

**Submission  
No 129**

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

**Name:** The Hon Richard Jones

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It is unquestionably cruel keeping laying hens confined in wire cages their entire laying lives.

They have no access to sun, fresh air or the ability to walk and stretch their wings.

They are unable to choose their cage partners and they are debeaked to prevent pecking.

Hens are social animals and choose which other hens they prefer to be with in the free range state.

We rescued a number of caged hens the farmer no longer wanted.

It was remarkable to see how they recovered from their ordeal. They learned how to walk for the first time as their feet uncurled. They were finally able to stretch their wings. They could have dust baths and scratch and peck for insects, for the first time.

They could choose with whom they wished to socialise.

Cruelty in the name of extra profits is simply no longer acceptable in today's Australia.

It must be no longer tolerated.

Australia is better than this. There are no excuses whatsoever to allow this cruel practice to continue. I sat in the gallery in the House of Commons to witness the passing of legislation banning leg hold traps in 1958, termed "diabolical instruments of torture" by one MP.

It took many years for New South Wales to do the same, a campaign I was involved with in 1972. Is it possible for the New South Wales Government to show leadership and rid us of these diabolical cages?