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

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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If it were not for animal activists and whistleblowers I would not be aware of the many practices which involve cruelty to animals within Australian farms, especially intensive factory farming.

By providing the public with documented information and footage of cases of animal suffering, animal activists and whistleblowers have allowed the public to see with their own eyes practices that otherwise remain behind closed doors. Information and footage obtained has allowed the public the opportunity to decide what businesses they are willing to support.

In a similar nature that whistleblowers are encouraged to call out bullying and harrasment for example within the workplace, why criminalise whistleblowers who call out and document cruelty to animals? It's not the nature of the act of calling out cruelty that is the problem, it's the fact it's bad for business. However not all businesses follow good practice.

By criminalising animal activists, rescuers and whistleblowers for exposing cruelty to animals, it simply makes it harder for anyone trying to speak up against injustice in general.

In all cases where activists have entered farms to expose instances of animal cruelty, there has been no acts of violence toward farmers or their families and no instances of bio security outbreaks.

Please consider looking at ways to improve transparency and animal protection laws in animal industries rather than criminalising those who are simply standing up against systematic animal cruelty.

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File1:

File2:

File3: