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

Mr Daniel Greenaway

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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My name is Daniel Greenaway, I farm at Beazleys Bridge in Victoria, in partnership with my brother and father. Our farm is 2500 acres, we produce grain, wool, prime lambs and also have a 3500 head piggery growout.

As a 5th generation farmer I am very concerned about the erosion of my and my families rights to our way of life. I am also extremely concerned with the publication of my home and business address on the aussie farms map. I do not think it is right or fair that my family could be targets for animal activists.

I manage the piggery enterprise and am acutely aware of the biosecurity implications of unauthorised entry to the site in relation to potential disease risk and the resulting animal welfare issues that could result from such an invasion. It does not seem rational to me that these so called champions of animal rights could risk unnecessary suffering to animals caused by their direct actions. They do not care how they effect the families involved directly if there was to be a disease outbreak - financially, emotionally, physically(Increased workload), not to mention the potential unnecessary deaths and associated welfare issues to the animals involved.

The pig industry has very strong quality assurance protocols that are strictly enforced. These regulations are in place to ensure we, as farmers do the right thing and our animals are protected. A farmer does not want animals to suffer, that is totally against our way of thinking and operating. It effects our enterprise from start to finish, ethically, morally and financially. This could also directly effect our ability to market our products both domestically and overseas. We are proud of our reputation of supplying clean and responsibly grown produce, this market advantage could be removed if there was a disease outbreak. The massive African Swine Fever situation in China at present is an example of what could happen if our strict biosecurity laws broke down. Millions of animals have died or suffered from this disease, This same thing can and will happen in Australia if we do not have robust, enforceable laws to protect our enterprises. This is one of my biggest concerns, activists have received only token punishments for invasions to farms and processing facilities, their rights to protest and invade seem to outweigh our rights to farm and contribute to the economy. I strongly support the amendment and strengthening of the

laws that protect our business. If we breach the existing Acts on Livestock Management, or Cruelty to Animals or do not comply with the Livestock Disease Control we face prosecution and significant fines and rightly so.

If proven that businesses are directly effected in loss of production, increased cost of production, reduction of herd health/welfare as a direct result of farm invasion then the persons involved need to liable for the losses incurred and also face imprisonment. If there is no strong deterrent established we will continue to feel threatened in our own homes and businesses, something that is abhorrent to me as an Australian.

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File1:

File2:

File3: