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From: Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 7:09 PM
To: aglawsinquiry
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

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

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I have been disgusted by what I have seen as abhorrent animal cruelty on Australian farms and slaughterhouses exposed by Animal rights whistleblowers.

The abuse is persistent and ongoing and there appear to be no real solutions provided by the Government to deal with the ongoing animal abuse by farmers and workers alike.

If not for the whistleblowers who have taken extraordinary risks to their own mental health and physical safety, the general public would never know what is happening in our own country.

We are supposed to be a country of compassion, of care for all beings. But due to the vital exposure of whistleblowers, the general public has been able to be informed and therefore make better spending choices.

Hiding the truth from the public is, in essence, lying to the public.

The public relies on trusting those in power to assist us with our spending habits.

When many of the public believe they are buying items ethically in line with compassion for animals, this trust has been proven to be a lie.

This is a positive thing as now there is an opportunity to rebuild with better legal standards that those in the industry, must adhere to.

We absolutely require independent exposure of the truth.

If we were to find out poisonous chemicals were in our foods without our knowledge, we would have been betrayed, as it is our right to know. It allows us to make informed spending decisions.

We have been exposed to the truth of cigarettes and cancer when it was once previously hidden.

We have been exposed to the hidden lies of multiple industries, such as puppy farms, now illegal, but discovered due to the animal rights whistleblowers the Australian Government is considering outlawing.

In regards to bio-security, the animal rights whistleblowers have always entered properties in full personal protective equipment, covering all parts of their bodies. Whereas in the opposite, we see the workers in chicken facilities, dairy farms, and pig farming factories, dirty, unkept and extremely unclean.

There has just been a new video released of chickens being abused inside an Australian facility, exposed by whistleblowers.

These whistleblowers, in fact, wear more protective clothing to prevent exposure entering and exiting the facilities than the owners and workers themselves.

These whistleblowers do not enter the homes of the owners of these farms or slaughterhouses. They have entered the site of the abuse.

Animal rights whistleblowers are every day citizens, many with mid to high-end careers, who feel betrayed by the Government, and rightly so, due to inadequate or non-existent animal protection in farming systems.

There is more support for the ongoing, systematic abuse of animals and the rewarding of those who commit such acts than supporting alternative plant-based alternatives, equally and if not more profitable.

I have personally seen on farms that I have been invited to in my work, where calves lay spit open from neck to tail, with their entrails laid bare, right next to other calves waiting in a pen.

There appear to be no minimum standards that those in the industry must keep, by law. And the public requires an open understanding of this as many had believed they were living ethically. And the footage exposed by these whistleblowers went entirely against their own morals and values of right and wrong.

Our reputation abroad is harmed, not due to animal rights whistleblowers, but due to abhorrent cruelty.

If there were no ongoing and persistent acts of horrifying violence in these establishments, there would be no video footage to show the public. yet, there are hours upon hours of footage, all available on websites such as YouTube, in documentaries and on the aussiefarms.com.au website.

What makes us free as a nation is not hiding the truth, but revealing the truth and allowing the public to make their choices based on the truth.

Burying the truth does improve our lives.

Restricting Australians from whistleblowing is akin to the systematic control of citizens of countries such as China and other people controlled by the state.

In regards to the legal system governing animals, the RSPCA tend to advise on the "least cruelty" to obtain the Paws of Approval stamp.

Yet Animal rights whistleblowers have been on properties, where those same companies are going against the provisions of that stamp, which is again, an unacceptable lie to the public consumer.

We should not punish whistleblowers. We need to hold to account, those who flout even the basic, minimal practice of animal care. We cannot allow these abusers to have absolute reign and lie to the public so that they can profit from public ignorance.

The sheer horror perpetrated on animals, caught on camera, as standard practice, has exposed a dark reality of Australian farming culture for profit.

Now that these truths are being exposed, this gives the Government and the industry to greatly improve their standards, not bury the truth and continue bad practice.

This is not a time for punishing the whistleblowers. This is a time for the celebration of the truth and an opportunity to create a new era in the treatment of animals and a rebuilding of trust with the public, which has been deeply shattered.

The farmers, workers, slaughterhouse companies and the rest of the supply chain have been profiting from public ignorance to the truth. Now is a time to rebuild, knowing that if the powers who are to protect us are not assisting us, then whistleblowers will be there to provide the evidence needed for those in authority to prosecute the abusers.

There are many millions of the public being lied to by the industry and the public are punished by the hidden truth. Those that commit these acts of horrific violence are protected, betraying the Australian public.

Going forward, I believe the following improvements will assist the farmers, slaughterhouses and the rest of the supply chain build and keep public trust:

- 1 - CCTV in slaughterhouses and in factory farming areas, saved on file for a minimum of 28 days, available to authorities upon regular request
- 2 - School education on the truths of where food comes from. not just the happy farms of seemingly happy animals, but the truth of what must occur to provide milk, including the impregnation of cattle and deaths of male calves and where the mother cows go when they can no longer give milk;
- 3 - Educating school-aged young adults of what is involved in factory farming and what is involved;
- 4 - Farm animals to be covered by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, recognising their sentience;
- 5 - Greater subsidies to given to those farmers and business who want to migrate to more plant-based alternatives and encourage businesses who want t profit from this growing plant-based alternative, not just the farmers who forcibly populate farm animals for the ever decreasing profits;

As an Australian nation, we seek truth and freedom. I can only be proud of a nation that does not hide from its darkness, but brings that truth to light, allowing us all to reflect and grow;

And for this to happen, whistleblowers are a VITAL part of our society. They are you and me. They are every day citizens. Some are lawyers, or accountants, plumbers and electricians. They are not criminals with ill intentions. They are doing what they believe they are morally bound to do and feel they have no other choice;

Please watch Dominion. Please watch the video footage on the aussiefarms website. Please choose wisely and be on the side of justice.

Kind regards,

Greg

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File1:

File2:

File3: