

Response to Supplementary questions to witnesses NSW Farmer, Egg Farmers Australia and Australian Pork Ltd

NSW Farmers

Have any of those model codes removed the exemption for stock animals- that they do not exercise- in section 9(1) of the Prevention to Cruelty Act?

Under the model codes, the exemptions contained in Section 9(1A) still exist. However, the standards and guidelines for many livestock industries have been developed to ensure that welfare standards for commercial animals have improved, based on scientific evidence, since the inception of POCTA in 1979.

Animal welfare is a complex and multifaceted concept. It is critical that scientific evidence is at the bedrock of all animal welfare requirements. Fundamentally the welfare profile of animals is shaped by a number of factors and positive welfare outcomes are achieved through all production systems.

With respect to confinement, it should be highlighted that this is only one measure for understanding the welfare state of an animal. There are a range of positive welfare outcomes that are produced in these systems, such as minimised physical harm, nearly zero risk of predation, and superior health outcomes due to a high degree of biosecurity. A high degree of biosecurity in these systems helps prevent endemic disease, which is crucial for animal health and welfare.

Australian Pork Limited

Do you or your membership have any experience of people trying to raise a complaint about the way they have been treated or raising a grievance about the process that was followed when the RSPCA or AWL interacted with them?

To the best of our knowledge, there has been no complaints from producers or industry bodies about the way in which RSPCA or AWL carried out their compliance or enforcement processes when attending piggeries.

On 7 January, we received an email from a producer who notified the RSPCA that she had seen pigs being transported in hot weather. The RSPCA responded by saying that they were not the appropriate body to deal with those types of complaints. APL were active over the summer to ensure producers understood their obligations around hot weather transport and sent several notices to this effect, referencing APL's publication "Is it fit for the intended journey?".

Egg Farmers of Australia

1. *Do you or your membership have any experience of people trying to raise a complaint about the way they have been treated or raising a grievance about the process that was followed when the RSPCA or AWL interacted with them?*

Neither I, nor membership of Egg Farmers of Australia have raised with me a complaint about the way they have been treated or a grievance about the process that was followed with the RSCPA interacted with them in relation to an issue since I have commenced as CEO of Egg Farmers of Australia.

Egg Farmers of Australia Board Directors or staff have not had interaction with AWL since my commencement.

2. *Does it produce eggs under three different systems: battery cage, barn and free range?*

As outlined on the PACE Farm website '...We want you to have choice, which is why we produce free range, barn, cage and organic eggs.'

3. *Is the barn system approved by RSPCA?*

As outlined on the RSPCA website, the RSPCA approves barn housing systems.