

Question on Notice

No. 1148

Asked on 26 October 2022

MR A PERRETT ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the government's plan to phase out caged eggs— Will the Minister advise (a) how many cage farmers in Queensland will be impacted, (b) what support will be made available to conventional cage farmers should the change in regulation close their businesses, many whom are in regional Queensland and (c) will these changes lead to a shortage of eggs?

ANSWER:

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry (Poultry Standards and Guidelines) were published in August 2022. The poultry standards form part of a suite of Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines that aim to harmonise national animal welfare legislation, providing clarity and consistency to industry, consumers and trading partners.

Each State and Territory is considering implementation options for the Poultry Standards and Guidelines during the remainder of 2022. Further discussion by responsible Ministers across the nation is expected to occur in 2023.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is currently consulting with the Queensland poultry industry, including caged egg farmers, on implementation options and potential impacts of the Standards in Queensland. Details relating to the questions raised are being discussed during consultation with the industry and the information obtained during this consultation will be provided for the discussion at the Agriculture Ministers meeting in 2023.