

P & R ODDIE PTY LTD

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To the Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Dear Sirs

Re -Submission in to the Impact of Animal Rights Activism

I write comments to the above Inquiry as a farmer of 50 years experience and operator of a family farm business in the Beaufort District which has occupied the same farm for 110 years.

All the terms of reference below are of great concern to our business :

- The **type and prevalence of unauthorised activity** on Victorian farms and related industries, and the application of existing legislation.
- The **workplace health and safety and biosecurity risks**, and potential impacts of animal activist activity on Victorian farms, to **Victoria's economy and international reputation**.
- **Animal activists' compliance with the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994, Livestock Management Act 2010, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986;**
- The **civil or criminal liability of individuals and organisations who promote or organise participation** in unauthorised animal activism activities.
- Analyse the incidences and **responses of other jurisdictions** in Australia and internationally.
- **Provide recommendations on how the Victorian Government and industry could improve protections** for farmers' privacy, businesses, and the integrity of our biosecurity system and animal welfare outcomes, whether through law reform or other measures.

Contact: Peter Oddie [REDACTED]

P & R ODDIE PTY LTD

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Our Farming operations cover 750 ha of cropping and grazing activities and involve 4 farming businesses who live on or operate on the property.

The last thing that any business needs is visitors or trouble makers who turn up uninvited, without an appointment.

The effect of these sorts of intrusions would or could be very intimidating , contrary to our Farm Safety Plan and put our Biosecurity Plan at risk.

It is hard enough, all the time , to keep track of personal who come and go on the farm and the risk of farm theft that that can entail.

There is extreme risk that any confrontation could lead to an unexpected fire during a high risk fire day over summer.

If activists believe that animal mistreatment is happening, the proper avenues to get them investigated are available via the RSPCA and Government departments.

The Weekly Times dated 24th July 2019 really says it all, and no farming families should have to put up with the threat of unauthorized intrusions.

It must be remembered that we are operating on private property.

It is essential that the laws of the land protect all farmers with their legitimate operations.

We need to understand that police help, if needed, can take many hours to occur

Thankyou for considering this submission.

Peter Oddie

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