

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 February 2017 9:28 PM
To: RSPCA Victoria Inquiry
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria

Mr Blair Findlay
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am writing today to express my views in regards to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria. I will address my concerns in the order they appear in the Terms of Reference.

(1) It is my belief that the RSPCA (Vic) has become far too involved and entwined in targeting legal and lawful activities, mainly hunting and sports where animals are involved.

It appears the RSPCA (Vic) has evolved into an organization more intent on lobbying against lawful activities through misleading, emotionally driven activism campaigns, than animal welfare. There are examples of this through the use of their website, billboards, and paid advertisements on TV and in print opposing activities that include, but are not limited to hunting, horse racing, greyhound racing and the like. Whilst it is important that participants in these activities must act lawfully and humanely at all times, it is not the place of the RSPCA to lobby against them.

I also have concerns regarding RSPCA (Vic) acting alongside well known animal rights groups with known links to criminal behaviour.

(2) I believe that is inappropriate of RSPCA (Vic) to be using funding provided by the Government to lobby against government endorsed activities. In the instance of some activities that the RSPCA lobbies against, the Government is actually profiting from charging participants for a license. It seems quite bizarre that this money is passed on to RSPCA (Vic) to then use to attack the existence and participants of that activity. I do not believe they should be using this money to encourage people to protest against these activities, take out advertisements that misrepresent the activity or the participants, or incite hatred towards the participants through exaggerated "facts", unproven claims or any other propaganda.

It is also my belief, given the fact RSPCA (Vic) ran at an operating loss of \$3.2 million in 2015, with an income of \$33.2 million and an expenditure of \$36.4 million, that it exists in a wasteful culture, and possibly runs on a lifestyle of expensive taste and top heavy management structures, where animal welfare takes a distant back seat to lavish spending.

(3) In relation to other consequential matters, I have many concerns, but only a few I will list here that I feel support my comments above the best.

RSPCA (Vic) was forced to hand over \$1.4 million in compensation after it was deemed their officers illegally killed 131 cattle on a Victorian farm in 2003. These are just a VERY SMALL number of the thousands of animals killed by RSPCA (Vic) annually.

In March 2016 RSPCA (Vic) failed to act in a timely manner to investigate a case of reported cruelty against around 50 horses in Victoria. What concerns me about this the most, is that at the same time the calls of concern about the welfare of these horses were going unanswered, RSPCA (Vic), were preoccupied lobbying and protesting against the LAWFUL opening of the 2016 duck hunting season. Is it possible, that the RSPCA (Vic) was so focussed on activism and protest against duck hunting, that the calls in relation to the suffering horses, were deemed to be of less significance, and ignored? I am also concerned about how it is that a black swan, retrieved by protesters from the Coalition Against Duck Shooting (CADS) was to end up in the possession of RSPCA working alongside Animals Australia (there are plenty of photos available online of the 2 posing with the swan) that ended up dying in their possession, with an admission to come later that the swan suffered from NO gunshot wounds. Is it possible that in a desperate attempt to gain publicity and air time for the waiting TV crews, that a swan was chased to exhaustion and captured by CADS, then given to RSPCA (Vic) and Animals Australia, where they posed with the animal until it subsequently passed? One would most certainly hope that was not the case, especially whilst dozens of horses laid dead or dying while calls for assistance and intervention went unanswered.

But these are the questions that must be asked and answered. I believe there must be a vast improvement in the operation and activities of the RSPCA (Vic) if they are to hold a position of authority and public trust, and this includes being more financially responsible.

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File1:

File2:

File3: