

**From:** aglawsinquiry  
**Subject:** FW: Submission to enquiry re animal activists disrupting farms and their businesses..

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**From:** Steve Ronalds  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 July 2019 7:33 AM  
**To:** CSO  
**Subject:** Submission to enquiry re animal activists disrupting farms and their businesses..

*To whom it may concern regarding the ongoing issue of animal activists disrupting farm businesses.*

*I own and run a dairy farm in Jindivick Victoria. We milk 450 cows on almost 700 acres of land both owned and leased.*

*We also value add to our milk by processing our milk and selling direct to customers and stores through another business "Gippsland Jersey" with another family. Between both businesses we directly provide income to over 10 families.*

*The rise in attacks and invasions on farms is extremely frightening. We haven't experienced this personally on our farm but we do expect to unless something is done to protect our workplace and the place my wife and I raise our 3 small children.*

*I do know and am close to others who have had activists come onto their farms and significantly effect their business to the point of shutting down aspects of their business which allow the public to enjoy the farm experience.*

*I have also personally been attacked by activists at the Sth Gippsland Dairy Expo as Gippsland Jersey while we were doing a live display with cattle. This caused some of the farmers involved severe stress, lost sleep and fear of personal attacks as their addresses and phone numbers were public. Funnily enough when these people asked by myself to have a respectful conversation about their concerns they were gagged and were not allowed to talk to me. Either because they don't know the details behind the protest and disruption they are involved in or they are instructed not to talk. This by the organisers in itself is abusive, manipulative and controlling behaviour which would never be tolerated in a workplace.*

*Despite the fact that these activists use examples of extreme abuse, often from overseas experiences that aren't relevant to vast majority of Australian farming situations. They need to be stopped from spreading fear, lies, untruths & threatening the livelihoods and families private space that often is very much intertwined with each other.*

*With our business of processing our own milk we make the farm known publicly and have had to install security cameras around the property, not for fear of theft but to keep evidence in the case activists coming into the property and stealing stock or sabotaging milk in vats. No business should be put under the extra load of worrying about others ideologies disrupting their businesses or family lives!!  
On top of this the issues of bio security are enormous if we have people coming into our property bringing risk of disease health concerns from other farms either by accident or heaven forbid with intent to destroy our businesses.*

*Our factory to process our milk is located and listed on the Australian farms website listed with intent to destroy businesses and highlight properties to disrupt and cause fear.*

*Once again truth gets in the way of reality as no animals are milked on this property but we have heightened risks of biosecurity and possible sabotage. Once again security cameras are installed for protection for these issues. Not for fear of theft etc.*

*I would ask that laws are put in place to protect businesses that are choosing to provide valuable agricultural food to feed the nation.*

*Ideologies can't be an excuse to steal, destroy and creat mental health issues through stress, fear, loss of sleep. What has been happening is extortion, trespassing, threats to life and way of life, stealing, freedom of choice, basic disrespect with no fear of legal recourse. It must stop and protect freedom of choice to do what we want to do on our own property.*

*I would ask that consideration be given to tougher penalties that are in place already and then acted upon by the respected authorities.*

*I would ask that the messaging of the vegan movement in cities and towns be challenged to express truth and current real farming practices of 95% of farming situations in Australia and not highlight the odd bad farmer (that needs to be addressed too) or overseas practices. They are preying on uneducated (in farming) people and giving information out of context that isn't true to convert their thinking. Very manipulative, controlling and in all other situations would be called abuse! (Think cult or Hitler)*

*I would ask that freedom in Australia would let me carry out our business in an honest, legal and respectful way with out fear of attack on myself, family or staff and if anyone does have a problem with the way I do it then they can come and talk to me about their concerns in an open and respectful way and if we choose to disagree then part ways. Not harass me afterwards.*

*I welcome further dialogue if needed. Don't hesitate to contact.*

Kind regards,

Steve Ronalds  
Gippsland Jersey

P. [REDACTED]  
E. [REDACTED]

[www.gippslandjersey.com.au](http://www.gippslandjersey.com.au)