

**Submission  
No 400**

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

**Name:** Ms Michelle Buckmaster

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As an animal welfare advocate the Egg Industry is an area that I feel very strongly about.

I cannot understand that in 2019, we are still allowing hens to be permanently confined to battery cages. These cages are the size of an iPad or A4 sized piece of paper. The hens have no room to stretch, flap wings, groom and preen. Instead of giving the hens more space, baby chicks are routinely debeaked with a hot blade to ensure they do not peck the other birds in their tiny cage. The ACT is the only jurisdiction to have outlawed this cruel practice of debeaking, which is performed without pain relief.

Battery hens experience chronic pain from foot problems as a result of standing on wire floors which are designed to facilitate egg collection.

Let's not forget the male chicks. Millions of male chicks slaughtered every year by methods which include the grinding of live chicks and carbon dioxide gassing.

Research has demonstrated that hens experience sensations and emotions such as pain, fear, anxiety, pleasure and enjoyment. Battery Hens will only experience pain, fear and anxiety.

Following consumer feedback, supermarket retailers such as Coles and Woolworths have taken action, by ending the sale of caged eggs, and will phase out the use of caged eggs in ingredients of own brand products.

The majority of Australians do not support the use of battery cages, so please listen and phase out this cruel practice for once and for all.

I look forward to seeing action from the NSW Government on this issue.