

**Submission
No 337**

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

Name: Ms Delphine Troughear

Date Received: 8 July 2019

Dear Committee members,

I wish to provide an opinion on the use of battery cages in NSW.

Hens and Roosters are more intelligent than the population at large gives them credit for.

Chickens have over 30 distinct vocalizations that communicate a wide range of information pertaining to territory, mating, nesting, distress, danger or fear, contentment and food discovery.

A January, 2013, feature story in The Scientific American called The Startling Intelligence of the Common Chicken opens by explaining that the chicken “can be deceptive and cunning, that it possesses communication skills on par with those of some primates and that it uses sophisticated signals to convey its intentions.

When making decisions, the chicken takes into account its own prior experience and knowledge surrounding the situation. It can solve complex problems and empathizes with individuals that are in danger.”

The lead researcher and co-author of the SA article,Carolynn L. Smith, has also published numerous in depth scientific reports of her study of chicken behavior such as The Chicken Challenge: What Contemporary Studies of Fowl Mean for Science and Ethics (August, 2012).

A hierarchal order is very important to the social lives of chickens. The head rooster protects the territory the group inhabits, as well as the chicks and hens in the group.

I personally believe, confining hens to battery cages is cruel. I never ever purchase eggs from battery hens.

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.

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

Kind regards,
Delphine Troughear