

Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation  
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To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed standards for poultry farming in Australia. As the State Member of Parliament for Balcatta, I have received hundreds of emails, letters and phone calls from local constituents on this issue asking me to improve standards for chickens. I also share their concern's regarding this continued use of battery cages in Australia.

I am concerned that the draft standards do not reflect the latest scientific work on animal welfare, as reflected in the Victorian Government's Farmed Bird Welfare Science Review.

While I support national standards for animal welfare, these standards must meet modern community expectations and be backed by science.

**“We’ve Always Done It That Way” is not an acceptable defence for state-sanctioned cruelty like the continued use of battery cages, the treatment of male chicks and slaughter by fully-conscious throat cutting or being boiled alive.**

I urge you to phase our out the use of battery hen cages in Australia, as well as improving standards for the treatment of male chicks (including further research on alternative methods such as in-ovo gender identification) and implementing a more humane method of slaughter that current practices.

Thank you again for this opportunity, and I look forward to seeing extensive animal welfare improvements being made to these standards.

Yours sincerely,

**David Michael MLA**  
**Member for Balcatta**  
**Government Whip**