

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 March 2017 3:53 PM
To: RSPCA Victoria Inquiry
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria

Mr. Peter Fraser
[REDACTED]

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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1. The appropriateness of the RSPCA to use the powers given to it pursuant to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986, particularly in the context of its other objectives and activities.

I object to the extent of the powers given to the RSPCA, by the Act. I know of no other non-government interest group that has similar powers, such as entry of private property without a warrant, seizure of property and authority to prosecute. There are no parallels found with similar interest groups: hunters do not manage the game regulations; fishermen do not check bag limits; kennel organisations do not police the local dog laws.

The RSPCA is no longer the organisation that started with an aim to protect beasts of burden in a much less affluent, and harder, world. The organisation has clearly developed a strong animal rights interest, from the most senior levels down, and I consider it is no longer in a position to dispassionately execute its powers. There have been cases in recent years, where the courts have found against the RSPCA, that illustrate the conflict inherent between their animal rights interests and the intention of the act. I agree with the findings of the independent review of the Inspectorate conducted by former Victoria Police Commissioner Niel Comrie, AO, APM, that activism had caused reputational damage to the RSPCA and, like the independent review, I question the capacity of the RSPCA to operate as an independent body charged with enforcing Victoria's prevention of cruelty to animals laws.

The RSPCA has the luxury of charity status and operates fund raising and commercial businesses with favourable taxation treatment. The organisation has a large work force associated with the businesses and will be conflicted between its commercial goals and appropriately following the Act.

2. The appropriateness and use of funding provided by the Victorian Government, including in the context of its other objectives and activities.

I do not feel that it is appropriate to use Victorian government funding to support RSPCA activities when

there appears to be little oversight of those activities, they have substantial businesses that generate income, they have favourable taxation treatment beyond donations received, and there is no separation between their powers under the Act and their animal activism. In my opinion the Federal Government should review their charitable status in light of their animal rights and activism activities.

3. Consequential matters.

In my opinion the RSPCA should no longer have powers vested in them under the Act. The powers of the Act should be vested in various arms of the public service, such as Victoria Police and DELWP.

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File1:

File2:

File3: