

**From:** Mark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 28 July 2019 12:14 PM  
**To:** aglawsinquiry  
**Subject:** Animal Rights Activism Submission By Mark Wehner

We have been broiler chicken Farmers for some 22 years now, starting in 1997 on a small 2 shed farm building it up to a point where we now have 5 sheds housing some 163000 birds. Over this time it has always been a family run business and until recently we have thoroughly enjoyed the life style and the thought that we are contributing to the production of an affordable protein source for our fellow Victorians.

As if the financial pressures of running an agricultural business with the increase of electricity, water, insurance, rates etc and not to mention the never ending demands from our processor to spend money on our farms to improve facilities, we now have the constant fear that animal activists could be lurking on our farm trying to gain access. There can be no other term for these people, they are terrorists. Last year one of my colleagues had his chicken sheds broken into at 4am. The damage done by these activists both to his infrastructure and mental state was immense. As a direct result he is no longer farming and has sold this farm. At the time he was broken into my fellow farmers and our family's stress levels were through the roof, we were constantly patrolling the farm, not sleeping at night and even setting up a booby line across the entry of the farm tied to the lamp in our bedroom to alert us if they were entering the farm. Why do we have to live our lives this way?

It is imperative that legislation be passed to appropriately prosecute animal activists to protect the health and wellbeing of all farmers that have a right to go about our daily farming activities without living in fear.

Sincerely Mark Wehner