

**Submission
No 56**

**INQUIRY INTO LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE
DAIRY INDUSTRY IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Organisation: Refarm'd
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Hi,

My name is Geraldine. I started Refarm'd for multiple reasons. I always wanted to create a new model of animal sanctuaries that would not be dependent on donations, volunteers and require to use more resources to save animals coming from an highly resource consuming industry.

But I also wanted these sanctuaries to have a direct impact on animal exploitation. We can't continue saving animals if the animal farming industry continues to bring new lives into this earth, by the billions, each year.

I also was very aware of the struggles farmers were facing and this "war" between them and vegans. I believe veganism is about compassion for all, human beings as well. And that we need to work together to bring positive change.

Giving farmers a new business model that doesn't benefit from the exploitation of sentient beings is key to making it work and starting to have a real impact on animal exploitation. It also helps the farmer connect to his animals on another level, where they don't need to put any monetary value on them, and can truly see them for the individuals they are, who like us only strive to enjoy their lives.

In a constantly changing market, the dairy industry is also struggling more and more. Farmers especially, those at the end of the chain, are those who are most affected by it. They don't have a say on the price they sell the milk and often sell for less than production costs. Land and equipment are getting more and more expensive at the same time, leaving farmers in a constant struggle to make it work each month. It is a failing industry, that profits from the exploitation of non-human and human beings.

I believe to help our farmers we need to help them get out of this system. And that's what we are trying to do at Refarm'd. We help them, without investment or major risks taking from their side, to make a smooth shift into a booming market that is the plant milk industry. Our model is conceived in a way that farmers still keep their identity, their farm and their animals. Something that is really important to them.

They continue feeding our countries and providing a healthy and fresh, handmade product that is only made with local ingredients and sold, in glass bottles, to customers locally. The production costs are low and we help the farm overtime to optimise their global costs so that farmers earn a better life with less effort.

We think Refarm'd can have a huge impact on how we view the agricultural industry and show the way to how the future of farming could look like. A fairer and more ethical future.

We are being contacted by more and more farmers, all around the world that want to get out of the animal exploiting system and see that there is need for change. I've been in contact with 20+ farmers over the last months. There is a real need that we are trying to respond to.

The dairy industry is a devastating industry for our planet and its inhabitants. That's why I believe it is crucial to provide plans and solutions for a new kind of farming more respectful to the earth, animals and humans.

Thank you