

**Submission
No 355**

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

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Keeping chickens in battery cages is cruel and inhumane and must be rapidly phased out. I cannot believe that anyone thinks it is acceptable for a chicken to have the space of an A4 piece of paper to live its life. They can't spread their wings, scratch at the ground or move freely and are constantly cramped up against other chickens.

If children saw where the caged eggs they were eating came from it would give them nightmares. I'm sure most of them think the egg comes from a happy chicken that spends its days roaming around the farmyard, scratching in dirt, laying an egg on a nest, which is then collected by the farmer. This is the scenario that they see in picture books. The reality of egg production is nothing like this.

People are increasingly buying cage free eggs, but are still consuming caged eggs unknowingly in processed products - cakes, biscuits etc. All products that contain eggs from caged chickens need to be labelled so people can make informed choices.

The egg industry needs to be transparent and accountable, people are sold the idea that eggs come from happy chickens living great lives. There needs to be better regulation of the cage free and free range producers. Consumers buy eggs labelled free range, in the belief that chickens are well cared for and have a lot of room to roam and forage, but this is often not the case.

NSW has an opportunity to end the cruelty that is inflicted on millions of chickens, the people of NSW want better protection for animals and an end to animal cruelty. Please ban battery cages.