

Ms Deanne Vines

Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation  
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To Whom It May Concern

**Re: Poultry Public Consultation**

Please see attached my submission outlining in depth, amendments to the current draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry.

I have not included partridges, pheasants, quail, pigeons and guinea fowl. I urge the committee to insert the recommendations from Animals Australia for these birds.

Battery cages are enormously cruel and have been banned throughout the European Union and at least 7 states in the U.S. Switzerland banned the battery cage in 1992. Canada, New Zealand and Austria have also banned or are phasing out battery cages.

This is all due to the severe welfare issues which include but are not limited to, mental anguish; pain from osteoporosis (4 in 5 hens develop osteoporosis (Animals Australia); dehydration due to paralysis from weak bones; wounds from standing on wire flooring; not being able to walk, forage or exercise and living with chronic pain.

I urge the consultation committee to follow international standards and ban the battery cage in Australia.

Please amend the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry to phase out of all cages, including furnished, colony and battery cages.

Also it is vital that the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry must be revised to phase-out the following:

- industry mutilation practices such as beak trimming.
- the maceration of male chicks
- forced moulting (by starving them for up to three weeks).

Please amend the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines to ensure chickens are not suffering due to rapid growth and sleep deprivation. Stocking densities **must** be reduced.

Producers must provide areas for dust-bathing and foraging including an outdoor area, straw bales and perches.

It is unbelievable that the parents of chickens raised for their meat (breeding stock) are deprived of food (starved) particularly since they have been bred to always be hungry. The standards and guidelines must include a requirement for the selection of animals with more natural, slower growth rates (who don't require feed restriction).

For ducks, the draft standards and guidelines must be amended to include the provision of water, such as troughs as water is essential for preening and cleaning. Water sources must allow for ducks to fully (or at least partially) immerse.

Stocking densities must be reduced for all types of birds to allow increased welfare.

Electrical-water-bath stunning and throat-cutting must be banned during the slaughter process. As referenced by Animals Australia 'Alternative, and comparatively less cruel, slaughter methods such as controlled-atmosphere stunning and killing (CAS) with non-poisonous gas, or Low atmospheric pressure stunning and killing (LAPS), must be adopted — to reduce handling, stress and injuries for birds. Additionally, mandatory, independently monitored CCTV cameras must be installed in all slaughterhouses.'

Thank you for your time

Yours sincerely

Deanne Vines