

Dear Animal Health Australia

I am the Human Resources Coordinator, which includes managing farm operations in conjunction with the Livestock Manager and Operations Manager. I am writing in support of Option C as it provides the best welfare outcome for laying hens.

Animal welfare is important to me as is the overall operation & management of our farms including livestock and our employees. I am dedicated to my role in all aspects that includes our people and the bird. Ensuring that the bird has the best manager and people who care about the animal and provide the right environment, temperatures, clean sheds, feed & water.

It is important to our managers & people that the bird is carefully looked after, consistent training & guidance ensures continual welfare for the bird is upheld at all times. I can hold my hand on my heart and know that our birds are very well looked after & there is no cruelty to the bird with the guidelines that we follow.

The cost to the farmer to cease using cages would cause a financial crisis for many businesses & in some cases actual closure of farms. There is also the huge risk of less employment available, termination of existing employees & redundancies. This moves through from farm to office areas.

Ceasing caged egg production, increases the cost of the production of an egg. Consumers then have to pay more, & in the current climate this would cause more anxiety to the everyday householder not being able to afford an egg, the consumer has a right to choice of caged, barn laid & free range.

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