

To the Secretary
Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

RE: Animal/Vegan activists

We wish to express concern over the extreme behaviour of vegan activists.

Whilst we appreciate that people have the right to express their opinions in a peaceful manner these activists are terrorising farming communities.

We have no objection to people choosing to be vegetarians or vegan, in fact several members of our extended family follow this philosophy. We understand that cruelty towards livestock needs to be controlled, but that does not mean labelling all farmers just because of a very misguided philosophic belief mostly based on ignorance of modern farming practices.

We all know that large numbers of animals, including wildlife suffer even to grow vegan food. The activists state they want to “rescue” farmed animals, but do not explain what would happen to them when they have been “liberated”/stolen from their homes.

There is no place in our society to allow mass invasion of farming properties, stealing livestock, vandalising property, spreading on social media total lies and misinformation on farming family’s business. Then there is the very serious risk of breaking farm biosecurity with potential devastating results.

How is a farming family to respond when being told we are “murderers, rapists and we cut the throats of our animals? We find ourselves under stress not knowing what coordinated attack comes next, but of course that is all part of their plan to terrorize farming communities.

The insulting, abusive and threatening social media directed at farming families is totally unacceptable. We had our farm listed on Google Maps as a dairy farm to assist with farm deliveries until we received a message “how dare you be so cruel to your animals” no doubt due to the vegan activists being against all livestock farming activities. For the first time ever, we now padlock off road gate entrances and looking into installing security cameras.

Our family now live with the constant fear and stress of a farm invasion at any time made worse by knowing that police have limited ability to assist us.

As seen from the recent Gippy Goat farm invasion and theft at Yarragon the law and its application are not a deterrent to further property invasions.

We request that the existing laws be addressed to give a much greater deterrent to these offensive trespass/activities against farming families. The organizers of these attacks be given highest penalties and that the law be applied to its maximum.

Yours Truly

Rod Faudell, [REDACTED]