

**Submission
No 54**

**PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AMENDMENT (VIRTUAL STOCK
FENCING) BILL 2024**

Name: Mrs Jaime Moers

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To whom it may concern

Hi My name is Mrs Jaime Moers, I'm a farmer in the Upper Murray Reagon at Tooma NSW.

I am a first-generation farmer and run a Boer Goat Stud (meat goats). I am also a licenced wild lifecare and practice holistic management /regenerative land management and farming on our property.

I have been researching virtual fencing for a number of years and am desperate to have it legalised in every state in Australia.

Here are my reasons why:

- fencing is expensive especially in our area as we have an excessive amount of farrell deer, pigs and wild dogs that constantly bombard our properties and this means our boundary fences must be very secure if we have any hope of being able to manage our pasture and predator pressure to be able to run our livestock. While virtual fencing won't change the need for secure boundary fences it would be a game changer and save us a fortune for internal fencing.

V Fencing would mean not having to run Km's and Km's of internal fences – in our case up and down steep rocky mountainsides that often require a bulldozer to clear a track first, this is also nesecery in treed areas to clear a line for the fence to be erected on. None of which would be nesecery with v Fencing, no environmental disturbance would be needed, this would also negate the need to spray the weeds that come up on the bare ground that is created by the dozer which means less chemical be used, labour costs and people and the environment being exposed to harsh chemical.

- V Fencing is 100% flexible – if you decide the fence is not in the most effective or best spot you can shift it with the flick of a finger and at no extra cost or back breaking labour or resource sucking materials, no waist.
- From an ecological management standpoint the ability to easily move fences around would mean the ability to restrict stock from sensitive areas at certain times of the year when stock pleasure can be damaging – ie keeping stock out of areas that become wet throughout winter, out of springs and water causes that open up and are active only in specific seasons. A more effective way to manage river and creek banks - Yes people these areas do actually benefit from a carefully managed grazing periodically and is critical in maintaining a healthy eco system in these zones - the lock it up and leave it / fence it out and ignore it method has only assisted in these areas now being completely overrun with blackberries and other noxious weeds.
- Fencing material are costly not just to the farmer pocket but to the planet – the mining of minerals for steel for all things fencing and the destruction of forests for timber posts, not to mention the resources and fuel required for the plant and equipment nesecery to produce these products and ship them is grossly unsustainable.
- Current standardised and league fencing is dangerous to livestock and wildlife. I have lived in a rural setting my entire life and have seen and maintained just about every different type and configuration of conventional fence there is and I promise you they all have their flours and they all can kill and maim animals. Animals suffer gruesome and slow deaths, as they become entangled slowly dying of suffocation, dehydration, starvation, or electrocution and usually suffering horrific injuries in the process. Even animals that are found and recued in many cases still end up being destroyed due to their injuries. A little tingle from the collar of a V Fence is miniscule and momentary verses the belting you get of a conventional electric fence believe me I have multiple firsthand experiences of this over the years. I can only see V Fencing being far kinder and safer than anything we currently use.
- Conventional fencing especially this new love affair with dog fencing or the old ring-lock / hinge-joint style of net fencing is carving up the landscape to the extent of massive disturbance to our native

animal movement and migratory routes such as the Red kangaroo which is also a migratory species just to name one that is being severely impacted and would benefit from V Fencing inside properties. Other native animals being impacted and/or killed in conventional fences include bats, birds, kangaroos, wallabies, emus, possums, turtles.... V Fencing allows the natural flow of wildlife without obstacle or obstruction.

- V Fencing offers the stock 2 types of warning that they are getting too close to the fence before administering a small pull, where stranded electric fence give no warning, and barbed wire just puts holes in skin!
- V Fencing would make grazing management far more effective and economical. Allowing grazing management to be more flexible, allowing the ability to manipulate paddock size and shape based on annually fluctuating mob sizes and ecological targets. This equates to better land management, an easier way to implement regenerative practices and healthier animals as paddocks could be grazed more efficiently = stock spending less time in a greater number of paddocks allowing longer rest/pasture recovery time before stock return to re-graze. This = the ability to break parricide cycles = less drenching = less \$ spent on chemical drenches = less time animals have to be in the stockyards stressing and losing weight versus grazing and gaining weight = less chemical in the food supply chain and being pooped onto the pastures which kills our dung beetles and soil microbes.
- Targeted Grazing business using goats for fire fuel load reduction, weed control and land restoration are becoming more popular as people, Co's, and councils realise the value of these little eoc warriors and V fencing would allow the ability for so much more of this essential work to be done. No more lugging big heavy awkward expensive nets (portable fences) through impossible terrain. I am in the process of establishing my own targeted grazing business with our goats. After many years of using our goats to control noxious weeds and regenerate native pastures on our property I am still staggered at this incredible work they do and how quickly they can transform the land in such a positive way. V Fencing would allow me more effectively and efficiently target graze blackberry and other weed infestations along with reducing fuel load for fire season when working with forestry, National Parks, councils, businesses and private operators
- I am also desperate to be able to access V fencing to better manage our grazing. We need to break our property up into smaller paddocks but I hate the idea of having to divide it up with permanent, solid fences and the steep rocky slopes make portable fencing incredibly hard work, especially when stock need to be moved every few days to the best outcomes. Putting solid fencing in these areas is going to be very difficult.
- V Fencing would also be of huge value when carrying out road side grazing, keeping stock off the actual road and on the grassy verges to do their valuable work. I would also make it easier to keep the stock mobbed up tight for maximum grazing impact and efficiency. Road side grazing is an important tool and strategy for fire fuel load reduction in many rural areas that farmers carry out to help protect their properties and communities (not just in times of drought when feed is in short supply).
- Not having solid fences throughout properties also increases the chance of survival of both livestock and wild life during floods and fires allowing them the ability to escape.

In 2021 we had 31 head of stud stock stolen valued at more than \$40,000. And that's just the value of actual animals taken the true lifetime value of those breeders is in the hundreds of thousands. Had we had V Fencing I would have known the second the stock had breached their paddock boundary and likely been able to intercept the thieves, rescued my beautiful Does and god willing been able to prosecute the thieves (mind you they only get a slap on the wrist these days!) It's not just the financial blow of this that hurts but the emotional and sociological. When you have a stud you know every animal individually and personally you are there to see them come into the world, become mothers and grandmothers, there not just our

business they are our family. I live in constant fear that the thieves will return and take more. No one should have to live in fear like this!

Please not I'm not affiliated to any V Fencing Co. or supplier just an ecologist and farmer that can see the massive benefits across all areas that this technology would allow.

I could write many more pages on the benefits that I see with V Fencing. The potential for it and what it makes possible in managing landscapes, eco systems, livestock and wildlife health and safety and more, is vast. I'm so excited to see what is possible! But Non of it will be possible if the law doesn't change! And I honestly see no valid reason for it not to.

If it means I never have to pull another dead or injured animal out of a fence, never have to take the life of another little soul that is too damaged to be saved, it would be worth changing the law just for that!

Kind Regards

Jaime Moers

PS: I'm happy to further discuss or explain any of the point I've made with anyone who wants more information.

You can reach me at [REDACTED]

PPS: sorry for the poor spelling and grammar, it's late, I'm tire and frankly it's never a strength of mine!