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**From:** Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture  
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**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 June 2019 11:24 AM  
**To:** aglawsinquiry  
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

Ms D Adair

T: [REDACTED]

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Citizen

N/A

## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Whistle-blowers are citizens motivated by strong ethics and a compassionate belief in improving the conditions of our societies. These are people who see a distinct wrong and wish to bring that wrong to light, to have that wrong be seen and in effect to become transparent so that amendment can be initiated and made.

Whistle-blowers would naturally prefer and expect that the Law take into account these wrongdoings and for the Law to do what it is deemed to do and that is to protect the innocent and that, or who, is wrongly done by.

No one wishes to become the brunt of an enquiry or a fine or a court case unless a truly unconscionable act is taking place, possibly after a great deal of soul searching and deliberation but definitely in powerful understanding that the wrongdoing must be exposed and then remedied.

Whistle-blowers, in any cause, are prepared to expose a wrong because they are good people with powerful ethics who are moved to make this a better world.

Animal cruelty in our society is not an option. If we are to exploit animals for their products, an act that is brutal enough in and of itself, then the very minimal requirement must be that we treat them with the utmost compassion, kindness and decency and full moral and ethical exactitude. They are sentient beings.

When a wrong is committed and not seen and remains unpunished and unmonitored, it often becomes the 'norm' amongst those who have either serious mental health issues or are simply unscrupulous or don't care. This is not acceptable at any level.

Therefore, it should become practise that all farming facilities have working and available CCTV cameras as a mandatory measure.

That anyone breaching codes of conduct that embrace nothing less than compassion and decency be treated with the full force of the Law.

That the codes and laws for animals be upgraded and that they be treated as sentient, feeling beings, which they are.

- The Animal Protection Index was designed by World Animal Protection. It establishes a classification of countries around the world in regards to the commitment to protecting and improving animal welfare in legislation and policy.
- Therefore it is not unrealistic, unreasonable or impossible that Australia follow countries such as:
  - New Zealand is a world leader in animal welfare. The rights of animals in New Zealand is protected under the Animal Welfare Act of 1999 and the Animal Welfare Strategy of 2013. These legislations emphasise New Zealand's position as a global leader in animal welfare and its wishes to maintain progressive stances in scientific and technological advances in regards to animal welfare. The 1999 act states that animals are sentient and this was also drafted into the 2013 legislation.
  - Netherlands. The Animal Welfare Act of Netherlands features anti-cruelty and duty of care provisions that also include farm animals. The use of great apes for experiments is prohibited as well as testing cosmetics on animals as per the EU Animal Welfare Rules.
  - Sweden grants legal protection to her animals - both, wild and domestic. In Sweden, the slaughter of domestic animals must be done following sedation of the animal. Swedish animals live in much enriched environments as compared to other countries.
  - Austria. The Austrian Animal Welfare Act 2004 suggests that the protection of the wellbeing of animals should be held to a value that is equal to humankind. The act prohibits the suffering of animals, infliction of unjustified pain, exposure to heavy fear, and injury. The act also applies to farm animals with regulations particularly aimed at protecting them. The 2004 act bans the use of wild animals in circuses and also prohibits fur farming. In 2005, the country banned the use of orangutans, chimpanzees, and gorillas for experiments.

In 2019, it must be more than possible and realistic for Australia to step up its game so that we don't need whistle-blowers to provide the public interest in regards to our highly un-monitored and often questionable animal rights practises.

We must change. We must step up. We must improve at all costs in regards to our animal welfare laws and regulations, our monitoring of their treatment and of the behaviour of staff and workers in all animal related industry in Australia.

Studies show that the unbearable suffering often seen, witnessed and legally sanctioned in factory farming, abattoirs and other exploitative animal industries take a very serious toll on workers, causing mental health problems and therefore societal and family breakdown. Many of these employees are not able to apply for or gain a better quality of job in their working life. These are people who wish to simply earn a living.

It isn't normal for humans to be constantly surrounded by pain, suffering and sub-standard conditions that facilitate them seeing animals suffering in often harrowing conditions. Imagine how hard it must be for them to also have to deal with co-workers who are not behaving decently toward innocent, sentient beings who have no means of protection or hope for compassion and kindness in their entire lives.

To sum up. Animal cruelty is an unconscionable and cowardly and yet often legal condition. We must change and do it now.

Thank you.

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