

Public Consultation for Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) – Poultry RIS Questions

Options outlined for consideration and selection:

Option A – No change

Option B – New S&Gs will be voluntary national guidelines

Option C – The Standards (or ‘musts’) in the new S&Gs will be national standards as drafted. The guidelines will not be compulsory.

Option D – Vary the proposed standards (Option C) to include phasing out of conventional cages for laying hens (10 or 20 year phase out)

Option E – Vary the proposed standards (Option D) to reduce the maximum stocking densities in barns or sheds for both layer hens and meat chickens

- Meat chicken densities from 40kg/m² to 30kg/m² for all types of shedding.

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

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

Question 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 Australian community?

I support Options B and C. Although, **Option C** will provide the greatest net benefits to poultry welfare in Australia and will provide for better consistency between the states and territories.

I do not support Option E (lowering maximum stocking densities) in the case of meat chicken farming. I have experience with growing meat chickens in Australia and am responsible for their care and welfare. I strongly believe that I am able to grow meat chickens at the current maximum stocking densities without compromising their welfare.

Any reduction in allowable densities will have flow on effects on the densities in all current systems and will have a big impact on profitability and viability of the business that I am involved in. Being able to continue to grow chickens at the current densities is also very important for me to continue to work in the industry and maintain its profitability.

The Australian community should be supportive of agriculture and efforts made by Australian poultry farmers to ensure that the management and welfare of poultry is optimal.

Signature:



Name: **BRENDAN TOLENTINO**

Address or Business Details: