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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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I am writing to express my concern about the lack of proper scrutiny with regard to adherence to the law for those involved with animal agriculture.

Over and over again we have seen horrific cruelty perpetrated on farmed animals in farms and in abattoirs. This is a clear breach of the law, yet we have not seen any perpetrators prosecuted or punished for breaking the law.

The regulators are also ineffective with ensuring that proper animal welfare standards are enforced and breaches do not occur or if they do, perpetrators are brought to justice and punished appropriately.

This means that private citizens have to act as whistleblowers and animal rescuers, these are matters that if the Regulator was effective in the work they are tasked to do, there may not be the need for citizens to take on those roles, so it should be viewed as a failure of oversight on the part of Government Agencies and Regulators.

Whistle blowers and animals rescuers should be given the same protection journalists have, as without the brave and difficult work they do, we the people and the Government would have no knowledge of what is happening on the ground in farms and slaughter houses.

Another matter I am most concerned about is why are Farmed animals not provided the same levels of protection that pets and wildlife are? They are just as sentient and able to feel and express pain and suffering.

I find the grossly unfair exemptions that farmers currently have to inflict pain and suffering on the animals in their care, most unacceptable and I would like to see that reversed.

All animals should be treated with kindness and compassion and cruelty in any form **MUST NOT** be accepted or allowed.

We need more transparency in the farms and abattoirs, so what is going on can be viewed remotely, this will alleviate the concerns about biosecurity and disease. Drone and cc tv monitoring should be introduced to ensure the rules are being appropriately enforced.

Stricter punishments for breaking the law need to be introduced and enforced to make a meaningful change to the current conditions on our farms.

I realise that not all farmers are cruel to the animals in their care but if the laws are not strengthened and enforced the bad apples will and are spoiling the reputation of all

farmers. So Farmers should also get behind these changes to protect their own reputation.

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File1:

File2:

File3: