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

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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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After seeing the latest news report today of yet another story about the mistreatment of animals in a slaughter house in Victoria operating illegally I felt even more compelled to make this submission. 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 shipped were 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 innocent, sentient beings.

Our reputation regarding animal welfare overseas is appalling. The public have a right to know what is happening in industries which exploit animals. People such as Lyn White of Animals Australia have quite rightly won recognition for their efforts to expose animal abuse and educate the public about practices which are cruel and certainly not transparent.

Whistleblowers are not the ones who need investigating and being put at the centre of an inquiry. Animal agriculture needs investigating and reforming, not activists who are simply trying to expose it all.

Without these whistle blowers justice cannot and will not prevail.

Thank you for allowing this inquiry to be possible.

Warm Regards  
Helen Seta

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File1:

File2:

File3: