

## Notorious vegan activists back out on Perth's streets

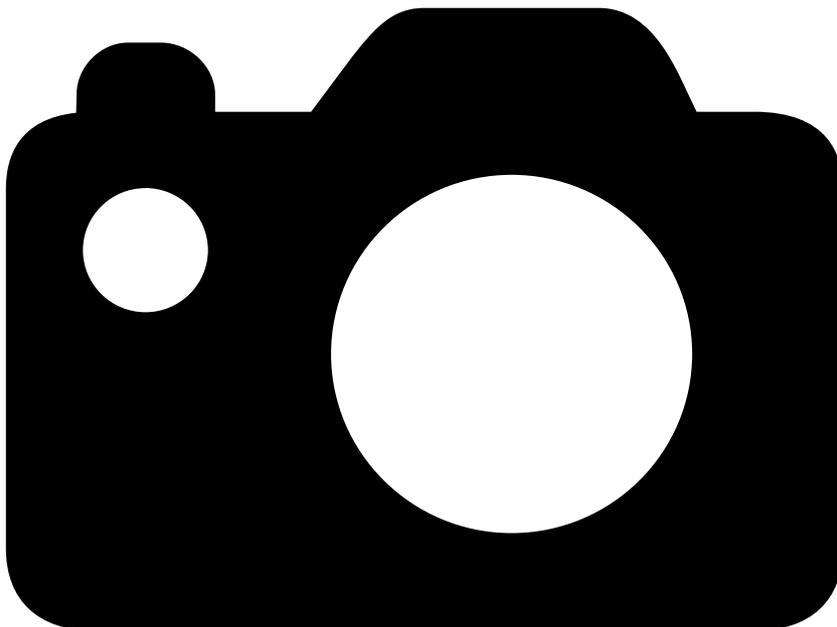
*Sarah Ison*

3-3 minutes

Brandishing placards and TV screens depicting graphic scenes of bleeding animals, activist group Direct Action Everywhere marched silently down the streets of Northbridge tonight, led by notorious leader James Warden himself.

About 20 men and women gathered at the Supreme Court Gardens at 5.30pm and, after speaking with police for some 30 minutes, began their walk through the city.

Warden, who was charged with stealing a calf from a South West farm earlier this year, headed up the group as they passed onlookers and restaurant patrons on the Perth streets.



Vegan activist James Warden speaks to police before leading a silent vegan protest through the streets of Perth. Picture: Jackson Flindell

Two policemen on bikes followed the sombre line winding through the streets, but left after half an hour.

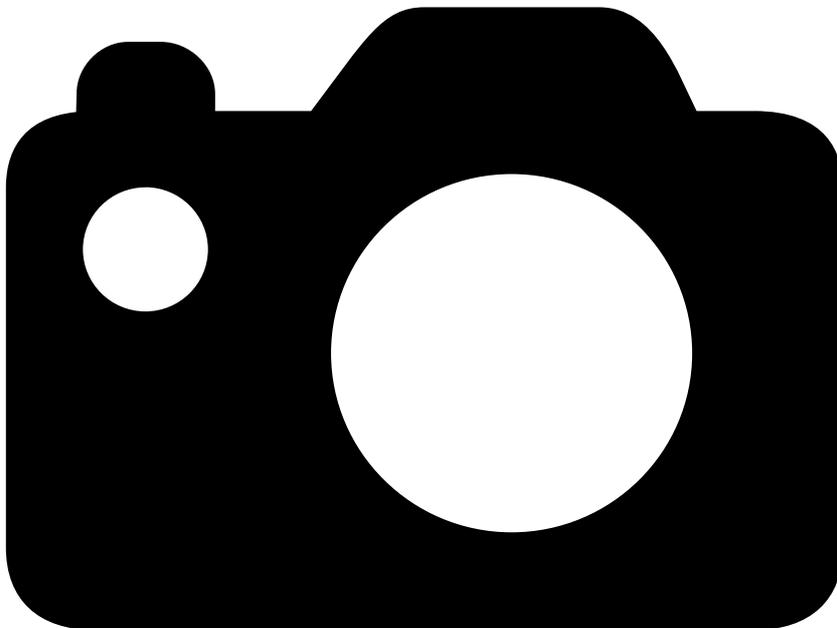
Jimmy Garratt, who was standing outside Zambreros, said the group just wanted to be “seen”.

“You can’t make a difference with a sign,” he said.

“Besides, even if you could, it would shut down whole economies, it’s just not going to happen.”

Others, like onlooker Tori James, said she was glad someone was doing something.

“I’m vegan, and it’s good to see,” she said.



Vegan activists during a silent vegan protest through the streets of Perth. Picture: Jackson Flindell

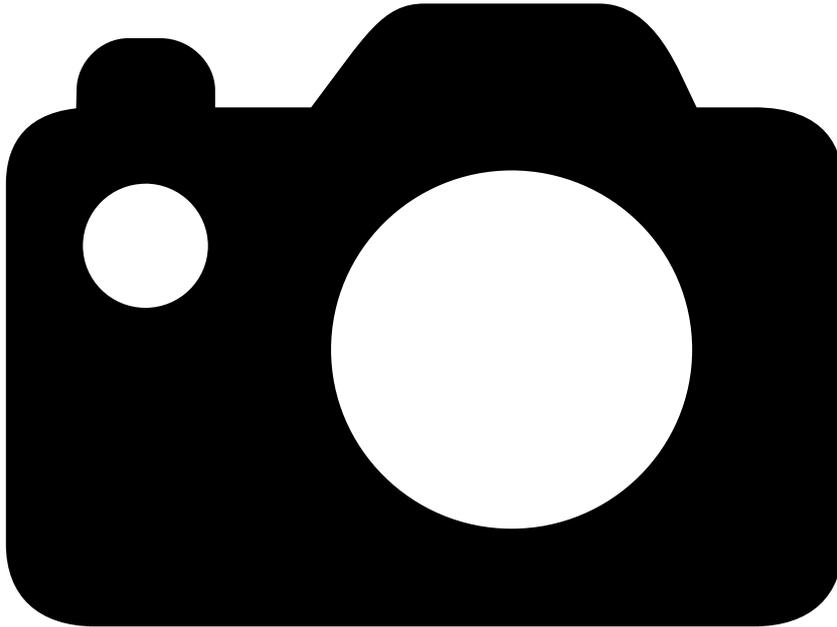
The group marched through Yagan Square, holding high their signs of “you have been lied to” as the West Coast/Melbourne game played on the screens above.

Claps, jeers and cheers followed them down William Street, as onlookers gawked at the footage graphic footage.

One onlooker, Marie Chan, said she was shocked by what she saw.

“It’s so sad, it makes you wonder if there’s not a better way of doing things,” she said.

But Belgium Beer Cafe patron Ed Peters said while he didn’t mind people protesting, he took issue with it being forced upon him.



Vegan activists during a silent vegan protest through the streets of Perth. Picture: Jackson Flindell

“Be vegan, I don’t care,” he said.

“But why do they have the right to tell me what to eat?”

The group did not enter any restaurants at tonight’s meet.

Warden said he and the group were not breaking any laws in protesting, nor did being part of the action breach any of his bail conditions.

“We have to be the voice for animals,” he said.

“People feel uncomfortable sometimes with this kind of protest. I would prefer to be uncomfortable and show the truth than to be comfortable and have neglect.”