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From: Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture
[REDACTED]
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture

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

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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In 2011 Animals Australia uncovered the atrocities happening to Australian animals overseas. Work carried out by whistleblowers who were focused on bringing this information to the public. Without their work we would continue to be unaware of the abuse, but bringing this information to light shocked us all, and we all have a right to know what goes on behind the high walls that lock us out at every chance.

Animals deserve and need our protection. They are bred into existence by us, and therefore we are responsible for their lives. ALL animals in Victoria deserve as a minimum

- shelter from heat and cold
- food and water
- to live their lives free from pain and disease.

Farm animals should be covered by the prevention of cruelty act, and be recognised as sentient.

Animal whistleblowers/rescuers play an important role in uncovering abuses and neglect of animals in the farming industry which has almost non existent/inadequate protection laws in this state. Things like CCTV and better checks are needed in the farming and slaughter industry, veterinary care is minimal for most farm animals, food and water is denied to animals being transported long distances. Lambs are born into freezing conditions with no shelter or care, 15,000,000 approx will die every year in their first day of life. Thankfully we have amazing rescuers who take these babies, often surrendered by farmers and nurse then to health and they are given a chance to live a life free from harm.

Animal rescuers and whistleblowers do what they do because unfortunately they have no choice. They would prefer not to have to enter properties and film the sadness they see, the cruelty, the abuse, but the fact is we must not close our eyes to this, we must open them wide and see. Without people willing to go to great lengths, to bring us hard evidence of abuses, whether that be for humans or non human animals they are doing what is right and should be protected and not punished for their work.

Whether a human or an animals is being ill treated, we have a right to know. Transperancy is important in all forms.

Animal rescuers/liberationists do not enter farms with the intention of invading the farmers homes, they are there purely to witness the conditions of the animals, and if these animals are in happy healthy condition then the farmers should have no problem with showing the public the conditions on said property. One has to wonder why a business has to be so secretive.

Freedom of speech and freedom of information is our democratic right, and we must never have that taken away. Whistleblowers will always have a part to play in bringing truth and justice to our most vulnerable. That can never be taken away. We need to find the right balance and protect those that need our protection both human and non human animals.

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File1:

File2:

File3: