

**Submission
No 466**

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

Name: Ms Karen Vegar

Date Received: 25 July 2019

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully request that the Committee make recommendations for the prompt, but orderly phase out of battery cages in this state.

As a citizen, animal welfare is a very important matter to me based on the overwhelming science. It also a question of ethics, in my opinion.

I base my submission to you on the following matters:

1. The substantial science about the intelligence and behavior of hens, and the evidence of the profound, and destructive physiological consequences of keeping hens in small or tiny cages. The blunt reality is that it is cruel, and no longer necessary.
2. Further to (1), the compelling scientific evidence forms the basis, in part or in full, of the phase out of battery cages in the EU, and its phase out in Canada and NZ and certain U.S states.

Even a casual purchaser of chicken products is aware of numerous Australian businesses, and international businesses, moving away from battery cage eggs in their food. I support these businesses with my purchases.

3. The current evidence from other countries, and from these businesses, is that it is affordable, feasible and practicable to phase out and prohibit battery cages.

This is also a "selling point" for farmers, as further evidence that sustainable and humane agricultural practices are being pursued.

This state can, and "should do better". This state can afford to phase out battery cages for its consumers.

Thank you for considering my submissions.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Vegar