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

Ms Leanne Prestipino

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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People who do this work as whistleblowers and/or rescuers are driven by a need to end cruelty and pain inflicted on innocent animals and because there is currently inadequate or non-existent animal protection in farming systems.

There are a number of legal routine practices in farming that are extremely concerning including: permanent confinement in cages or in sheds in such large numbers that they struggle to find space to move or reach their food; mutilation of sensitive areas without pain relief – the tails, teeth and genitalia of piglets and the beaks of chicks are clipped, as well as the horns, tails, and testicles of calves – because it is practical, cheap and, alarmingly, lawful to do so.

It is unacceptable that farm animals are exempt from the laws that protect our domestic animals, yet they feel equal pain and suffering when treated with cruelty.

The law can be, and should be improved to protect animals from abuse (eg CCTV in all slaughterhouses, mandatory codes, farm animals to be covered by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, recognising sentience).

A 2019 report titled Australia's Shifting Mindset on Animal Welfare commissioned by the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources suggests it's the majority of Australians who care about animal welfare. The report found 95% of respondents viewed farm animal welfare with concern and 91% wanted reform to address it.

In 2016, a Productivity Commission report suggested the current process for setting standards for farm animal welfare does not adequately value the benefits of animal welfare to the community.- It suggested the process for setting standards would be improved through the creation of a statutory agency responsible for developing national farm animal welfare standards using rigorous science and evidence of community values for farm animal welfare.

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File1:

File2:

File3: