Biosecurity and police at next hearing on impact of animal rights activism

Agriculture Victoria and Victoria Police will be among those presenting at a public hearing next Monday 23 September 2019 for the parliamentary inquiry into the impact of animal rights activism on Victorian agriculture.

The public hearing will be from 10 am to 3:45 pm in the Legislative Council Committee Room at Parliament House. The media and public are welcome to attend.

The Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee is investigating the effectiveness of legislation and other measures to prevent and deter activities by unauthorised persons on agricultural and associated industries. This includes an examination of the type and prevalence of unauthorised activity on Victorian farms and related industries, and ways of improving animal welfare outcomes.

The Committee will also be hearing from the Victorian Farmers Federation, the Law Institute of Victoria and Melbourne University researchers in biosecurity and animal welfare.

As part of the inquiry, the Committee is considering workplace health and safety and biosecurity risks, as well as the civil or criminal liability of those who promote or organise participation in unauthorised animal activism activities.

Public hearings have already been held in Melbourne, Bairnsdale, Warragul, Warrnambool and Horsham, with 491 submissions received.

The schedule for Monday's public hearing is available from the Committee's <u>website</u> along with the submissions and some of the transcripts from earlier hearings.

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