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

Mr Matt Ryan
[REDACTED]

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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It is submitted that animal activists pose a significant workplace, health, safety and biosecurity risk to Victorian primary production. The unregulated conduct of animal activists expose agricultural properties to an increased risk of introduced pests and diseases due to a lack of compliance with biosecurity protocols.

Employers are required to provide a safe workplace, however the ability of primary producers to comply with this requirement is significantly reduced by the constant threat of being invaded by animal activists.

Victoria's Great South Coast Region, comprising the Glenelg, Moyne, Warrnambool, Southern Grampians and Corangamite local government areas, produces \$2.2 billion worth of food and fibre annually, which equates to 16.6% of all Victorian agricultural produce (ABS 75030DO004_201516 Value of Australian Commodities Produced, Australia 2015-16). Over 21% of South West Victorians are employed in the production of food or fibre (www.southcoastfoodfibre.com.au). The conduct of animal activists jeopardises this industry, revenue and employment through their inaccurate portrayal of Australian agriculture and agricultural practices.

It is foreseeable that markets for Victorian produce will reduce due to the animal activists incorrect propaganda. This in turn which will have a direct impact on the ability of the Victorian government to provide essential services such as schools, public transport and hospitals.

It is submitted that the Victorian government must address this activism by enacting specific legislation to permit primary production to continue without the threat of farm invasions or other interruption to their business.

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File1:

File2:

File3: