



Victorian
Farmers
Federation

WE THRIVE ON AGRICULTURE

27/05/2019

RE: VICTORIAN STOCK THEFTS AND CALL TO ACTION

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Goat Industry Advisory Group (GIAG), we are seeking your members support towards minimising stock thefts.

As you are aware recent stock thefts include goat stolen off farms by activists claiming to 'liberate animals'. Their practices are unlawful and the legal penalties at this time not a deterrent. VFF is of the opinion that the Victoria police theft data doesn't truly reflect actual, suspected or attempted stock thefts. Without this data the police can't plan for or provide a comprehensive response.

The VFF has been lobbying the government to review and make substantial stock theft penalties and will continue to do so. It is also working with stakeholders such as yourselves and Victorian police to provide comprehensive stock theft data. This is imperative because small numbers of stock thefts or suspected thefts aren't reported and as a result the overall issue not well understood.

The Victorian police force has voluntary Agricultural Liaison Officers (AGLO's). Their role is additional to their daily policing responsibilities and voluntary; therefore, their capacity to respond to stock thefts at times is challenged.

The VFF has been lobbying the Victoria government to remedy this by having dedicated well resourced AGLO's to respond timely to and investigate stock thefts. As you maybe aware a Parliamentary inquiry has recently been announced.

To assist in developing a robust data base we ask your members to assist by:

1. Reporting all stock thefts to Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 or local police station
2. Report all stock theft attempts to Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 or local police station
3. Monitor all on farm activity, staff, visitors and unknown vehicles, including noting relevant vehicle registrations
4. If possible, place video surveillance in high theft areas
5. Place trespass and or biosecurity signs on gateways



Victorian
Farmers
Federation

WE THRIVE ON AGRICULTURE

In summary, by working together the VFF and your members can contribute to developing the Victorian police theft database to assist them to respond to and mitigating stock theft.

I also encourage your members to consider VFF membership. Their membership will assist VFF in lobbying the government in its endeavors to change government policy and legislation, to promote a sustainable and viable Victorian agricultural industry.

For more information on the VFF Goat Industry Advisory Group visit:

www.vff.org.au

email: livestock@vff.org.au

telephone: 1300 882 833

For more information on obtaining trespass/biosecurity sign visit:

<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/product/farm-biosecurity-gate-sign/>

Regards,

Kaylene Baird

Goat Industry Advisory Group Chair

Regards,

Leonard Vallance

Livestock Group President