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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Though broadly termed activists, I prefer the description of whistleblowers and rescuers for the people whose actions stem from knowing of the inadequate or non-existent animal protections in farming systems and of the horrendous, cruel, barbaric, sickening atrocities that are carried out against these sentient animals routinely and relentlessly.

They are doing it because they feel helpless that the authorities who the animal cruelty is being reported to are doing nothing. They want the broader public to know about what is going on. The inhumane, cruel treatment of farm animals must be revealed to the general public. Farmers and their staff, abattoir workers have gotten away with hiding how agricultural animals are really treated for far too long.

Unbelievably, farming codes of practice are voluntary - not mandatory! So farm animals really have no protections whatsoever! Farm animals are exempt from the laws that protect our domestic animals! This is not good enough and the public has a right to know this.

I demand farm animals to be covered by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (recognising sentience). Just a few examples of the animal cruelty and pain inflicted daily on farm animals

Standard Mutilations:

The cutting off of baby pigs tails and pulling out their teeth with no pain relief or anesthetic.

Sheep mulesing: cutting large chunks of flesh from the hindquarters with no pain relief or anesthetic.

De beaking of one day old chicks with a hot blade which causes ongoing pain to the hen through adulthood. Done so the battery hens, as their stress increases and their mental health becomes destroyed, don't peck at other hens they are crammed into the tiny cages with.

Slaughter standard practices:

Animals insufficiently stunned having their throats slit, skin pulled off, disemboweled, hooves cut off whilst still fully conscious is common.

Chickens dunked alive into vats of boiling water to remove their feathers, then manacled upside down by their feet along a conveyor belt to a cutting blade to behead them. Many not cut fully by the blade and left still conscious & bleeding.

Pigs placed x 3 in a small cage then lowered into pit of Co2 gas and carbolic acid which sears their lungs,

eyes, throats and burns them from the inside out, taking what can be 10 minutes, all the while the animal is screaming and trying to escape. Abattoir workers have whistleblown to animal welfare groups to report that the animals suffering and agony is so great that many pigs tear their hooves off in a vain attempt to escape. Many hooves are found under these gas chamber cages. Please watch:

<https://www.alv.org.au/pig-truth/watch-pig-truth/>

To remove hair from pigs, slaughterhouses lower them into tanks of scalding water. By this point, they're supposed to be dead or at least unconscious. Workers have long told stories of pigs who reach the tank still conscious and finally die by drowning. Please view video:

<https://www.facebook.com/AussieFarms/videos/530687320688590/>

When an animal can be considered a 'waste product' and killed by blunt force trauma:

- Male calves born to the dairy industry are taken from their mothers within a few hours of birth and killed by blows to the head. Others, within 5 days of birth, will be trucked straight to abattoirs still calling for their mothers. Brutal treatment of these calves at abattoirs has been well documented and recorded.

- Male day old egg production chicks being dropped alive into a macerator to kill them

Intensive farming practice of sow stalls where the mother pig can not even turn around and the piglets fall outside the stall and out of her care, often left to die, receiving no aid.

Many, many examples of abuse and blatant cruelty to farm animals by employees have been recorded.

Please watch:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-18/chicken-video-footage-victorian-poultry-farm-under-investigation/11221398>

In egg production:

- Rescuers have entered battery cage farms to rescue hens that have fallen through rusty, broken cages into a meter or so of excrement below that they cannot escape from where, without rescue, they die of starvation, hypothermia or drowning. These common filthy conditions fly in the face of the claims of threats to Biosecurity included in the Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture as, much of the time, there is no cleanliness or true biosecurity in place.

- Rescuers have entered broiler chicken farms to aid 2 – 4 week old chicks whose body mass has increased to the size of an adult due the type of antibiotic fed to them designed to grow the body rapidly for quick production and sale. This results in broken bones, crippling and inability to get to food and water. Many die, are not removed by the farmer, left to rot, and other chicks feed, peck at the dead. Again, these conditions fly in the face of the claims of threats to Biosecurity included Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture as no biosecurity seems to be in place.

Bio Security in intensive agricultural farming is most threatened by the compromised health of the animals in this type of farming thus farmers relying heavily on the use of antibiotics to combat disease of stressed, suffering animals resulting in antibiotic, anti microbial resistance.

Is it any wonder that empathetic members of society, on witnessing the unspeakable acts that are done to the billions of animals used in agriculture, become frustrated that nothing is being done to protect or help these animals from these legalised atrocities?

Authorities that could intervene and even prosecute are looking the other way.

This is why you are seeing a groundswell of compassionate people feeling compelled to try and alleviate the immense suffering of these innocent beings.

Therefore I do not agree with introducing any new legislation to fine or imprison activists, whistleblowers, protesters etc. Introduce legislation to stop the atrocities, rabid cruelty and intensive practices of factory farming; the real threat to biosecurity.

Please watch the following video which documents farm animal legal practices and why people feel helpless and that they must do something:

<https://www.dominionmovement.com/watch>

- In 2016, a Productivity Commission report suggested the current process for setting standards for farm animal welfare does not adequately value the benefits of animal welfare to the community.– It suggested the process for setting standards would be improved through the creation of a statutory agency responsible for developing national farm animal welfare standards using rigorous science and evidence of community values for farm animal welfare. This report includes that:

- Animal welfare regulations seek to achieve welfare outcomes that meet community expectations.

However, the current process for setting standards for farm animal welfare does not adequately value the benefits of animal welfare to the community.

- The process for setting standards would be improved through the creation of a statutory agency responsible for developing national farm animal welfare standards using rigorous science and evidence of community values for farm animal welfare.

I have also attached this Submission as a Doc. in Files

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File1: [5d4281a46eb2e-Submission to Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture.docx](#)

File2:

File3: