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From: Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: aglawsinquiry
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

Mr Ian Arney
T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To whom it may concern,

I have been involved with farming for almost 50 years, and have seen agricultural circumstances change dramatically, many times. I have observed people involved in Agriculture adapt and/or leave farming. People in Ag' must be able to adapt and cope with a constantly changing work environment while considering the needs of the natural Environment. However, with the current threat of Animal Liberation protestors trespassing onto property, this has created another issue for Farmers to deal with. Like so many others in the workforce, farmers are battling with an over whelming workload and pressures, but also additional issues such as low rainfall, low commodity prices, and now the issue of people coming onto their properties and taking liberties that would offend a majority of people, not just farmers. In my opinion someone coming onto my farm, my workplace, is no different from me going into someone's home or workplace without invitation or authority. It shouldn't happen and should be treated as a violation of an individuals right to feel safe and live without fear. Having personally experienced people illegally entering my property and stealing a variety of equipment and livestock, it has left me with a feeling of mistrust of anyone that now turns up unannounced.

My concern is for everyone involved, when someone enters onto a property, they are undermining the business activity and interfering with and/or stealing livestock as Animal Liberationists have already done, that the situation becomes inflamed into one where person/s are hurt or killed. If this was to occur with the death of a serial activist who had appeared before our Judiciary and faced charges etc, that were so minimal that they weren't deterred from taking similar action again, who'd be responsible? In Victoria and Australia, we are reminded regularly of the chain of responsibility, and so, my question again is, who would be responsible for allowing serial offenders to reoffend? The Magistrate, who treated the previous offender and offences as being insignificant? Farms are a dangerous workplace and every time people come onto properties unannounced and disrupting the work practice, they face the risk of being hurt, and who will be held responsible? If a farm worker is injured because of the actions of an Animal Liberationist while performing their work duties, who will be held responsible? As an employer, do I now need a policy for my employees on " what to do in the event of Animal Liberation protestors coming onto the property", or "into

the workplace", or "interrupting a particular work role"? How ridiculous will it be if the situation is allowed to escalate before respect and consideration for each other becomes important again? Will it take a "workplace or Farm Death" to occur before Politicians and our Legal system consider the current laws and application of the law regarding "Trespass, Interrupting a workplace, Livestock Theft and Property Damage", especially with regards to Farming, as being insufficient and less than appropriate? I hope not. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Ian Arney.

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File1:

File2:

File3: