



Thank you for allowing my submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture.

Following the Terms of Reference I would like to address the following.

a. the type and prevalence of unauthorised activity on Victorian farms and related industries, and the application of existing legislation;

I would like to make note of the reason such action may be required. Without adequate legislation protecting farm animals there is no legislative protection from cruelty for farm animals. We have seen so much vision of such terrible cruelty.

The footage of slaughter from undercover vision has made us aware of the extensive cruelty which is endured by these poor animals at the end of their lives. I truly believe that the majority of caring Australians would think this cruelty was completely acceptable.

And there is so many instances of this occurring.

I believe Whistleblowers have the animals welfare at heart. I am concerned regarding the lack of legislation which protects farm animals. I believe there is no such protection. I feel they, as sentient animals, should have the protection which is afforded our companion animals. As like companion animals, they suffer and feel pain and fear. I believe this should be understood and acknowledged.

b. the workplace health and safety and biosecurity risks, and potential impacts of animal activist activity on Victorian farms, to Victoria's economy and international reputation;

I absolutely agree that the OHS is very important. I actually feel putting humans in charge of this killing is psychologically damaging.

My understanding is that there have been no bio security risks created. I am happy to receive such information to the contrary. Generally whistleblowers take this into account as the last thing they wish is to create more suffering for the animals.

c. animal activists' compliance with the LivestockDisease bControl Act 1994, Livestock Management Act 2010, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986;

I am not aware of breaches of the Act in particular. I would be very happy to know of the protection of farm animals under the Prevention of Cruelty to animals Act.

d the civil or criminal liability of individuals and organisations who promote or organise participation in unauthorised animal activism activities;

I truly believe most people are trying to stop such cruelty. Not because they wish to cause harm. Rather because they want to avoid harm.

My concern is that those uncovering the cruelty are those who are being punished. Cruelty should not be accepted at all. It seems that those who uncover the cruelty are punished and those who commit it have no repercussions. That seems very unfair.

e. analyse the incidences and responses of other jurisdictions in Australia and internationally; and

f. provide recommendations on how the Victorian Government and industry could improve protections for farmers' privacy, businesses, and the integrity of our biosecurity system and animal welfare outcomes, whether through law reform

To do this animal welfare must be seen as a critical component as I believe most Australians do not support animal cruelty.

Improvements could definitely be made though the provision of CCTV which would help the general public have more confidence in the practices of these slaughter houses.

Thank you

Kind regards

Helen Duke

Sent from my iPhone