

Telephone: 054395316

Postal Address:

Strathfieldsaye Road,  
STRATHFIELDSAYE, 3551

20-2-'87

Mr. Alan Harrison,  
General Manager,  
Egg Farmers of Victoria,  
P.O. Box 141,  
NOBLE PARK, 3174

Dear Mr. Harrison,

In reply to your letter of the 6th January, 1987 regarding suggestion of reducing the age of pullets from 26 weeks of age to 18 weeks when quota levies will be due. The Commercial Egg Producers Association are concerned that at 18 weeks of age pullets are not laying hens and it is wrong to expect producers to pay levies on birds that are not producing.

In fact, with the present strains of laying pullets, they require feed restriction during rearing and producers have trouble keeping these small pullets in the laying cages at 18 weeks of age.

We support leaving the legislation as it is at 26 weeks, while these birds may lay a few eggs before 26 weeks it is not serious enough to change.

If quota levies are introduced on 18 week old pullets we believe producers will push the birds to get eggs out of them at that age, this will bring a lot more small eggs onto the market which the Board doesn't need. You will also find the shell quality of the eggs will break down more noticeably towards the end of the laying season.

— 2 —

Another problem raised at our monthly meeting was the 2nd report from Professor Fels on egg pricing in Victoria. We don't think the Egg Board should accept the next report as quickly as they did with the 1st report. Perhaps if the Action Committee could be permitted to read the report before it is implemented, it could save the Egg Industry financial embarrassment.

There was also mention made regarding the meeting we tried to arrange between our Association and the Egg Board in December. There is still concern regarding have Keysborough as the only designated grading floor for all Victoria. We still believe that Tom Neylon's grading floor at Thomastown should be a designated floor. With the Public Bodies Review Committee Report due out soon, it may be better if we could hold a meeting with The Egg Board shortly afterwards.

Hoping that you will give these matters your attention,

Yours sincerely,

K. Fitzgibbon,  
SECRETARY.