

[REDACTED]

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

Mrs Melanie Ellis
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

I awoke today to the news of another story about the mistreatment of animals in a slaughter house in Victoria. This terrible abuse of animals and possible risk to human health was uncovered by someone brave enough to take a stand against it, a "whistle-blower". Recently I read the owner of an animal export ship was charged with animal cruelty, a crime which would never have come to light without someone calling a crime for what it is. Criminal and unethical actions that take place behind closed doors should not be afforded special protection. We already have laws for trespass, theft, criminal damage, etc. Adding to these just to punish those seeking out wrong doing is showing a huge bias against the voiceless and defenceless. Please don't aid and protect criminal behaviour that goes on behind closed doors. We trust our elected members to do the right thing for all Australians, not just those exploiting the exploitable.

I urge you not to be swayed by the over-reaction of some minor members of the Victorian Parliament and the over-reaction of the Morrison federal government to the April 8 action of animal rights activists and to leave penalties as they currently stand for all protestors. I have seen several accusations of vandalism and violence by animal rights activists and would like to see these claims substantiated, as I believe that they cannot be.

To justify the change for some social change crusaders over others is un-just in a free and democratic society. Unions should not be silenced or censured as they fight for the rights of workers to be safe and paid fairly, just as women should not be silenced or censured as they fight for their right to be as safe on the streets and in their homes the male members of our society. Members of the LGBTIQ+ society should not be silenced or discriminated against because of who they are. I could go on naming our First Nation's people and other marginalised people of our society.

I urge you to treat those who speak for our animals the same as all the other social justice movements in our society. If the animal farmers have nothing they want to be hidden from their consumers, then they should not feel threatened. Let the animal rights activists plant hidden cameras and make documentaries, as there surely is nothing they do that they do

not want the public to see, and if there is, then the consumers, the public, your constituents, have every right to know, so they can make their choices accordingly.

I urge you all, for education on this issue's sake, to watch the documentary Dominion. You cannot make any informed decisions on this important issue if you have not at least watched what you claim to be against <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/dominionfilm> .

I am more than happy and actually encourage, any members of your panel to contact me to discuss any of the issues you may have regarding this inquiry to arrange a face to face discussion. I will always do all I can to fight for the freedom of every living being from pain, suffering and exploitation.

--

File1: [5d43b8fbae0d4-Submission for Victoria's Inquiry into Animal Activism July 2019.docx](#)

File2:

File3: