

**Submission  
No 322**

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

**Name:** Ms Kathleen Weekley

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Dear Committee members,

I take this opportunity to add my voice to all the others calling, and who have been calling for many years, for an end to the practice of keeping hens in cages. It is long past time that the practice be BANNED.

It is barbaric and everybody who is being honest with him or herself knows that it is barbaric to keep animals in cages in which they remain all their (short) lives without room to do anything but remain alive, in pitiful states of health.

We all know that this is cruel and that such cruelty should be against the law; indeed, cruelty to animals IS against the law - except if the animals in question are raised and killed for our food and clothing. Such hypocrisy is a moral outrage that should be banished from any decent society.

There is no argument, either, that caged-bird egg farms can be "managed" better in order to avoid suffering: ALL the evidence shows hens need SPACE and freedom to move if they are to have anything like a normal hen life. But we don't need scientific tests to tell us this - it is given to common sense.

All around the western world, battery egg production has been or is being phased out; there is simply no excuse for Australia not to do likewise. I - and millions of others - look forward to seeing the NSW government decide for once and for all that Australians are not a bunch of backward barbarians, treating their animals in ways that future generations will look upon with disbelief.

Yours sincerely,  
Kathleen Weekley (PhD)