

SUBMISSION

RE: ILLEGAL ENTRY OF PERSONS INTO FARMS AND RURAL BUSINESSES

To Whom it May Concern

I wish to express my concern regarding the illegal behaviour of animal activists entering farm properties and interfering with livestock, poultry etc.

As an example, I refer to the article in the Weekly Times a few months ago regarding an animal activist being fined \$1.00 in a Victorian court for stealing goats from The Gippy Goat Café. What an absolutely outrageous insult to everyone in the livestock industry!

Animal welfare is generally a priority for farmers. They spend many additional working hours complying with animal welfare and biosecurity regulations, and dealing with the red-tape involved. It is in their best interest to have effective animal welfare practices.

The animal activists appear to lack understanding of the realities of farming and have no appreciation of the rural economy. If they have genuine concerns for the welfare of livestock, I suggest they offer assistance to struggling farmers in drought-affected areas with feeding /watering of stock etc.

It is imperative that the Victorian Government support and protect hard-working farming families by greatly increasing penalties for trespassing on their properties.

Deborah Conroy

