

Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

Sandy Divita


I believe that Farmers are not made accountable for any Animal cruelty violations. They are not monitored therefore it is the responsibility of Activists to investigate such violations of neglect and abuse. These concerned citizens do not invade the personal dwellings of farmers only the business side where the animals are kept.

On factory farms, animals may be kept in 'living' conditions that severely impacts on their wellbeing, with stocking densities so high and space allowance so low that they can barely move. The majority of laying hens in Australia are still kept in [battery cages](#) where they have less space than the size of an A4 sheet of paper; though not confined to cages, ['meat chickens' typically have no more space](#); and mother pigs are still commonly kept in [sow crates](#) little bigger than their own bodies.

But as more people become aware of these cruel practices through public awareness initiatives such as [Animals Australia's recent television, bus and billboard campaigns](#), changing consumer attitudes are forcing retailers to think twice about the products they stock. Coles for example has announced a phase out cage eggs from their home brand by 2013 and is the first major retailer to adopt a [sow-stall-free target of 2014](#), playing a major part in the Australian pig industry's decision to voluntarily [phase out sow stalls](#) by 20

I support a major reform on farming practices for animals. Therefore i call for greater transparency as these farms are just like any other business. There dealings and practices should be made public.

Regards
Sandy Divita