

**Submission  
No 502**

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

**Name:** Ms Janelle Mullaly Johnstone

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Dear Committee

I welcome any opportunity to comment on the use of battery cages.

I have supported free-range farming for decades on animal welfare grounds. Secondly (to me) I believe that when Australia uses battery farming methods (including feed lots) it not a good look for the 'clean and green' image which has traditionally given Australia a competitive edge.

The numerous ways in which hens suffer from battery farming is a matter of scientific fact. That it is a cruel practice is a fact. Most first world countries have phased it out, or are in the process of phasing it out, demonstrating that that it is possible, cost-effective and sustainable to produce eggs in much more humane conditions. Why Australia lags behind so many other countries on this matter is mystifying.

I look forward to an informed and humane decision on this matter.

Kind regards,  
Janelle Mullaly Johnstone