

**Geoff Scarborough**

18 Fairbrother Drive  
Happy Valley SA 5159  
Phone: 08 8381 7800

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

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**Sir,**

RE: FREE RANGE EGG LABELLING

The current situation with box labelling for eggs is absurd. The industry has clearly been unable to establish a standard for "free range" eggs that is acceptable to the majority of consumers. Nearly all egg cartons are labelled free range but the hen densities for some producers/retailers greatly exceed the barn densities for other producers.

Even if the government regulates by providing a clear definition for the term "free range" how will the government know if this standard is acceptable to consumers. Consumers themselves vary greatly in their expectations as to the number of hens per acre that "free range" should represent.

It is my submission that the government should regulate to define a clear definition for the term "free range" which should stipulate the living conditions for the hens including a number range for hens per acre that is internationally recognized by most countries and is acceptable to the majority of Australian consumers.

However, and more importantly, the government should regulate that the number of "free range" hens per acre in the enclosures provided for the hens which actually produced the eggs be shown on the egg cartons so the consumer has a clear choice whether this hen density is acceptable.

It is my hope that the government will act to provide clarity and choice for egg consumers and not be driven by the large producers or retailers.

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