

Dear Animal Health Australia

26 Feb 2018

I write in response to the proposed draft of the Animal Welfare Standards and guidelines for poultry

I am a third generation egg farmer. We have been producing eggs in SA since the 1930s and have been a part of the many changes that the industry has faced from being *encouraged to install cages* from traditional barnlaid as it was a safer system to *deregulation* to *reintroduction of ranging* to *new cage laws in 2008* to *new labelling laws in 2018* To now *A new welfare code*.

I encourage hen welfare and agree that there needs to be clarification for both consumers and farmers and this has been done with the labelling changes.

We have and always will comply with the changes yet there needs to be adequate Time for these changes to be implemented we have been investing 10s of millions Over the past 5 years and this includes the purchase of a new caged facility only 5 years ago this has a life of at least 20 years which we expect to lawfully run until 2033 as a minimum.

We employ over 50 staff and contract from another 5 farms with hundreds of jobs at risk and another Australian industry at the risk of collapse.

Will this code ensure that no caged eggs will be imported in the future?

We need to get past the most recent changes to our industry and have the opportunity to actually run our businesses for a period and recover the costs involved in this investment that fully complied at the time of construction without the harassment and decisive changes being proposed at every turn.

I support the Option A: Maintain the status quo (i.e. the base case as described in Part 2.2 of this RIS);

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Attard

Managing Director

Solar Eggs Pty Ltd