

**Submission  
No 452**

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

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**Date Received:** 25 July 2019

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Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for working on this important issue. I won't take up your time detailing the animal welfare problems experienced by sentient beings in egg production, especially in battery cages, which I'm sure you will be aware of. There is a clear trend globally that these concerns are taken seriously, for example with countries like Austria, Germany & France and corporations like McDonalds moving towards phasing out caged eggs. I hope you will agree that Australia, which prides itself as a world leader in agriculture, should be leader and not a laggard when it comes to animal welfare.

I have attached an article published on "The Poultry Site" by the Director of Food Business at Compassion in World Farming. It makes a very good point that small incremental improvements to animal welfare (e.g. "better cages") are likely to result in financial pain and understandable frustration to operators when these systems need to be replaced with cage-free alternatives in the near future. I have also attached a holistic report on alternative systems.

Regulation to set high minimal standards is crucial to prevent unfair competition to those operators who have made significant investments & efforts into animal welfare by those who haven't. It is also crucial that these standards be applied to imported products.

Please also consider the use of mandatory CCTV at NSW chicken-keeping facilities, with the videos made available at least to inspectors & university researchers (even with the actual operator de-identified). This is important not only for rigorous research, but to improve transparency, compliance and create a level playing field for operators.

Thanks & Best Regards,

Eugene Lubarsky