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

Miss Sharon McMahon
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Having lived on a small for over 50 years and having worked on others I would like to have my say on this agricultural enquiry. I have seen a lot of cruelty on farms mainly due to simple neglect, lack of individual care and using stock as a means of cleaning up paddocks not as a main priority . I cannot comment on the Gippy Goat saga as I have never been there, however I did milk goats for a while and was absolutely disgusted by the experience. The goats had some form of wasting disease, bad feet and were often found with their horns caught in feeders, this often resulting in broken necks. It is simple to label all animal activists as lunatics and all farmers as caring, honest, hard working and hard done by, salt of the earth people, but this would be far from the truth. There is good and bad on both sides, but it is extremely dangerous territory to squash peoples right to protest. Often what people are most upset about is about what occurs behind closed doors, what the public doesn't see. The public doesn't know the cruelty in factory farming where animals are confined to tiny cages, in the case of chickens debeaked, unable to dust bath, socialise, they never even feel the sun on their back. What right have we to force this life on other living feeling beings. Oh but People can make a choice the Farmers Federation tell us. What I am saying is they can't make an informed choice when they don't see what happens. All slaughter houses should have CCTV in them, and this should be monitored and able to be up loaded online so the system is transparent. In my opinion this is a main reason the Activists are so upset. Our local abattoir was shut down due to cruelty brought to light by an activist. Echuca abattoir had horrific footage air on TV taken by workers. Time and time again we see horrific footage in the live export trade, not exposed by those entrusted to do their job and protect these animals, always by whistleblowers or so called activists. It is no wonder people become frustrated and take to the streets. I'm a country person and I'm disgusted by the weakness/lack of protection for all animals especially farm animals who have a lot less protection than the family pet. The farming bodies would like to silence any critic of their practices and not be subject to public scrutiny.

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File1:

File2:

File3: