

Submission
No 449

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Whilst it is easy to condemn intensive animal agriculture practises we have to also be realistic about our growing population. When agriculture becomes less intensive then the cost to produce that product becomes higher. We can not believe that everyone in the population lives above the pay line and can afford to buy these higher price products.

Caged eggs may be intensive but it is the only way to keep prices down for those consumers that can't afford other products on the market.

98% of farms in Australia are still family owned and we have to also think about what we will be doing to these family businesses if we close such an industry down. Phasing out caged chicken farms could have an on going affect on regional Australia communities where local people rely on jobs created by these farms. Regional Australia is already suffering with reduced jobs with small towns and villages dying as work is reduced. Losing an industry like caged eggs will only make this issue worse.