

Submission
No 254

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 8 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge the following submission to the **NSW Legislative Council Select Committee on the Use of Battery Cages for Hens in the Egg Production Industry**.

I am strongly opposed to the use of battery cages and I hereby call upon the NSW government to **outlaw battery cages for hens in NSW** once and for all.

I have kept my own hens for many years now. They are a much loved part of my family. Each hen has her own personality. It is criminal that any living creature should be subjected to such unnecessary cruelty. Like ourselves, all living beings deserve the right to live without fear and pain. To stretch our limbs, to run, to feel the warmth of the sun and the breeze on our skin.

There is no doubt that the use of battery cages in egg production is cruel and the cause of extreme suffering and misery. Their environment is completely unnatural, from the food they're restricted to, the air they breathe, the wire they stand on and are crushed against and the only source of light they see. From their beginning to their end, it is a life of torment and unimaginable suffering. Even when they are "spent" there is no compassion in their slaughter.

I do not believe there could be any means by which this is justifiable.

There needs to be complete transparency with accurate labelling. Not a sugar coated translation of what producers think the public want to know. If there is truly no cruelty, why the deception?

I would like to believe that Australia takes pride in the way our animals are treated. With respect, kindness and compassion. That our animal protection laws are enforced and respected in the treatment of all animals. Like our beloved dogs and cats, the capacity to suffer does not stop because this poor life has become part of a production line for profit. Yet we seem to treat them so.

The conditions these animals are forced to endure would also unquestionably impact our environment and the health of workers with disease, odour emissions, vermin and contamination of soil and water.

Even though there is incredible suffering to hens in all mass egg farming methods, banning the battery cage is the first positive step we need to make towards a better future for our animals, our environment and food quality.

We can no longer claim ignorance. For even scientifically supported evidence shows us that all farmed animals are intelligent, feel complex emotions like love, friendship, fear, loneliness and they certainly have the capacity to suffer pain as we do.

Thank you for considering my views.