

**Submission  
No 395**

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

**Name:** Mr Laird Shaw

**Date Received:** 24 July 2019

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My name is Laird, and I write this submission to the Select Committee on the Use of Battery Cages for Hens in the Egg Production Industry as a private Australian citizen living in Tasmania who follows a fruitarian ethic. My submission briefly addresses several of the terms of reference as noted.

With respect to:

1 (a) (i): The animal welfare outcomes and practices associated with battery cages are stark and severe. Hens are denied the rights to spread their wings, move about, scratch in the dirt, privacy and solitude, and emotional comfort. They are denied the right to the outdoors and are kept in artificial light. In these confined quarters, the ammonia from their waste builds up in the air and burns their nostrils and eyes. They are forced to share tiny cages with several other hens, causing stress and distress. They have parts of their beaks removed without anaesthetic to prevent injury to other hens by pecking as a result of the stress and distress of their environment - which is stressful and distressing in itself, and, apparently, painful: hens' beaks contain nerves. Being forced to stand on wire cause pain, suffering, injuries, and deformation.

1 (a) (ii): No other consideration could possibly justify the gross cruelty of this practice. That it is practiced in the name of cost efficiency is not acceptable.

1 (a) (iii): Nobody with whom I have spoken about battery cages supports them, even those who are enthusiastic consumers of animal products. Battery cages are way out of touch with community standards, and public opinion is, in my experience, uniformly opposed to them.

1 (b) (i) and (ii): Simply put, hens should not be used by humans for eggs in any form, whether in battery cages, "free range", or anything else. These sovereign, sentient beings should be treated with respect and dignity, not exploited for human gain. The minimum standard should be total prohibition of the farming of chickens - and of all animals.

1 (c) (i) Serious environmental concerns accompany the battery cage farming of hens, including the contamination of water and soil by the waste matter produced by the hens, and the air pollution caused by the ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and volatile organic compounds produced by their waste.

I call on the NSW government to prohibit the cruel and indecent practice of the battery cage farming of hens once and for all.

Thank you for considering my submission.