

SUBMISSION TO ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA  
25 FEBRUARY 2018

Dear Animal Health Australia  
RE: SUBMISSION-ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS PUBLIC CONSULTATION

My name is Rosina Nicolaisen and my family's history has been in the Primary Producing Industry for over 50 years. We have run a small family egg production business since the mid 1970s. with all family members being employed in the business during that time.

Initially our product was contracted and purchased by Farm Pride, but in the latter years we concentrated on selling our eggs on farm through door sales. We provide a valuable and high demand service supported not only by our local community but also further afield. Many of our customers are also second and third generation supporters.

We object particularly to the one-sided misinformation and misconceptions about cruelty the public is being presented about our animal practices and the terrible treatment our birds are subjected to.

We value, respect and care for our livestock and adopt the best practices to ensure the health and welfare of our hens. It is important not only for humane reasons to promote their wellbeing but also for economic reasons. Happy, healthy hens are more content and productive and the financial outlay is considerable, so why wouldn't we promote, care and maintain their health and welfare.

They are provided with a safe and clean environment. Premium feed and clean water, free from predators, with minimal if any intervention in the form of vaccinations or antibiotics.

As well as the health and welfare benefits, cage systems offer the most predictable and constant supply of eggs and have the lowest carbon footprint and do not need large expensive tracts of land.

Finally, my customers like my eggs and support for my product is growing and increasing steadily and there is a high demand for what we produce. They are entitled to a choice and they choose to support us by purchasing clean, affordable fresh eggs.

If all caged farming is banned in Victoria, supply will not be able to meet demand by other forms of egg production. This in turn will lead to a monopoly and increase in egg prices when demand exceeds supply.

It has become apparent that the misinformation, misconceptions and negative publicity about the cage egg farming industry is damaging our image. The negative views promoted by a minority of vocal activist groups using selective evidence and emotive language to promote their cause is and has been damaging.

I feel the public needs to be presented with a more balanced and unbiased view. Our story needs to be told fairly as well. I feel our industry needs to promote and present what we do in a more positive light.

I think the implementation of Option C of the standards and Guidelines gives us an excellent opportunity to do more to educate consumers about egg farming and the practices used. Regardless of the production method, consumers need choices and value given to their choice without judgement. This can only be achieved on an open and fair platform free of criticism and negativity.

Thanking you,

Rosina Nicolaisen, for the Nesci Family.