

[REDACTED]

---

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am uncertain if my petition was submitted so I am also emailing you this copy.

Andrea & Bruce Vallance

[REDACTED]

The Secretary

Legislative Council, Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Parliament House, Spring Street

EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

We welcome the public onto our family dairy farm to educate and provide an insight into 'where milk comes from' and the way we look after our animals and property under our care. As we live on a major tourist thoroughfare this can often happen spontaneously but it is usually supervised and taken as an opportunity to make people aware of our farming practices and the pride we take in our business. We encourage potential farmers and industry individuals to see what we do to encourage others to build a life based around this great agricultural commodity and as a way to promote careers in agriculture. But trespass on farms should be treated the same as trespass on only other private property or business, especially when it is done with ill intent to threaten our staff or family or unduly influence other people.

Animal activism in it's extreme form with invasions, drone footage or sabotage is unacceptable on farm. We simply cannot, on an unannounced basis, have 30 extra people on farm that we can't supervise to ensure their safety or that of our animals or staff. Drones panic cows as do large groups of people and as a consequence we cannot guarantee the resulting meat or milk is not contaminated in anyway. We are independently audited by WorkSafe, industry bodies, Dairy Food Safety Victoria and milk processors to ensure best practice and safety for our animals, product produced, ourselves and our staff. Biosecurity is a priority on farm and we work hard to guarantee the disease status of our calf sheds and milking areas which can be damaged by not adhering to strict protocol. It is unacceptable that anyone can illegally enter an agricultural business and demand livestock or goods be released to before they leave the vicinity. Imagine if this was the expectation of a jewelry business or a retailer because of the personal choices or opinions of the 'activists' concerned. We encourage the Parliament to legislate to provide the strongest possible sanctions against on farm or industry animal activism so that despite the 'crowd funding' or 'martyrdom' of the activists arrested or fined that there is a clear message that this will not be tolerated and the relevant penalties are imposed.