



Activists lay an egg for farming change

THE plight of battery hens was highlighted in a protest at Pissley Square in Bunbury on Thursday.

Campaigners are touring around Australia for six months and setting up giant cages in prominent places, where they sit for six hours at a time to show the public the conditions egg-laying hens experience.

Drew Fryer, a trader with the Reserve Bank of Australia in Sydney said he and the other campaigners were animal rights activists and had taken time off work to raise awareness of the issue.

Shane Dalglish, a computer programmer from Queensland, came up with the idea to build

the cages after having an argument with an egg farmer.

"I didn't like his attitude towards hens, so I decided to do something about it," he said.

Mr Dalglish's father built the cages and Jodie Barrett, a Bendigo hospitality worker, Heather Blyth, a Brisbane student and Darren Grant-Lloyd, a Bunbury labourer, joined the crusade, which is being sponsored by Voiceless-the fund for animals, Animal Liberation and PAWS.

The campaigners want people to understand the cramped conditions hens endure and that farmers often "de-beak" hens to stop them pecking each other and their deformed legs developed from standing on cages.



Animal rights campaigners Darren Grant-Lloyd from Bunbury, Drew Fryer from Sydney and Jodie Barrett of Bendigo talk to Silvia Manton of Bunbury about their battery hen protest. PICTURE: PAUL VERHAGEN