

POULTRY FARMS

743. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) What studies has the Western Australian Government conducted on the relative merits of market-driven approaches compared to regulatory approaches in meeting consumer needs to distinguish free range eggs from cage and barn eggs?
- (2) What faith can consumers have in the labelling of eggs for sale in an unregulated market?
- (3) What studies has the Western Australian Government conducted into the relationship between poultry farms and outbreaks of bird flu?
- (4) What studies has the Western Australian Government conducted on the effect of accumulated manure from poultry farms?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (1) None. However, at a national level, ministers responsible for food regulation have agreed that 'consumer values' labelling issues are more appropriately managed through industry led schemes, rather than through mandatory regulation.
- (2) Consumers can currently distinguish between cage laid and non-cage laid eggs, which can include a range of stocking densities. Other labelling approaches are being developed. Consumer demand will drive this. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) oversees egg labelling and can act on misleading labelling.
- (3)–(4) None.