

The Secretary,
Legislative Council, Economy and Infrastructure Committee,
Parliament House,
Spring Street,
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

We would like to make a submission to the inquiry on the Impact of Animal Rights Activism. We farm approx. 2000 acres and our business is predominately the raising and caring of sheep for our wool and prime lamb enterprise. It goes without saying that it is in our best interests to look after our livestock to the best of our ability to achieve the best possible outcome.

While the activities of the activists have not directly affected us (at this stage or as far as we know other farmers locally), we have been dismayed to observe their actions in other areas and are angered to see how little consequences there have been for them. Their actions are irresponsible in the highest degree and bring the real risk of disease and weed outbreaks. We are constantly aware of the need for biosecurity on our property, and it takes very little carelessness to break that down. We believe the law should impose suitable punitive solutions that will make them think twice.

We could write pages of what we think about the situation but believe that it comes down to one simple thing – protestors are humanising animals to the degree that they think that animals feel and act like humans and should be treated as such. There needs to be education and common sense in this area!

There are many laws already in place for the prevention of cruelty to animals. We need laws in place for the prevention of cruelty to genuine business owners.

Yours etc

Ross and Bev Walker

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(Our contact details are to remain confidential)