

**Submission  
No 480**

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

**Name:** Ms Abigail Watkins

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Dear Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my views on the use of battery cages in NSW.

Animal welfare is very important to me. All animals deserve to be treated with respect, especially those we use to produce our food and fibre.

We cannot hope to live in a just and fair society while we continue to allow sentient animals to be kept in abominable conditions in order to make money from their eggs and bodies. It diminishes all of us, not just the hens that are the victims of this cruel industry. While we turn our heads, and perpetuate cruelty, we are a hypocritical and unjust nation. There are some things that should never be used to produce profit, and this is one of those things. Our prosperous nation should be ashamed of itself that it continues to allow the battery hen industry to continue. We have no real excuse at all, only those of victims, who have dug themselves deep into this cruel industry by their own choice. Free range farming has existed for a long time, and the farmers who have chosen this road have nothing to lose. Those that did not, took that risk on the backs of terrible cruelty, and therefore do not have a leg to stand on. In any case, it would be a good use of public money to help ease the industry out of cruelty and into a fair, kind and healthy future for hens and humans.

Kind regards,  
Abigail Watkins