

**Submission to Animal Health Australia on DRAFT Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry**

We the undersigned, work on a free-range egg farm and wish to raise the following concern about the draft guidelines regarding perches:

- We are concerned that there is a proposal for 15 cm per bird listed in the draft.
- We feel that 15 cm per bird creates a WH&S issue for workers and significantly interferes with accessibility for egg collection and flock monitoring which can then affect bird welfare.
- 5cm to 7.5cm of perching per bird is more realistic and manageable.
- Not all birds sit on perches at the same time.
- We have had experience working with both 7.5cm and 15cm of perching per bird, and we are of the view that up to 7.5cm is a reasonable benchmark for bird welfare and the safety of workers.

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26 February 2018