

**Submission
No 93**

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

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The phrase "First do no harm" should apply to life in general. We are not a poor nation and if we all purchase from proprietors that uphold a decent level of care to the animals in our food chain then the cost of doing so will come down. If being caring means that we will pay a little more for things and thus we purchase a little less then the upside is that we will waste less too; which is not such a bad thing.

I recently came back from living in Hong Kong (which I appreciate is a privilege) but whilst I was there, I had to change the way I shopped because all foods that we westerners like are much more expensive. Even basics such as meat, milk and cheese are double, triple and quadruple the price (fresh milk was actually 7 times the price!) so I got good at making left-overs go further and waste was just not an option.

I know that an increase in the price of eggs is going to hit some harder than others but it is just one item on the shelves and to be honest, we should never have allowed cruel farming practices to occur in the first place. At what point did we look the other way and allow ourselves to accept such heartless behaviour?

I believe that we should ban caged eggs and while we are at it, I also think we need to change how we handle male chicks. Let's not just fix the squeaky wheel let's raise the bar back to being simply decent human beings.