

**Submission
No 324**

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

Name: Mr Rowley Goonan

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Dear Committee members,

Thank you for listening to my views regarding battery cages in NSW.

All animals deserve to be treated with respect, especially those we use to produce our food and fibre.

It is therefore appalling to me that in 2019, we are still allowing hens to be confined to barren battery cages.

Australia is called 'the lucky country' and we pride ourselves on being both an intelligent and compassionate people, yet in regards to battery farming we are neither. In fact we are downright greedy and cruel. That's the truth of it. How people can torture those poor little birds ... just for profit, is simply shocking. There is no other motive for keeping hens confined and forcing them to lead a life of pain and misery other than greed.

You don't need to be a scientist to know that animals/poultry raised in torturous conditions produce fatty, unhealthy meat, loaded with an excess of adrenal and other hormones. We eat that meat, or in this case eggs, and all of that un-goodness gets passed onto us.

I'm told that battery cages have now been phased out of all 28 nations of the European Union, several US states including the largest egg-producing state of California, and are in the process of being phased out in New Zealand and Canada.

We need to follow suit ... not soon, but immediately.

Some say this issue is not just about animal welfare, but to me it is. It's about putting kindness before greed and cruelty. Is kindness not a far superior value? And to those who say, 'we can't afford this. Battling Ozzie families won't be able to take the shock' (of what will probably be as little as a 10% rise in egg prices) To that I say rubbish. The fact is, as human beings, we can't afford to go on being tortures of little birds; birds which give us so much.

I'm an egg eater, a meat eater and a poultry eater. The issue is not so much whether we eat animal products, but rather what we do to those animals BEFORE we eat them. They are giving to us and for that reason alone they deserve our kindness and respect during the growing/laying period.

Please reject battery cages outright. Please move to phase them out as quickly as possible. Do it because you are a good human being and for no other reason.

Kind regards,
Rowley Goonan