



Stage four restrictions won't stop the killing

Dear Editor, Hundreds of COVID-19 cases have been linked to Victorian slaughterhouses, but the new stage four restrictions allow them to stay open while, throughout the State, people are losing their jobs, businesses, homes and even their lives. As "non-essential" businesses close, the totally non-essential slaughterhouses continue to kill thousands of animals every hour, animals who, like us, want to live. Let's not forget what got us into this mess. Experts believe the virus originated at a meat market in China. It's no wonder that a deadly virus flourished in such an environment, with so many stressed, terrified animals in close conditions. But factory farms and abattoirs in Australia are no different, and in fact, the types of animals most commonly connected to viral outbreaks in humans are chickens and pigs. Around Australia, millions of chickens are crammed together in small cages and pigs are packed in faeces-ridden sheds and abattoirs, where they are killed on floors soaked with blood, urine, and other bodily fluids. Overall, 75% of recently emerged infectious diseases affecting humans were transmitted from other animals. To curb the spread of this pandemic, and prevent the next one, we urgently need to close the slaughterhouses. And as individuals we have the power to effect change every time we sit down to eat.

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