



Egg Farmers of Australia

STRATEGIC PLAN

2022 – 2026



Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION 3

BOARD 3

MEMBERS..... 3

ENGAGEMENT 3

COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY 4

BIOSECURITY 4

FOOD SAFETY..... 4

AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR POULTRY..... 4

POLICY..... 4

CHALLENGES FOR THE INDUSTRY..... 5

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE NOVEMBER POLICY MEETING STATE REP ORG INFORMATION BELOW 7

STATE SPECIFIC PRIORITIES ADVISED TO EGG FARMERS OF AUSTRALIA 7

Introduction

The **purpose** of the Egg Farmers of Australia Strategic Plan is to assist Egg Farmers of Australia members to advance their business through support with biosecurity, food safety and national regulation matters.

Our **vision** is to advocate on behalf of the egg industry to encourage the implementation and improvement of the latest biosecurity and food safety practices for the benefit of Australian egg consumers. Advocacy is possible through the research support of Australian Eggs Limited (AEL).

Our **values** include:

Respect – acknowledgement of the workload of our members and EFA Board and Staff.

Integrity – honesty in all that we do

Accountability - to our members and colleagues

Collaboration – within our industry members, government and with other industry stakeholders

Transparency – To provide information to our members, government and the public to better understand the egg industry

Apolitical – Commitment to work with all political affiliations.

Board

Board Directors number 5 with 2 full-time staff members.

Members

Egg Farmers of Australia members include grassroots egg farmer members, vets, academics and state farming organisations. Our organisation recognizes diversity in the egg industry across both size and system.

Engagement

The first element of the EFA Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026, engagement with members and egg industry related stakeholders.

Communication and Advocacy

Both internal and external communication on National policy issues of biosecurity, food safety and the Standards and Guidelines at a national level is undertaken through a range of activities as outlined in the 5 year plan below.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity risks are always a concern for intensive industries due to the rapid nature of moving through a flock. Egg Farmers of Australia will continue to assist in biosecurity matters such as liaising with Australian Eggs, the egg industry's AHA member for EADRA issues.

Food Safety

Consumers need to be assured that the food they consume is safe. Systems in the egg industry allow producers to have uptake of Egg Standards Australia (ESA), traceability and assisting in progressing food standards through national organisations and processes such as Food Standards Australian and New Zealand (FSANZ).

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry

Egg Farmers of Australia has worked for years through the various processes presented through governments in relation to the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry and look forward to conclusion of the process at a national level so that standards can be implemented at a state level to bring surety to the process.

Provide policy positions of discussion and possible adoption by the EFA board at Board Meetings.

Promote the egg industry through outlining the work EFA is undertaking and information on egg related topics through journals such as National Poultry News (NPN) and Poultry Digest.

Policy

Policy is developed and considered from a range of feedback provided through members, stake farming organisations and recommendations are put forward for consideration at Egg Farmers of Australia board meetings for passing.

Policy is outlined on the Egg Farmers of Australia website and information is provided to members through the membership booklet provided on payment of membership each financial year.

Challenges for the industry

Although there is a number of LLI's, the industry is limited in the numbers of people who can perform the role as many who have undertaken the training are farmers and are unable to leave their farm to assist for a substantial amount of time. Where possible EFA plans to request that a member of state farming organisations undertakes the LLI training and aims to overcome availability by rotating LLIs although this is also costly for the industry.

Members Services, Engagement, Organisational Stability.	Policy Development	Representation of EFA Members	Profile of Egg Farmers of Australia, its members and staff support
<p>Long Term Stability of the Organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the long-term sustainability of the organisation, Egg Farmers of Australia requires levy paying members. Egg Farmers have a high level of engagement and are responsive to emerging issues. 	<p>Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egg Farmers of Australia will continue to work towards a more harmonised approach of egg issues given that eggs move around the nation and cross state borders. 	<p>State Representation through EFA Board Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation from State Farming Organisations is made through the Board Directors representing each state egg committee. 	<p>Profile of our organisation over the next 5 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egg Farmers of Australia aim to continue to increase the profile of the organisation as it develops from 6th to 11th year.
<p>Membership Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egg Farmers of Australia staff will continue to support current members of all production systems and look for opportunities to increase membership. 	<p>Traceability and Food Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our organisation supports the research and development work undertaken by our partner organisation Australian Eggs and assist in promoting work such as the Traceability app that has met a gap in the 	<p>Representation with Government Decision Makers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Agricultural Ministers, Advisers, Departmental Offices and liaise with MP across Agriculture, Health and Food Authority officials though correspondence 	<p>Highlighting member profiles and acknowledging leadership and emerging leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egg Farmers of Australia have worked with EFA members to include member profiles on our website. Egg Farmers of Australia acknowledge the leaders and emerging leaders in our

	supply chain for small egg produces. EFA provides information to Agriculture Ministers on such initiatives.	pertaining to updates relating to the egg industry and such events as World Egg Day.	industry through annual awards commenced in our 5 th year.
Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our engagement will include member specific communications, speaking at Conferences and inclusion of egg industry specific topics in a range of egg industry publications. 	Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The monitoring of new animal welfare science is important as research further develops our understanding of the hens our farmers care for. Egg Farmers of Australia will continue to advocate for the use of conventional cages to 2046. 	Cross-industry representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with cross-industry representatives organisations such as Duck, Chicken Meat, Pork and Stockfeed industries to drive issues that impact on intensive industries. 	Staff support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are supported in undertaking training relevant to their role including online courses to assist with tasks and training such as updating of LLI credentials.
Website supports for EFA members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egg Farmers of Australia members are able to advertise on the EFA website in order to have a post for the classifieds buy, swap and sell section or more importantly to advertise employment opportunities in the industry. 	Biosecurity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egg Farmers of Australia undertakes Biosecurity tasks on behalf of Australian Eggs in attending Animal Health Australia (AHA) Members Forums. 	Representation to the general public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through submissions to hearings, appearing at hearings and a range of representation including media releases, the general public has the opportunity to understand more about the egg industry. 	LLI support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of an Emergency Animal Disease Response, the egg industry is encouraged to supply an LLI to the control centre. Although Egg Farmers of Australia as at 2021 have 3 certified LLIs, State Farming Organisations are encouraged to have an LLI available also.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE NOVEMBER POLICY MEETING STATE REP ORG INFORMATION BELOW

State Specific Priorities advised to Egg Farmers of Australia

WA

- **Animal welfare focus** on Standards and Guidelines, Animal Welfare Act Review and Trespass Bill. SE Preparedness, Response Plan and AI Checklist.
- **Traceability focus** on egg traceability, stamping and registration of Poultry PIC codes.
- **Workforce shortage focus** liaising with the state government and monitoring plans regarding border changes to allow overseas workers. Further work on COVID plans should cases arise following vaccination targets is important.
- **Monitoring increasing grain prices** focused on the impact of this on production.

QLD

- EFA - Biosecurity – SE and AI response plans as they link to EADRA
- QUEP specific state priorities – Labour shortages, COVID response plans and development of safe food auditing platform

NSW - 2021-22 Priorities

Animal Welfare - Ensure a balanced animal welfare regulatory framework in NSW that supports commercial egg production by:

- Continuing to engage with the *Standards and Guidelines for Animal Welfare – Poultry* reform process and stakeholders to ensure progress and minimise impact on industry
- Support informative community engagement by Egg Farmers of Australia & Australian Eggs to promote the egg industry and mitigate risk to industry reputation

Biosecurity & Food Safety - Ensure industry integrity is maintained through:

- Advocating for the creation of regulatory framework that requires a consistent biosecurity and food safety standard for all industry participants, irrespective of size or production system.
- Continue to work with NSW Government to mitigate the impact of Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) on the industry through mandatory SE testing across the egg industry.
- Advocate for the discontinuation of the SE control order.
- Engage with FSANZ on the review of the Primary Production and Processing Standard for Egg and Egg Product

- Engage with the NSW Food Authority's review of the 2015 Food Regulation.

Alternative Proteins

- Advocate for clear labelling of alternative protein products and ensure use of the word “egg” is only used for avian eggs or avian egg products