



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

LISA BAKER MLA

Member for Maylands

25 November 2015

Manager
Consumer Policy Unit
Small Business, Competition and Consumer Policy Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Manager,

Free range egg labelling

Please accept my submission concerning free range egg labelling.

I support the introduction of a mandatory egg labelling information standard, which puts an end to dishonest egg producers falsely claiming 'free-range' status and profiting at the expense of consumers.

What is required is a mandatory egg labelling standard, which meets the following benchmarks (as provided by *Voiceless*):

- Requires that the indoor and outdoor stocking densities are clearly stated on product packaging, along with details of husbandry practices such as de-beaking and induced moulting.
- Requires retailers to clearly label and separately shelve eggs in accordance with their production system (free range, barn or cage)
- Requires all egg producers to label their eggs either free range, barn or cage eggs, with free range being the premium label.
- Prohibits producers from labelling their eggs free range unless:
 - Their hens actually go outside on most ordinary days;
 - The indoor stocking density is no greater than 7 birds/m² of the usable area for floor-based systems, or 9 birds/m² of the usable area for tiered systems;
 - The outdoor stocking density is no greater than 1,500 birds/ha, or 2,500 birds/ha on pasture rotation systems; and
 - De-beaking and induced moulting are not practised by the producer.

- Does not include such additional labels as 'premium free range' or 'access to range', as these labels are highly ambiguous, will lead to further consumer confusion, and will dilute the free range label.

I believe nationally consistent and enforceable legislation is the most effective way to stop consumers being misled about the conditions in which many eggs are being produced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Baker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Baker MLA
Member for Maylands