

The Secretary  
Legislative Council, Economy and Infrastructure Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Sir/Madam

As a proud Australian and Victorian I am sincerely troubled by any potential violence against property or economic rights of the farmers. I am not an animal rights activist nor involved in animal farming.

I am far more troubled by the repeated illustrations of inhumanity and environmental impact of animal consumption and husbandry across our great country and the world, especially in the light of climate change.

It would be an insult to our common intelligence to deny the common squalor, disease, un-hygiene, casual cruelty and economic greed associated with animal consumption.

It is equally an insult to our common knowledge to deny the widely publicised and scientifically verified impact of animal husbandry on environmental degradation and climate change.

In short, the conflict seems to be between inhumanity, inefficiency and cruelty on the one side and the legal, economic, personal rights and preferences of the farmers, processors and consumers of the farmed animals.

In considering the latter, it is worth drawing a parallel with the legal, economic and personal rights and preferences of slave owners in the American South vis-a-vis their human property and the views of the moral society then and that which persists to this day.

It is indescribably tragic that wars were fought to defend the legal rights to slave ownership on the one side and the most basic of human rights on the other.

I discern little difference in the present debate - all great change appears to involve conflict of convictions. I ask the commission, as our representatives, to take seriously its moral obligations into consideration - both to the public and themselves - as it deliberates the conflict between the animal rights activism and the farming interests.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted signature]



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