



Jacqueline Rowe



A 2019 report **Australia's Shifting Mindset on Animal Welfare** commissioned by the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources found 95% of respondents viewed farm animal welfare with concern and 91% wanted reform to address it. Why? Perhaps there is a little bit of animal rescuer in us all?

The truth is not all farmers comply with current animal welfare laws...and it takes dedicated whistle blowers to expose the truth of the lack of care and welfare for animals in agricultural farming. The public's exposure to evidence gathered by whistle blowers - who are simply concerned members of the public - is creating more awareness of some horrendously cruel practices in animal agriculture..there is no doubt the number of Australians motivated to rescue and effect change to historically callous and at times violent treatment of animals in traditional farming practice is increasing. Those who care enough to expose cruelty care, they do not wish to do harm. They are not aggressive thugs..there is the need for those who contribute to the cruelty by their ignorance to become aware of the endemic harm caused by animal agriculture. Clearly in Victoria there are already penalties in place for trespass...be it a farm in Horsham or a home in Fitzroy.

Those who shine a light onto the dark practices of animal agriculture serve to highlight the inability of animal agriculture to self regulate. Transparency is long overdue...increasing numbers of Victorians are becoming aware.

Is there not a consumer's right to know? Huge numbers of people have boycotted palm oil...due to deforestation and the effect on wildlife....How many Victorians have any idea about the abject cruelty of dairy farming? Children are indoctrinated at a young age. I spoke recently to a well educated middle aged business person who firmly believed milk came from a special breed of cow who naturally "just produced large quantities of milk" so they are milked twice a day. They were genuinely surprised to learn of the dairy industry process of insemination, perpetual pregnancy, lactation and the removal of baby cows only hours after birth, most of them sent to slaughter within days while their grieving mothers bellow in horror and sadness. And this goes on annually until the cow is spent and also sent to slaughter... They were also horrified and sad...

Consider if whistle blowers exposed this truth with the same force of media campaigns as the Australian Dairy Industry employs promoting "happy healthy cows".

There is so much more to animal agriculture behind the scenes.

Dairy, beef cattle and sheep live export trade which is beyond belief still supported by our governments.

I have been on a live export ship, no words can describe.

15 Million lambs die every winter. Unnecessarily. The industry has known of this for years...and yet they do nothing. They sometimes let animal 'activists' clean up the mess. Who else is there? The RSPCA? No.

Pig farming, disgusting disgraceful cruelty...sow stalls...gas chambers...those animals do not die quietly.

There is no humane way to kill a sentient being that does not want to die.

Horse racing...while Winks is the toast of the town, her brother is sent to slaughter for human consumption.

So who are the true perpetrators of cruelty and exploitation? Why is this not being told to the general public who are effectively paying for this cruelty? If animal agriculture practiced transparency there would be no need for whistle blowers. No transgressions or fines.

It is not time to increase penalties on those who care enough to share the truth of animal agriculture.

It is time to make animal agriculture practices transparent to the wider community.

It is time for CCTV in slaughter houses.

It is time for farmed animals to be protected by animal cruelty laws.

It is time for no more No Shade, No Shelter.

Animal exploitation by animal agriculture is historical but clearly it is time for change. With intensive farming practices farmed animals are bred to be killed in mostly horrific circumstances, why would you not want to change this?

Biosecurity breaches occur every day on many animal farming properties, these occur when hundreds of animals live in their own filth, covered in sores and with long term injury...these are the things animal rescuers need to share with the rest of the public... because to know about cruelty and do nothing to change it is to be complicit.

The statistics on the environmental cost of animal agriculture are readily available...another reason why farmers should be assisted and encouraged to move from animal agriculture to a more sustainable use of valuable landholdings. This is a more positive approach to ending the cruelty that animal rescuers continually face and try to expose to a naive and misled public.

Having worked in the agricultural sector for many years I have seen this from the inside, and yes I care about the dark side and cruelty. It needs to be addressed. Increasing penalties for whistle blowers will do nothing to improve this situation.

Thanks for your time in reading my submission.

Jacqueline Rowe

One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws...
In a democratic society we are obliged to be a voice for the voiceless.

The increasing popularity of goat farming...most male goats are 'surplus' as in all dairy industry..they don't provide milk so they are clubbed to death or gassed...how would the general population feel about seeing this truth about milk production?
These animals are treated for more inhumanely than dogs from puppy farms which most Victorians wanted banned. If the truth of animals farmed so humans can use their milk was made abundantly clear? Most people would be horrified.

Why are the millions of sentient beings brought into this world by farming practices not protected by the same laws as domestic animals?