



MEDIA RELEASE

Banks involvement in Animal Welfare

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The news that a major bank has created 'Animal Welfare Principles' rather than focus on their core business as a licenced financial organisation to receive deposits and make loans does not make sense.

Does the bank now have an animal welfare section? Are they employing animal welfare experts to give advice on animal welfare practices and what engagement with industry has been undertaken?

Given the issues in the banking industry with a recent Royal Commission it seems strange that an emphasis is being placed on animals rather than the people with banking accounts.

Egg Farmers of Australia CEO, Melinda Hashimoto stated that industries have a range of animal welfare programs to ensure animal wellbeing and given there is legislation in place to ensure animals are treated well, why would a bank need such a statement of Principles?

Egg Farmers of Australia has been one of the stakeholder groups involved in engaging with Government pertaining to the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for poultry*, with the aim of mandatory standards for commercial egg producing businesses being placed in legislation. The egg industry's Sustainability Framework is focused on the work industry undertakes on the environment, welfare of people, animal welfare and economics.

The CEO of Egg Farmers of Australia stated that egg producers don't need a bank providing a statement of principles. Producers live animal welfare each and every day at an operational level as they look after their hens.

Egg Farmers of Australia would like to ensure that future generations can continue to raise hens and produce eggs and therefore Animal Welfare is crucial to the long term sustainability of the industry.

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