

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF BATTERY CAGES FOR HENS IN
THE EGG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am horrified that in this day and age we are still condemning hens to barren cages where they have very little space. I believe their space is no bigger than an iPad. In this environment they are unable to spread their wings or do any of the natural and instinctive behaviours that they were evolved to do.

To consider whether something is humane, ask yourself if you would like it done to you. Would you want to exist in a tiny space and live on hard wire flooring. Never socialising with your friends, never feeling the sun on your back.

This is the life of millions of hens that are bred and exist only for the convenience of the human animal. After this pitiful existence and when they are no longer deemed viable i.e. they can not produce more eggs, they are mishandled and trucked to a death which must be terrifying for them.

I have witnessed this latter process and it is truly inhumane and heartbreaking.

Many years ago when I used to take riding lessons, the property I learned on had a number of free range hens that lived there. They were pets like our cats and dogs and were not ever going to be used for a few moments on the human palate.

They could roam free, choose their own social groups and hierarchy, and do all of the things that they were evolved to do. One thing that became very obvious to me was how individual these hens were. They each had their own personality and traits. They had favourite people and in so many respects, they were no different from you and I. This was an awakening for me.

I cannot believe that in this day and age, Australia is still maintaining these practices. The use of these cages must be stopped. What have we come to when we allow sentient beings to live in these conditions so that we can have eggs and chicken flesh?

Mahatma Gandhi once said that a country and its moral progress could be judged by the way it treated animals. What does this say about Australia.

Please consider phasing out quickly these horrific cages. Thank you.