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

Dr Helen Jeges
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am proud to live in rural Victoria, where our family own and operate a small business in Central Gippsland. As the granddaughter of a Gippsland dairy farmer, and the daughter of a veterinarian; animals have always been an important part of our family. That is why it saddens me that Danny O'Brien, my local Gippsland South MP, appears to be more interested in prosecuting whistle-blowers responsible for exposing animal cruelty, than perpetrators of the cruelty itself.

Individuals, who advocate on behalf of animals, raise awareness of egregious animal agriculture practices. They exist due to the paucity of legislation and regulation to protect sentient animal species from harm. Just today, 2nd August 2019, undercover footage captured in Koo Wee Rup, Gippsland, was released revealing horrific animal cruelty.

I understand that the terms of reference will examine the effectiveness of legislation and other measures to prevent and deter activities by unauthorised persons on agricultural and associated industries.

I would like to suggest the following:

1. The Victorian Parliament acknowledge the sentience of animals in legislation, as the ACT Government did in May 2019.
2. Mandatory CCTV in all slaughterhouses, as seen in England from May 2018, that is freely and publicly available.
3. All animals to be covered by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
4. Support for a federal Independent Office of Animal Welfare.

Dr Helen Jeges
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File1:

File2:

File3: