

Question on Notice

No. 1227

Asked on 28 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) what engagement has taken place with industry about this proposal and (b) when implemented, will the plan increase the cost of eggs for Queensland families?

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 all responsible Ministers 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. Since the publication of the Poultry Standards and Guidelines, the department has met twice with Egg Farmers of Australia and Queensland United Egg Producers and intends to have a continuing dialogue with these groups. The department also convened an out-of-session meeting of the Poultry Health Liaison Group and requested feedback identifying key issues for further discussion and consultation.

Industry consultation includes discussion around the cost of eggs and other impacts of the Poultry Standards and Guidelines. The information obtained during this consultation will be provided for the discussion at the Agriculture Ministers meeting in 2023.