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

Name: Ms Heather White

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Dear Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my views on the use of battery cages in NSW.

I am not going to repeat all of the data and evidence that hundreds or even thousands of other Australians have submitted to you. You don't need to hear it again! The simple fact is that the practice of keeping hens in battery cages for the extent of their working life is wrong.

I personally have purchased ex battery hens to have at home and initially they are a pathetic sight to see that they can hardly stand up in a pen when released having been so confined. Their beaks had been partly cut off and some had obviously picked at by the hens in adjoining cages as their heads were bald.

Animal welfare is very important to me. All animals deserve to be treated with respect and this includes factory farmed pigs and battery hens.

It is therefore shocking to me that in 2019 we are still allowing hens and pigs to be confined in these conditions. It is a hideous form of torture.

It is time to stop this "economic" style of production. Australia is supposed to be a "civilised" and affluent country. Why do we condone such barbaric practices?

Thank you for considering my submission. I look forward to seeing decisive action from the NSW Government on this issue.

Yours sincerely Heather White