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To: [aglawsinquiry](#)
Cc: [Margaret Millington](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, 5 August 2019 9:26:08 PM

Submission to the “Inquiry into the impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture”.

To whom it may concern

I am a farmer who has been involved in the keeping of poultry species all my life following the example given to me by my parents and grandparents. I am a third generation poultry farmer and proud of it.

My wife and I are growing ducks under contract to Luv A Duck P/L and have been involved with the company ,one way or another, since 1983 ... over 36 years.

We are responsible farmers who rely on poultry for our livelihood. To be successful in poultry farming, it is imperative, that we look after the welfare of our birds and adhere to the Governments Code of Practice for Poultry. That is our number one priority.

We have strict quarantine rules to protect our birds from diseases and maladies which may be brought in by wild birds or inadvertently from people. We do not allow visitors into the production areas.

My family are deeply concerned by the activities of the group ‘Aussie Animals’, and their **unauthorised** access to premises housing animals and poultry.

If they were to invade our farm, they would be breaking all our strict biosecurity and quarantine rules. Nobody enters our farm unless they have appropriate clothing and footwear, and use the footbaths at each entrance to minimise to possibility of foot borne diseases entering the production area. Similarly, all vehicles must be washed and disinfected before entering.

We have strict Occupational Health and Safety protocols in place to protect myself , my family and my workers from the myriad of hazards that are on our farming enterprise.

These are practices, which we must adhere to, in order to comply with the Government Law. They are not onerous laws ... they are justifiable laws which have been put in place by the Government to protect the various Livestock Industries.

Similarly with all the other laws of Australia which are set up to protect our people and our communities.

Australia has an enviable record around the world in the agricultural sector of being clean and green . We have this reputation because we adhere to those laws that have been developed by previous governments, with good and sound reason .

They are there to protect Australians, our local industries and our exports.

The Animal Activists have a democratic right to express their concerns, but should do so in a peaceful, measured ,responsible and respectful way. Their concerns should be referred to the appropriate government authorities, by peaceful and well thought out means and through the correct avenues already in place. As responsible and law abiding farmers we do not object to the Aussie Animals members right to express their concerns but we do object to the manner in which they impact on our livelihood and our mental wellbeing. Their illegal activities are constantly on our minds and we are ever vigilant for their intrusion and subsequent consequences.

When they unwantedly come onto our farms they are creating unnecessary stress and endangering the health of those animals they are trying to “protect” and may in fact inadvertently be endangering their own lives and wellbeing in their futile attempts.

In conclusion may we say we are highly offended by our farm being noted on the Aussie Animals website hit list . We are not criminals ; we are law abiding farmers trying to make a living under already difficult climatic conditions.

We do not like to be targeted.

We urge the members on the inquiry to heed our concerns and also to consult with other Australian States who have (or are in the process of) enacting legislation to prevent activists entering our farms uninvited.

We are willing to appear in person at the Inquiry if you so choose.

Thanking you in anticipation

Yours Sincerely

John Millington OAM

Margaret Millington OAM

Sent from my iPhone