

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed changes concerning “free-range” labeling. The right to use this label needs to be earned and needs to be meaningful. The majority of Australians are concerned for animal welfare and are prepared to pay more for the reassurance the food they are eating is humanely gained.

The following changes need to occur:

- Tightening the exceptions for providing access to the outdoor range so that access cannot be denied on a routine basis;
- Including a requirement that regulators consider the following in determining what “meaningful and regular access” means:
 - Flock size and stocking densities inside the barn;
 - Size of openings relative to the number of hens;
 - Placement of physical structures and architecture inside the barn;
 - The condition of the outdoor range including providing adequate shelter, foliage and vegetation; and
 - The extent to which hens actually access the range.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Jaci Berwick