

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

I believe it is vital that legislation is made to define 'free-range eggs' so as to end the out marketing of genuine free range farmers. This is deception at its worst and the Australian farmers are the ones paying for it. Also, the consumer's choices are being made a mockery of.

Here is the example that 'free range eggs' should be defined as:

"Free-range production systems must have a maximum stocking of 1,500, as outlined in the Model Code of Practice. It must be ensured that hens can, and do, move about freely on an open range on most days. De-beaking is not permitted as a routine procedure."

This takes into account the density and husbandry and also the inhumane debeaking.

Further comments on the consultation paper:

- I support 'free-range' remaining a single, premium label. New labels like "premium free-range" and "access to range" will cause further confusion and potentially allow for the exploitation of consumers to continue.
- Production systems that stock hens intensively at 10,000 birds per hectare should not be permitted to use the 'free-range' label.
- Independent, third party accreditation of farms to ensure they adhere to agreed standards is critical to restoring consumer confidence.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Johanna Lewis