

F [REDACTED]

INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISM ON VICTORIAN AGRICULTURE

Christopher O'Keefe

[REDACTED]

Organization: Wannon Region Dairy Branch

Position: Secretary/Treasurer

Submission: (Copy of Online Submission)

Police actions in upholding the law as presented has to be spontaneous firm and effective. Zero tolerance.

There needs to be penalties for the breaches of the NLIS legislation by animal activists i.e., they shouldn't be allowed to remove stock from farms without the appropriate NLIS documentation, which includes a signed vendor declaration form. Any other person would be prosecuted for this breach.

Trespass laws need to be harsher, farms are not only work places they are also dangerous places for people that are inexperienced in the operations of farms. With heavy machinery, large and strong animals that can do major harm to people if handled in the wrong way. Farms are also where the owners and employees live as well as work, which means that you are infringing on personal property as well as a workplace. This makes owners and employees live in fear of being invaded in their own homes.

Animal activists are trying prevent a legal enterprise which is entitled to operate.

Trespass laws are inappropriate in Victoria as they are ineffective in protecting law abiding farmers.

Trespass is a major biosecurity risk from people bringing in pests and disease.

Animal activists are breaking the biosecurity laws and no action is taken against them. At the very least on the spot fines, that are meaningful, and even jail sentences should be issued.

Animal activists that enter agricultural properties are putting the animals that they say they are trying to protect at risk of injury or death by their actions, as well as the farmers and the general public.

Aussie farm maps website is an invasion of privacy of the people that live on the farms, therefore the owners and employees that live on them are being put under extra mental stress by the actions of this website.

Animal activists that have trespassed and take animals from farms have not been prosecuted sufficiently, we need harsher penalties.

--
Chris O'Keefe

[REDACTED]