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

Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture Michael Conroy

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this submission to express my concern about the criminal behavior conducted by animal activists. But, more importantly I want to convey my disgust in the support they have received from every level of government, as well as the judicial system.

I am a beef farmer and live on my farming property with my wife and young family. Although we have been fortunate not to be attacked by activists to date, it is a constant concern!

I feel that animal activists' agenda is driven by a combination of their lack of understanding of agriculture and a need to feel important and 'make a difference'.

As farmers we are a vulnerable minority group and are seen as easy targets! It is easier to harass a farmer than it is to save starving native wild life or to rescue ten dogs on death row at the local pound. Animal activists target farmers because they know there are currently no severe consequences for their actions. For example- the activist who robbed The Gippy Goat Café of their livestock received a shocking \$1 fine!!

Beef farming has become a more efficient and intensive industry as our income is paid per kilogram; we therefore strive for these healthy weight gains for profitability and sustainability! I understand how this could be misconceived as cruel and stressful for the animals, but the fact is if an animal is being mistreated or feeling stressed it will not gain weight and become unprofitable. Therefore, it is in my best interest to respect each animal and uphold the highest animal standards.

In order for farmers to continue providing Australia with quality products we need to know our animals safety and our own safety will be protected in our workplace as every other Australian worker is protected in their place of work!

Michael Conroy



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File1:

File2:

File3: