

Dear Treasury Regarding Free Range Egg Labelling

I support the measures in Option 3, 3a and 3b.

I hope we move towards more humane treatment of animals in food production. I think there is misuse of the term “Free Range”. I would personally buy a premium free-range egg if I understood what extra care the animals received. I currently buy “organic” eggs because of a belief they have better animal husbandry practices (rather than actually being ‘organic’).

I understand that some farmers have made investments into barns and other animal housing to not be producing caged eggs – but may not meet the new requirements for barn/access to free-range. There may need to be a phasing in of mandatory requirements. I understand there has been changes to cage bird requirements that have happened more than one causing repeated costs to farmers.

Consumers are much more informed about animal welfare and husbandry practices than in years past. More comprehensive labelling will help this. What we did not know over the past decades many now find unacceptable. In coming decades – with greater exposure and understanding I feel that consumers will want to know more and be able to choose better practices – and accept the costs that goes with those choices.

Many thanks for being able to comment.

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