

Submission to The Australian Government Treasury on the Free Range Egg Labelling Information Standard

9 December 2016

*“Part 2 Free range egg labeling and display requirement
7 Meaning of the term free range”*

Definition of free range egg too vague

The proposed Information Standard does not provide the consumer with enough information/certainty about the conditions under which the free range egg is laid. The definitions used are too vague, too open to interpretation.

In applying the term “meaningful and regular access”, further conditions need to be considered:

- * The extent to which hens actually access the range
- * The condition of the outdoor range including providing adequate shelter, foliage and vegetation
- * Placement of physical structures and architecture inside the barn
- * Size of openings relative to the number of hens
- * Flock size and stocking densities inside the barn.

Definition of access to outdoor range too loose

Under section “7 Meaning of the term free range (2) (a) (i)-(v)”, these exceptions provide too much scope for access to an outdoor range to be denied on a routine basis, and need to be tightened.

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