

**Submission
No 332**

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

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Date Received: 5 July 2019

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Date: 5 July 2019 at 10:26:26 pm AEST

Subject: Submission to the NSW inquiry into the use of battery cages for hens in the egg industry

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

The poor welfare of battery caged hens is caused by the cages themselves and cannot be overcome, and Australia is falling behind the developed world in failing to end their use.

Those are among the findings of a [comprehensive scientific](#) report compiled by RSPCA Australia, which found overwhelming evidence that hens in battery cages live with frustration and suffering from being unable to flap or stretch their wings, perch, nest, forage, or dust bathe.

RSPCA Australia has taken the initiative to properly examine the impact of different cage and cage-free housing systems on the welfare of the birds

While no layer hen housing system is perfect, battery cages simply cannot meet the welfare needs of hens, and this is inherent to the battery cage system.

The report comes as it's revealed that the draft of Australia's new national standards for the egg industry will allow the continued use of battery cages, despite irrefutable scientific evidence of the harm they cause.

If the draft Standards fail to phase out battery cages, this could see more than 200 million layer hens suffering in these conditions over the next 20 years.

The scientific evidence is clear and the community's concerns and expectations should no longer be ignored – the government must act to legislate a phase-out of battery cages now

Battery cages are prohibited from use in the United Kingdom, the European Union, Switzerland, and some states in the US; while New Zealand, Canada and other states in the US are currently phasing them out.

Thank you for your attention.

Louis