

**Submission
No 248**

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

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Mahatma Ghandi said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral compass can be judged by the way it treats its animals". If that is right, what must the rest of world think of the way NSW treats its animals? I know Australians who will not travel to Spain because they do not approve of bullfighting. Similarly, some people are reluctant to holiday in South Korea because they find the idea of people eating dog meat is abhorrent.

There are now so many countries in the world where battery egg farming is outlawed. We (NSW) are clearly at risk of being looked down upon because of the laws which allow battery egg farming to continue. My family are not vegans and we do enjoy free range eggs and we are quite prepared to pay a little extra.

If the average Australian child was to be taken on a school excursion to a an battery egg farm they would be horrified. What would they think of the politicians who make these laws which allow these things to happen.

So far I have not mentioned the suffering to the poor hens and chicks. They are well known and include;

- * Permanent confinement into inadequate, tiny cages.
- * Chronic pain due to standing on sloping wire floors and inability to exercise, causing muscular atrophy.
- * Artificial lighting to increase egg production.
- * Debeaking of chicks without pain relief.
- * Male chicks being disposed of by being thrown alive into a grinder.

Please let us embrace the practices of the other countries which have outlawed battery egg production.