

23 October 2015

Manager,
Consumer Policy Unit
Small Business, Competition and Consumer Policy Division,
The Treasury,
Langton Crescent,
PARKES A.C.T 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Free Range Egg Labelling Consultation Paper

Following are my expectations of the definition of Free Range Egg Production:

Stocking rate of no more than 750 – 1500 hens per hectare.

There should be a limit to the number of hens housed in sheds overnight.

No beak trimming.

Provision of outdoor shelters.

The current practice by Coles and Woolworths declaring that a stocking rate of 10,000 hens per hectare is deemed to be 'free range' is unacceptable and extremely misleading in terms of what purchaser's expect 'free range' to be.

There should be a mandatory National Free Range Egg Standard that requires a stocking rate of no more than 750 – 1500 hens per hectare.

Hens should not have beaks trimmed.

There should be outdoor shelters and some outdoor green cover such as trees or shade cloth.

Egg cartons MUST display the outdoor stocking density of hens, whether there is provision of outdoor shelter and whether beak treatment has been applied.

If you have any questions, I can be contacted on Ph. (0419)598 528

Yours Faithfully,

Audrey Critchlow
Mount Cameron Farm
Harcus River Road,
Marawah. Tas. 7330.