

Cassie Rowe MLA

MEMBER FOR BELMONT

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To Whom It May Concern,

AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR POULTRY

I am writing to share my views on the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry which are currently under review.

I believe that it is essential to protect and improve animal welfare outcomes across Australia. It is our obligation to ensure that all animals, particularly those used in agriculture, are treated in a humane and ethical manner.

I remain deeply concerned about the persistence of caged hens in the Australian poultry industry. We need to find the balance between the rights of animals, protecting them from abuse, and our desire to use their by-products, such as eggs and to use them for the consumption of meat. To date, I don't believe we have managed to find that balance in caged hen farming. As such, I would like to see a ban placed on caged hens in Australia. I do not believe that keeping hens in cages meets the good husbandry principal of allowing poultry the space to stand, lie and stretch their wings and limbs and perform normal patterns of behaviour.

I also believe that keeping hens in cages in large, industrial sized sheds does not protect them from the harsh weather conditions, such as extreme heat. While I understand that appropriate ventilation is required for housed and caged poultry I do not believe that it is enough to protect these animals from our countries harsh conditions.



Ascot Belmont Cloverdale Hazelmere Kewdale Redcliffe Rivervale South Guildford

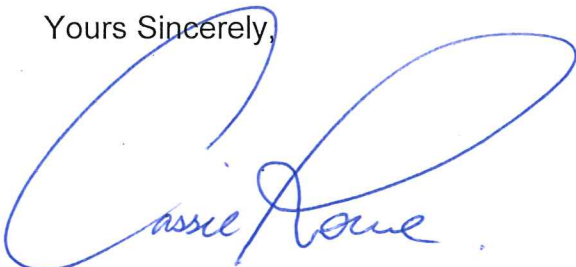
YOUR LOCAL MEMBER FOR BELMONT

The Department of Agriculture and Food's Mission Statement is to "maximize the efficiency of agri-business." This creates an obvious and irreconcilable conflict of interest when the agency responsible for animal welfare has the primary objective of a profitable agriculture sector - including deriving profit from animals.

The current framework is inadequate at protecting animals. It is not reasonable that the interests of animals largely rely on not-for-profit charities/animal welfare groups for protection and advocacy.

The moral argument is clear; we have an obligation to protect animal welfare, period. I implore you to ban caged hens – it's time we do the right thing.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cassie Rowe". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops.

**CASSIE ROWE MLA
MEMBER FOR BELMONT**