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From: Priscilla Alderton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 June 2019 10:41 AM
To: eic council
Subject: Submission regarding the rights of animal activists to farms

Dear Committee

I am a devoted animal lover, living on 103 acres in Woolamai, Bass Coast. We mostly adjust pregnant diary cows that are looked after with vigilance. We also work with Landcare to improve our property and plant native trees.

I believe we need to continue to foster care and respect for any animals we are in contact with.

I understand that bio security may be a growing concern for a number of farmers.

I also believe farmers need to learn new methods of care of animals. I have witnessed extraordinary animal cruelty from so called respected members of local communities. I have either confronted the owners directly or reported my concerns. Too often farmers protest so loudly because they are wishing to hide their private behaviour. Animal welfare is no longer a private issue.

I suggest that an independent body consisting of guaranteed kind farmers from different regions, vets, regular members of communities, animal behaviour specialists, city people and psychologists is set up to firstly foster a finer awareness of animals' feelings and sensitivities, to educate farmers and reignite fascination in animals' behaviour and to secondly be an unbiased port for reporting any concerns regarding treatment of animals. Some of this work can be done online from anywhere. In the case of any report of ill treatment or neglect, the farmer and his/her practices would be thoroughly investigated as well as candid cameras installed and randomly assessed over a long period. I believe if a farmer is ill treating animals, that farmer most likely has an alcohol problem, serious financial anxiety or some other issue that calls for counselling, support and education. If this 'hub' of a centre for the well being of animals has strong connections to the RSPCA, government support for farmers and good counselling services at the same time as monitoring animals, the roots of the problem could be addressed as well as the conscience of the often genuinely caring activist/s.

Priscilla Alderton

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