Petition calling for a national ban on use of the battery cage in egg production in Australia

To the Members of the House of Representatives,

We the undersigned find the practice of confining hens to cages for egg production abhorrent, and request that you take immediate action to phase-out use of the battery cage in Australia. We ask that the Federal Minister for Agriculture, as Chairperson of the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC), uses the next meeting of the Council to work toward a national phase-out in collaboration with the State and Territory Ministers for Primary Industries.

Being confined to a battery cage prevents a hen from fulfilling almost all of her natural behaviours, including the ability to stretch her wings, nest, scratch, dust bathe and roost. Surveys have found that the vast majority of Australians object to the confinement of laying hens in battery cages.[1] Furthermore, progressive countries like Switzerland, Sweden and the countries of the European Union have phased-out or are in the process of phasing-out the use of battery cages. We implore you to follow their example and steer Australian animal welfare law toward world's best practice in the area of egg production.

[1] For example, a September 2005 survey by Orima Research found that 85 per cent of Australian Capital Territory residents believe it is cruel to keep hens in battery cages, a similar result to many previous Australian surveys.

Name	Full Address	Signature

Please return this petition by end January 2008
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