

**Submission
No 380**

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

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I strongly believe that battery cages for hens is unacceptable, cruel and abhorrent. These farms fail to meet the most basic needs of hens to express natural behaviours and have any quality of life. It is completely unjustifiable to keep animals in such inhumane conditions, particularly in a progressive first world country such as ours.

I have seen rescued hens and they are a most pitiful sight, their feathers mostly gone, skinny, weak and diseased. If private citizens kept hens in this state they would rightly be prosecuted for cruelty and neglect. The egg industry must be held to the same standards.

There is no excuse to treat animals in this despicable manner and we must do better. Many other countries and corporations are ditching cage eggs, reflecting the demands of the public for free range eggs. This committee has the opportunity to make history and set an example for the rest of Australia. I look forward to a brighter future for these poor exploited birds.