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

Illegal Animal Activists on Farm Land Nicki Jennings

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am a sheep farmer at Giffard West in Gippsland. I am a Landcare member of 30 years and a conservationist. I see myself as custodian of the land and care greatly about the welfare of our sheep and wildlife that we attract onto our farm with remnant protection and wildlife corridors. I am secretary of the Woodside Landcare Group and have never broken the law or been charged with any offence. I am a good community member. I am appalled at the illegal trespass of animal activists on farm land. On one farm near us 6 activists dressed all in white trespassed into a paddock of lambing ewes and attempted to catch lambs. This endangers the lives of lambs as they can be separated or rejected by their merino mothers. What were these activists thinking !! They are ignorant naïve city people with no understanding of farming and animal husbandry. They have a bigger agenda of no live stock farming and even no pets. They are blatantly willing to break the law to attract attention to their miss-guided objectives. The \$1 fine for the Gippy Goat trespassers who stole goats and put them in nappies is an insult to farmers generally.

Not only are they breaking trespass laws but farm invaders are threatening the bio security of the farms they invade. Footrot and Johnnes disease are ever present threats to sheep farmers and can be spread from farm to farm in the mud on shoes. When farmers go to field days they wash their boots in disinfectant between farms. Are activists doing this ??

Taking animals from farmers and farms without permission is illegal. It is theft. Farming is a legitimate economic activity which supports thousands of families and businesses across Australia. Most Australians are not Vegans and we have a right to produce fibre and meat for consumption. A fanatical minority group should not be able to make farmers live in fear of harassment or farm invasion.

The State and Federal Governments need to tighten and strengthen laws of trespass, animal theft and biosecurity infringements to safe guard food and wool production in Australia. Social media has enabled radical fringe groups such as animal activists to gather, organise and boast their illegal activities. It has made them a very vocal extremist minority. We already have systems and regulations in place for animal cruelty. Mistreatment of farm animals should be reported to Agriculture Victoria or the RSPCA. These are

legitimate channels that the activists ignore because they want publicity for their bigger agenda of no farming, ownership or eating of animals.

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File1:

File2:

File3: