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**From:** Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture  
[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 June 2019 3:27 PM  
**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

Mrs Katherine Cain  
[REDACTED]

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## SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am writing a submission for the Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture.

As a beef farmer in South West Victoria I feel a sense of genuine fear regarding the threat of animal activists on my business, personal safety, community and livelihood. Whilst I acknowledge that animal activists are motivated by good intentions the manner in which they break laws, act violently, vandalise, steal and expose themselves and others to direct and indirect danger flies in the face of these good intentions. If other members of society did these things, but with different motivations, they would be severely punished, instead these people are virtually sanctioned by the legal system to proceed with their actions. The apparent “get out of jail free” card this section of society seems to carry reeks of preferentialism.

We as livestock farmers are abiding by the law – we run commercial businesses that produce food and fibre from animals. There are rules which we must adhere to ensure the welfare of our animals is met. As activists illegally entering commercial properties and stealing or vandalising, these people are breaking the law, and yet they frequently receive little or no punishment. Rules are rules and laws are laws – they are there for a reason – they protect everyone and in turn should apply to everyone.

The threat they pose to the welfare of livestock directly, i.e. taking them from paddocks and sheds and housing them in environments that are not suited to their wellbeing and by people who lack knowledge in animal husbandry is cruel. Further the indirect impact they pose to livestock by the spread of disease is a threat to not only these animals’ welfare but to our state’s economy. If an exotic disease was to spread across our state or country the results would be catastrophic. There are regulations that farmers must adhere to regarding the transfer of livestock between properties and certain procedures we all practice to reduce the risk of disease spreading that are certainly not being undertaken by activists.

I urge the Victorian government to impose harsher sentencing on animal activists than have been shown to date. I further suggest greater support for farmers to protect themselves and their property from animal activists entering their businesses. This support should be in the form of police assistance, creating awareness within farming communities of farmers’ rights as they relate to illegal entry, theft and vandalism

by activists and subsequent legal support as well as counselling. I also suggest that organisations that endorse, organise or encourage this type of illegal activity also be subject to penalty.

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File1:

File2:

File3: