


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

Mr Peter Jennings OAM



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

To the Parliament of Victoria,

My wife I own and operate a sheep farm in Gippsland - we have been farming here for almost forty years producing fine merino wool, prime lambs and when seasons permit, taking on dairy cows for agistment. We seek to run a profitable operation in a manner that is mindful of animal welfare and the state of our environment.

Underpinning our enterprise is the state of our soils, pasture cover and shelter belts. We commenced revegetating our farm by planting native trees and shrubs before the LandCare movement began and with the advent of LandCare became active members our local group. Our animals are well fed, healthy and productive as without that, our profitability is compromised.

Whilst our farm has not been subjected to visitation or trespass by animal activists, a farm in our neighbourhood has had this experience. It concerns me that people who have a different view to ours in regard to animal ownership and husbandry feel the need to invade farms with the objective of either "rescuing" animals, vandalism, confronting and intimidating law abiding farmers or manufacturing media stunts. These people pose a direct risk to animal welfare, for example mismothering of lambs, and biosecurity, for example introduction of diseases like footrot.

I recommend that laws and penalties be enhanced to a degree where they serve as a real deterrent to farm and business trespass and/or invasion. The penalties for those involved in a recent farm/business invasion and theft of animals in Gippsland was pathetic... \$1 - what a joke.

Regards,
Peter Jennings OAM

--

File1:

File2:

File3:

