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Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 3:43 PM
To: aglawsinquiry
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

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

Mrs Sallyann Ison

T: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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refer attached

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File1: [5d072847c9599-Impact of Animal Activists.docx](#)

File2:

File3:

Impact of Animal Activists –

As a producer (which I am)

With all the trouble we are currently seeing with Activists is quite concerning and as a producer we are very alarmed.

I suppose to start with it is the worry and concern, that activists can come onto our properties and get little if any legal punishment for doing so. Like most farmers, we are looking over our shoulders thinking are we going to be targeted next. I know like most farmers, look after our small & large animals very well. But this doesn't seem to bother them. You cannot reason with these activists as they have no comprehension of what really goes on.

As a stockagent

I have worked in the stockagency field since 1986 and have never experienced such fear mongering in my career.

Livestock agents have been extremely proactive in animal welfare and working along with Dept of Ag & Saleyards to ensure fit to load procedures are adhered to. I have seen this becoming very strict compared to how it may have been decades ago and all those involved improving what we can do all the time.

Recently one of our staff went out to the Horsham Saleyards to take some video of our team auctioning an excellent quality of livestock and we put up on our facebook page. Unfortunately

Activists shared our post and made comments such as calling us "human scum" was one phrase as well as saying we were being cruel to very scared sheep and much more nasty things. They shared this amongst other sites similar and the comments were dreadful. We of course put blocks out on fbook but too late they shared it.

This was extremely upsetting to this young staff member who went out to video the sale and my worry was that her mental health being was very much compromised in this instance and it did have an affect. Not only that, it made our business look like we were being cruel, when we were definitely not in any way and going about our normal business simply auctioning sheep at a market.

From where I sit, the govt needs to stand up and have the guts to stop being soft on these activists

and bring in some type of legislation that will nip this in the bud. Don't be weak and think this is going away, it is not and it is becoming very worrying. Don't pay a consultant to work it out for you, listen to the people it is affecting and deal with it swiftly. Visit us in the country, certainly don't expect us to come to the city to have our say all the time. My door is always open to chat, as I am sure others this affects is as well.

I am also sick and tired of us not being able to say nothing to them as this is what they are hoping for. We made no comment to them as it would have added fuel to their fire and it becoming more offensive.

The govt should have smart enough lawyers to be able to work out the type of legislation or law required to be brought in to stop this. Whether an entire new law is written or another is amended.

Sally Ison