

Public Consultation for Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines- Poultry

RIS Questions

Specific public consultation questions related to the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) have been drafted by the independent RIS consultants and approved by the Office of Best Practice (OBPR). These questions are located throughout the main body of the RIS and have been extracted below for your convenience.

Views and advice are sought in providing information or data that would further assist in the assessment of the impacts (costs and benefits) expected under each of the RIS options/variations. The questions are requests for additional information, requests for reader opinions or value judgements, and requests related to the selection of a preferred option or group of options.

Q1, Q4, Q6 and Q17 are requests for additional information about the problems addressed by this Consultation RIS, to inform the subsequent Decision RIS.

Q2, Q3, Q5, Q7 and Q8 are requests for reader opinions or value judgements about the problems addressed by this Consultation RIS.

Q9, Q10, Q11, Q12, Q13, Q14, Q15 are requests related to the selection of a preferred option or group of options.

Please note: The questions are optional and don't have to be answered to make a submission, you can do this separately or in conjunction with answering all or some of the below questions. It is suggested you have a copy of the RIS in front of you whilst answering the below questions to help with context.

Public consultation questions on the Poultry Welfare Standards Regulation Impact Statement, drafted by the independent RIS consultants and approved by the Office of Best Practice.

Oct 2017

RIS PUBLIC CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Date: February 23, 2018

Name: Chake Keerqin

Contact information:

RIS location - 2.3.1 Risks to animal welfare

1. Do you agree with the summary list of advantages and disadvantages of layer hen farming systems in Part 2.3.1?

No Yes Comments: One thing to point out is that cage free systems are proven to have problems of feather picking and cannibalism

Do you think that any advantages and disadvantages are missing from this list? If so, please include them below.

No Yes Comments: Consumer affordability on the poultry products should be more discussed in correlation with the improvement on the rearing facility.

2. Do you think the risks to the welfare of poultry discussed in Part 2.3.1 are sufficient to justify the introduction of better standards and/or guidelines?

No Yes Comments: Any opinion towards improvements are good but a comprehensive survey should be conducted on both consumer point of view and producer point of view before making conclusion drastically.

3. Which of the above mentioned areas of risk to poultry welfare do you think are of the greatest concern?

Comments:

#2. I agree with any move towards the improvement of the animal welfare and the efficiency of the production yet the sustainability will be the biggest challenge in Australian market as well as the global. I would like to stress more on the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the conclusion.

Are there any other areas of concern to poultry welfare? Please provide reasons for your answers, together with supporting scientific evidence.

Comments:

There is a large concern of the domestic poultry production when it comes to the welfare standard. However, any drastic change should be avoided in order to maintain a sustainable production capacity for the domestic market.

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RIS location - 2.4.1 Lack of clarity in standards

4. In your experience, to what extent do the existing Model Codes of Practice (MCOPs) and related regulations create uncertainty for Industry?

Comments:

We need more monitoring first line of the production and operations to make sure the guidelines are strictly followed.

Does such uncertainty vary between different states and territories?

Comments:

The main concern about the division of standards may be exist when training or monitoring cannot be sufficiently employed.

5. In your experience, how does this type of uncertainty for industry adversely affect productivity? If possible, please provide some case examples. .

Comments:

Management of the shed is the primary way to improve the productivity and the welfare of the animal.

RIS location - 2.4.2 Excess regulatory burden

6. Are you aware of any other poultry farming businesses in addition to those given in Part 2.4.2 that operate in more than one state or territory? If so, please list.

No Yes Comments:

7. In your experience, what is the effect of cross-jurisdictional inconsistencies on industry (i.e. even where jurisdictional standards are clear and verifiable)? If possible, please provide some case examples of where additional costs have been imposed on industry as a result of such inconsistencies.

Comments:

Free range chicken farms suffer dearer rate of mortality due to the nature of the rearing condition and the exposure to the parasites in the range. However, the public opinions usually maintain the support on the free range farms based on their own instinct without considering the cost and productivity.

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8. Do you think there needs to be national consistency in animal welfare standards for poultry? Please provide reasons for your answer.

- No Yes Comments: The consistency of both rearing standard and the management of the animal could greatly minimise the possibility of mistreat of animals and improved production.

RIS location - 4.2.4 Option B: (non-regulatory option – voluntary national guidelines)

9. Do you think that the net benefits to poultry welfare likely to achieved under **Option B**, are justified?

- No Yes Comments:

Would the combination of costs and benefits under **Option B** be preferable to other options?

- No Yes Comments: Industries are driven by the cost and benefit yet the cost of the final product should be affordable to the general public. And the Consumer demand may vary based on the income per capita hence a wide range of product should be available and affordable to all class of public.

RIS location - 4.2.5 Option C: (the proposed national standards as drafted)

10. Do you think that the proposed national standards under **Option C** reflect community values and expectations regarding the acceptable treatment of poultry?

- No Yes Comments:

11. Do you believe that the net benefits to poultry welfare likely to be achieved under **Option C**, are justified?

- No Yes Comments:

Would the combination of costs and benefits under **Option C** be preferable to other options?

- No Yes Comments:

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RIS location - 4.2.6 Option D: (vary the proposed standards [Option C] to include phasing out conventional cages for layer hens)

12. Do you believe that the net benefits to poultry welfare likely to be achieved with a 10 and 20 year phase out of conventional cages under **Option D**, are justified?

No Yes Comments:

Would the combination of costs and benefits under variations of **Option D** be preferable to other options, either as a stand-alone option or in combination with other options?

No Yes Comments:

RIS location - 4.2.7 Option E (vary the proposed standards [Option C] to reduce maximum stocking densities in barns or sheds for layer hens and meat chickens)

13. Do you believe that the net benefits to poultry welfare likely to be achieved under **Option E**, are justified?

No Yes Comments:

Would the combination of costs and benefits under **Option E** be preferable to other options, either as a stand-alone option or in combination with other options?

No Yes Comments:

RIS location - 4.2.8 Option F (vary the proposed standards [Option C] to require the availability of nests, perches and litter for all chicken layers in cage and non-cage systems)

14. Do you believe that the net benefits to poultry welfare likely to be achieved under **Option F**, are justified?

No Yes Comments:

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Would the combination of costs and benefits under **Option F** be preferable to other options, either as a stand-alone or in combination with other options?

No Yes Comments:

RIS location - 4.2.9 Option G (vary the proposed standards [option C] to ban castration, pinioning and devoicing, hot blade beak trimming at hatcheries, and routine second beak trim)

15. Do you believe that the net benefits to poultry welfare likely to be achieved under **Option G**, are justified?

No Yes Comments:

Would the combination of costs and benefits under **Option G** be preferable to other options, either as a stand-alone option or in combination with other options?

No Yes Comments:

RIS location - 4.3 preferred option

16. Which of the Options A, B, C, or combination of one or more Options D,E, F, or G, in your opinion would provide the greatest net benefit for the Australia community?

Comments:
F

17. Do you have any further information or data would assist in the assessment of the impacts (costs and benefits) expected under each of the options/variations?

Comments:

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18. Do you think that any of the Options A to G are likely to have disproportionate impact on small businesses compared to medium and large business?

No Yes Comments: Change to the rearing condition from caged layer system to cage free layer system will impose unexpected challenge to the industries with smaller scales.

Do you think that any of these options are likely to have a greater impact on small business than other options? Please provide reasons for your answers together with available supporting evidence.

Comments:
Transition of the rearing method aimed to improve the welfare status of the animals should be carefully planned to minimise pose of stress to animals as well as the business owners. A better solution is considered to be scientifically justified on the benefit of both the animals and the producers.

OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS

Please include any comments or suggestions that you'd like to share.
