

**Submission
No 189**

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

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Date Received: 2 July 2019

I am writing this on behalf of all Chickens AND Roosters caught up in the egg industry. I volunteer at a Chicken rescue Charity "Let The Ladies Go" and i have seen first hand time and time again the cruelty within this industry. I work rehabilitating those with serious disabilities and illnesses that the industry has left them with. NO animal should have to endure a life of this, this industry is one of the most cruel industries and it needs to come to an end.

There is a common misconception that caged hens are the only thing that needs to change, but i urge any member of this committee to visit a "free range farm" or an "RSPCA approved farm" and it will quickly change your mind. The fact is they are still enduring the same harsh conditions, but without a cage around them, still walking on wire and still squished against each other due to lack of space per chicken. These Chickens have also never seen the outside of a barn and the ammonia smells are enough to make a human vomit instantly.

Why are we putting living, breathing beings through such horrendous acts of cruelty and why are we allowed to advertise to the public lies about what goes on. Packaging should reflect what really goes on, what a "free range Chicken" really looks like in the industry. The fact is that we are told lies after lies and most of Australia still have no idea that they are being fed lies.

The farms need to have regular inspections, the amount of dead bodies laying on floors each and every day because their bodies can't even withstand the 18 months of torture is disgusting and what is even more disgusting is how careless the farmers become. Not due to their own fault but due to lack of enforcement and better regulations regarding these poor darlings. I have visited many farms that have chickens covered in blood, stuck in drains after falling through the floors, left to die and eat their own poo for weeks, skip bins being replaced every half an hour due to dead body pile ups, chickens living with broken bones going unnoticed and untreated because the farmers couldn't even see them amongst the dead bodies and cramped barns.

No animal should be forced to live without medical attention and to have prolonged suffering. I have personally walked through barns and found girls with broken necks, backward legs and dislocated feet to name a few. The amount of prolapses that also happen in these barns due to zero space to move is just horrendous.

I feel that if every farmer had to re-home the chickens after the 18 months instead of sending them to slaughter they would instantly make changes to look after the girls better because they don't want to take the abuse from the public for the conditions they are in. The fact is that these girls deserve to have a life after what they have been through, they shouldn't be killed when they are deemed to slow down in egg production. They can live happy lives with loving families and still provide them with eggs every single day if need be.

There also needs to see an end to the slaughtering of day old roosters in these hatchery programs. Nothing should be killed for their gender. Another point to raise is school hatchery programs, they are the most sickening thing, how is it okay to take the eggs away from their mother, to watch them hatch, play with them for a few days and then "send them back to the company that gave them to them". Children are never told what happens to the boys that get sent back.... They die.

There really does need to be a lift on the ban on roosters in residential areas as the rate of rooster dumping is unbelievable. Roosters are no more a nuisance than a barking dog, and it would solve the problems with roosters dying and being dumped.

I feel that if the egg industry is to continue, better rules and regulations to protect chickens need to be in place, better medical attention and space for the girls to move, they should have access to outside and enough food for all of the chickens, the girls are given bare minimum and are skin and bones and then are starved to save money before the slaughterer arrives which is disgusting! The slaughterers also break bones of the girls due to rough handling into their trucks which they then have to sit in those squished crates for days before they are slaughtered, all whilst having broken bones.

I urge this committee to take this matter very seriously and make the change that needs to be made, in this modern day there is no excuse for animal cruelty. Just because something isn't seen as a pet does not mean it should be treated with acts of cruelty and violence. Please visit these places and see for yourself, it is the best insight you can possibly get. Thankyou and i really hope the girls see some justice from your decisions.