

## Egg Industry Consultative Committee

The primary objective of the Egg Industry Consultative Committee is to contribute to the Food Authority's goal of ensuring the production and sale of Eggs and Egg products that are safe and suitable for human consumption, by advising on policy and practices introduced into provisions of the Egg Food Safety Scheme as it relates to Eggs and Egg products, and developed through a consultative process. Other government agencies may seek to use the broad expertise and experience of the Committee members to obtain advice on matters beyond the scope of the provisions of the Egg Food Safety Scheme.

### Summary of outcomes

#### Egg Industry Consultative Committee

20 August 2025

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The Egg Industry Consultative Committee met via video conference on Wednesday 20 August 2025. Issues considered at the meeting are detailed below.

#### Attendees:

**Egg Industry Consultative Committee:** Georgia Byriell (The Henn House), Nadine Davis (Australian Eggs), Brett Langfield (NSW Farmer's Association), Peter Matuszny (Manning Valley Free Range Eggs), Franko Pirovic (Pirovic Enterprises).

#### NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) –

**Biosecurity & Food Safety:** Joanna Blunden (Development Officer - Poultry Eggs), Linda Cafe (Team Leader Animal Welfare Policy & Programs - Livestock), Tina Clifton, Senior Veterinary Policy & Project officer, David Cusack (Manager, Food Standards & Programs), Andrew Davies (Chair – Acting - Director, Food Safety & CEO NSW Food Authority), Eric Davis (Manager of Food Policy and Partnerships), Jaime Garcia (Secretariat), Humad Naeem (Acting- Manager Regulatory Operations).

#### Apologies:

Ashley Cooper (NSW Farmer's Association), Grant Dearden (Pace Farm), Melinda Hashimoto (Egg Farmers of Australia), Rowan McMonnies (Australian Eggs), Mark Mackie (Manager Regulatory Operations), Amanda Walker (Australian Eggs).

#### Conflict of interest declaration

Members confirmed that they had no conflicts of interest.

#### Industry updates

NSW Farmers Association expressed its disappointment with the recent decision by the NSW Minister for Agriculture to retain the existing Egg Stamping Exemption for very small egg farms that produce less than 20 dozen (240) eggs per week. It appears that it depends on the size of the producer as to whether it is important to trace the eggs or not trace the eggs. This is a concern for NSW Farmers which we have been arguing for removal for a long time, and we are disappointed that the exemption is remaining.

*The following context is provided by the Food Authority on the NSW egg stamping exemption.*

The Egg Stamping Exemption only applies to very small farms that produce less than 20 dozen eggs per week and that only sell those eggs directly from the farm gate. These farms must still notify the NSW Food Authority of their details. All other eggs sold in NSW must be stamped.

David Cusack provided updates on the following:

- A draft version of the Food Regulation 2025 was released for public comment in November- December 2024. Submissions by NSW Farmers Association (NSWFA) to the draft Food Regulation 2025 raised several issues across the whole regulation, including some issues concerning the egg Food Safety Scheme.
- The NSW Food Authority is currently reviewing all submissions, including those from the NSW Farmers Association, and is redrafting the Regulation in response to feedback.
- The Food Regulation 2025 is expected to commence on 1 September 2025, replacing the current Food Regulation 2015.
- Members were further advised that Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) develops new or amended food standards which then require approval by the Food Ministers' Meeting before being incorporated in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code which is enforced by state and territory governments.
- In August 2025, the FSANZ Board was briefed on proposed amendments to Standard 4.2.5 – Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg Product (Proposal P 1060 Egg Food Safety and Primary Production Requirements), which seeks to revise food safety and primary production standards for eggs and egg products to mitigate the risk of foodborne *Salmonella* outbreaks associated with eggs. A decision from the FSANZ Board on the Proposal P 1060 is expected in September 2025.

Members were informed that the Animal Biosecurity unit of NSW DPIRD is collaborating with Australian Eggs to engage an external consultant to conduct a thorough literature review of *Salmonella Enteritidis* (SE) vaccine candidates currently being considered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for registration in Australia. The review also examines international approaches to SE management including use of the prospective vaccine candidates and biosecurity and surveillance requirements.

Findings from the review along with expert poultry input will inform stochastic modelling that will in turn inform potential SE management approaches that could be considered in Australia. The modelling work includes collaboration with Australian Eggs and Victorian departmental colleagues. Queensland departmental colleagues also interested. We plan to engage with the industry once the modelling is complete.

NSW DPIRD, in consultation with Australian Eggs, is exploring composting as a response to emergency disease outbreaks. Approval for capital expenditures has been granted for the procurement of equipment that will assist in depopulation during these emergencies.

Members were informed that international industry consultant Jeffrey Hill, MSc (President of Livestock Welfare Strategies and Board Member of the US Veterinary Association for Farm Welfare), will be visiting Australia in September 2025. He will host a webinar open to all producers on the use of nitrogen for depopulation in emergency animal disease situations, as well as for routine operations.

## **1) Matters raised relating to the Egg Food Safety Scheme**

### **Food safety compliance report**

NSW DPIRD Compliance and Integrity Systems Unit provided an update on the egg industry compliance activities for the 2024-25 financial year. 94 percent of licensed egg industry businesses recorded an acceptable audit and/or inspection result, a one percent decrease on the previous year's comparable period. A total of 175 audits and inspections were conducted, with 10 enforcement actions issued. Biosecurity and Food Safety Compliance will continue to focus resources on helping the egg industry meet its SE testing requirements through the collection and review of testing submissions and results. Compliance activities in the egg sector will remain ongoing and continue to serve as an essential component of broader DPIRD risk mitigation strategies.

NSW DPIRD recently completed a review of licensed egg farms to evaluate compliance with the mandatory [Salmonella Enteritidis \(SE\) testing](#), as required by the Salmonella Enteritidis Control Order. The review revealed a high level of compliance, with no enforcement actions needed. This result reflects the strong food safety culture within the industry and the effectiveness of current regulatory oversight. The Department remains committed to ongoing monitoring and collaboration with Producers to ensure high standards are maintained.

## **2) Other matters raised**

### **Animal welfare update**

DPIRD'S Animal Welfare Unit presented a paper on the following matters:

#### **Australian Animal Welfare Poultry Standards & Guidelines (S&G)**

- The S&G were published in August 2022.
- The S&G were endorsed by the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee in June 2023 and the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in July 2023.
- Implementation of the S&G, including timeframes, will take place at the state and territory level, having regard to the specific operational environments of each jurisdiction.
- For NSW, The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2025 came into effect on 1 February 2025 and included greater welfare requirements for layer poultry, such as prescribing improved cage requirements for new installations, which are in line with the S&G. For further information, refer to the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2025](#)
- NSW DPIRD is continuing to conduct stakeholder consultation to understand the potential impact of the proposed Poultry S&Gs on industry and the broader community to guide NSW implementation of the S&Gs.
- The NSW Government sought feedback on the draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Regulation 2025 in late 2024, which included proposed regulation amendments to implement part of the S&Gs for laying chickens, building upon existing layer chicken regulations in the previous POCTA Regulation.

- NSW is continuing to work through the implementation of the remaining parts of the Poultry S&G, taking into account the need to balance bird welfare, consumer needs, and industry concerns with a view to national harmonisation where possible.

### **Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines (S&G) for Livestock at Processing Establishments**

- New “Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Livestock at Processing Establishments” drafted by Animal Welfare Task Group (AWTG) - led by QLD DPI, will replace the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animal Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments 2001.

DATE	ACTIVITY
2023	Engagement with the SAG and other targeted stakeholders, including visits to livestock processors, informed practical and technical aspects for the first draft version of the standards. Substantial feedback on this first draft was provided by members of the SAG and AWTG and targeted stakeholders.
2024	Based on feedback from the first draft, a second draft was developed and provided to key stakeholders for feedback. Work commenced to procure a consultant to [prepare a Regulation Impact Analysis.
2025	Preparation of Draft 3 to occur. It is expected to be released for public consultation later this year.  The National process is continuing, and timelines are not yet finalised.

*The date for the next meeting of the Egg Industry Consultative Committee is to be advised.*