

**Submission
No 203**

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

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I formally request that caged eggs and hens living in horrific conditions in battery cages be banned in NSW and Australia. Caged eggs have been banned in Europe 12 years ago.

A practice of Forced molting must be outlawed.

Forced molting is the practice of causing stress to egg-laying hens, usually through starvation, so that they will produce larger eggs later. ... Withholding food from the birds for 5 to 21 days causes them to lose weight, lose their feathers, and stop egg production.

The eggs hatch in a machine known as a hatchery. They already are not considered animals however products as they are literally hatched in a machine at a place called a hatchery. The chicks have been genetically modified. Yellow for male and brown for female. This enables the yellow males to be separated alone with sick or diseased chicks and chopped up in a blending machine known as a macerate or gassed or suffocated in plastic bags. The male yellow chicks are treated as wastage by the egg laying industry to be discarded as they have little worth as they do not produce eggs.

The female chicks are placed in a circular machine and have their beaks burnt off as a method of debeaking cutting off with a hot blade. The beaks are the equivalent of hands to a human to a chick as they need their beaks.

The hens are genetically modified to produce hundreds of eggs a year when normally naturally they would produce just over a dozen eggs a year.

Many hens suffer by having feet trapped in the cage and do not get any help. Also disease is spread throughout these sheds as the hens live on abhorrent conditions leading to recent recalls as the products threaten human consumers

There is total over crowding in cages and hens are so squashed that they can not even touch the ground. They can not walk freely explore, forage, scratch, flap wings or display any natural behaviours in a cage. They spend their entire lives on these cages living in utter misery.

A hen can live for 12 years yet at 19 months they are ruthlessly grabbed and packed into plastic containers. Their legs are broken on this process as the employees have many thousands to do on a single day, each day every day..semi trailer loads of hens only 18 months old as that is the age the egg industry considers them to be past their maximum egg laying capacity they are discarded.

The hens are used once killed in the pet food industry and other purposes . The hens entire lives were misery.

Each hen is a living sentient being with their own personalities and behaviours. They deserve the right to be able to exhibit natural behaviours.

One in six free range eggs bought is actually a caged egg as they get mixed up throughout the egg processing and packaging consumers buying free range are on effect still unknowingly buying cage eggs. Also consumers against cage eggs if not products made from eggs such as non vegan pastry will often be produced from caged eggs.

The hens when killed are gassed with CO₂ which is like burning them from the inside out. This is more so the workers in abattoirs don't feel as bad as they ate already dead on the production

process. Others methods are hanging like chickens by their legs and then their throats are cut and then they are boiled. The problem is many hens in fear and distress move and they are still alive and in effect millions of hens are boiled alive.

The words like natural, barn laid, organic, free range and humane are just cliché words to cover the inherently cruel practices of the entire egg industry whether in cages or free range. The battery hens must as a priority be allowed to exhibit their natural behaviours such as being allowed to perch or forage for food. It is a crime against animals to have them unable to exhibit any form of natural behaviour.

The cage egg industry should be immediately banned. However if not able to a short phase out period should be given.

I hope the NSW committee imposes a ban on caged eggs freeing hens from these battery cages.