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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

Mr John Conroy
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To whom it may concern

The appalling behaviour of animal activists and indeed the lack of action by our judicial system to deter this group from the criminal activities that they've being encouraging and carrying out, is an insult to rural Australia.

I'm writing this submission with deep concerns for my fellow farmers, our processors, our broader rural communities that rely on farmers to remain viable, and Australia's economic future.

Farming practices have become more efficient, hence more intense to remain competitive and to continue catering for growing global demand for our great products.

Intensive farming can appear to be cruel to those who don't understand animal behaviours. But a Farmers ability to understand livestock is learnt from high frequency stock handling, endless observation, combined with generations of experience gained through peers.

The Animals are many farmers livelihoods and there is no stronger correlation than the animal's well-being and the quality of the final product, which ultimately determines pricing and profitability.

Therefore, it's in the best interests of farmers to strive for the highest animal health outcomes both physically and mentally.

This is done through constant monitoring of the livestock production systems to eliminate stress, and gain efficiencies with stringent management practices.

Australian farmers are internationally recognised for our very high level of animal welfare practices and biosecurity standards that have enabled our processors to gain great export advantages against competing countries, for many of Australia's products in overseas markets.

Our animal welfare and biosecurity is thrown into chaos when animal activists decide they are required to rescue/steal a farmers animals from the owner.

Should the senate enquiry suggest for the 'animal activists' to be instead concerned with the millions of native animals dying from starvation and getting inhumanely slaughtered by vehicles on our roads?

These are collectively Australia's animals, so feel free to help look after them.

But farm animals belong to the Farmer!

So, let them continue to do the fantastic job that they are doing and give them the support that they need to get rural communities back on their feet and allow them to contribute strongly to our future.

John Conroy



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