegal and regulated, and the industry transparent and honest, there'd be no need for animal activists to capture footage inside farms and slaughterhouses.

In over 40 years of activists filming inside farms and slaughterhouses, there has not been a single activist-related incident of a bio-security hazard, violence towards farmers or workers, or entry into private homes. Activists are non-violent and have no interest in the homes, families or personal lives of farmers or workers. Factory farms are plagued with mice, rats, birds, bugs, and all manner of disease-carrying wild animals/insects - they are not bio-secure environments.

Activists have been directly responsible for exposing many industry-standard cruelty which otherwise would still be secret:

- Greyhound live baiting
- Live export
- Gas chambers for pigs, 'spent' egg-laying hens, and 'unviable' broiler chicks

- Male chicks ground up alive in the egg industry because they can't lay eggs
- Male calves in the dairy industry slaughtered because they can't produce milk
- Regular failure of stunning methods
- Mutilations without anesthetic or pain relief
- Prolonged confinement in battery cages, farrowing crates and sow stalls

If people do not expose this horrific cruelty it will continue and animals will continue to suffer.

If activists were entering the home of workplace where child porn was being made exposing a pedophile (who's making money and income comes from child porn) they would be treated like hero's but because the victims are animals someone we have been desensitised to their suffering and pain.

This is not right and if there was nothing to hide why are the animal agriculture industries so keen to hide it – its because we all know if decent Australians knew what went on in there it wouldn't be allowed.

Activists having nothing personal to gain they do this for those who don't have a voice unlike animal agriculture who engage in cruel practises selfishly for their own financial gain only.

Kind regards

Sonya king

