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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

Ms Catherine Wright

T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Without the work of whistleblowers, I would still be ignorant of the standard practices that are taking place on Victorian farms and throughout Australia. Until I stumbled upon undercover footage circulating through social media channels, I was unaware of so many of the procedures in Australian animal agriculture that the consumer has an absolute right to know. We are, after all, the ones paying for animal products and we put our utmost good faith and trust into an industry that shows zero transparency for the way farmed animals are treated in this country.

I had no idea that male chicks are ground up alive at one day old because they don't lay eggs. I didn't know that pigs were lowered into gas chambers and the CO2 burns their respiratory system from the inside out before their throats are slit. I was unaware that male calves are useless to the dairy industry and are sent to slaughter at five days old because they won't produce milk.

I have the work of whistleblowers to thank for this knowledge. I can make an informed choice as a consumer because of the transparency that these individuals have applied to the agricultural industries.

Whistleblowers have nothing to financially gain from obtaining footage and are ethically motivated, whereas the animal agriculture industry have their profits to protect. As a consumer, I simply want to know how these products end up on my plate. I should be able to rely on the industry being transparent but this is unfortunately not the case. I've had no choice but to look beyond the marketing spin and access these undercover videos via social media platforms. I strongly recommend that the focus of this inquiry should not be on those exposing these brutal practices, but the brutal practices themselves. I suggest that farmed animals be covered by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, as they currently have little to no protections. I would recommend this government recognise the sentience of animals in the agriculture system as a minimum. I'd also call for CCTV to be mandatory in slaughterhouses.

Australia is a nation of animal lovers and yet there are no protections for the animals suffering in our food system and most consumers remain ignorant of procedures that would largely shock and upset them. Consumers have a right to know how animals are treated in the meat, dairy and egg industries. Let the focus of this inquiry be tidying our own house and introducing protections to make the need for whistleblowing obsolete.

Thank you.

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File1:

File2:

File3: