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

Mr Douglas Leith

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Good day, thanks for this opportunity.

The role played by whistleblowers in uncovering animal abuse, both legal and illegal, in standard farms and abattoirs has been substantial and ongoing. The rspca, police and other authorities have not uncovered or prosecuted this standard abuse adequately.

The public has a right to make informed choices and overwhelmingly prefer not to contribute to anal suffering.

Biosecurity is frequently compromised by farmers and invited visitors who travel freely between factory farms, paddocks, vehicles, urbanised areas without changing clothes or shoes. Those filming or photographing in these places have not been charged with biosecurity breaches.

The safety of farmers, workers or their families has never been compromised by whistleblowers.

In summary, to be consistent with our claimed and widely agreed desire not to cause harm to animals and to receive information needed to make informed decisions about how we spend our money, vote and act as an economic and legal citizen the role of whistleblowers has been contributory. For these reasons they should not be penalised.

Thanks in anticipation of your consideration;

Doug.

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File1:

File2:

File3: