

EGGS — LABELLING

891. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations:

I refer to a 28 September Western Australia *Country Hour* radio segment on the poultry industry.

- (1) Is the minister aware of any eggs arriving from the eastern states that are fertile chicken meat eggs that are then repacked or rebranded as free range or barn eggs and sold to Western Australian consumers?
- (2) If yes to (1), what action will the minister take?
- (3) If no to (1), is the minister concerned that such a practice may be taking place; and, if so, what steps is the minister prepared to take to investigate this situation?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided by the responsible minister, the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations.

- (1) No, the minister is not aware of any such eggs.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) A national information standard under Australian Consumer Law concerning free range eggs came into effect on 26 April 2018. Under the standard, egg producers cannot use “free range” on egg cartons unless specified conditions are met regarding the production of the eggs. Additionally, egg sellers, like other traders in Australia, have obligations under the misleading or deceptive conduct provisions of the ACL when selling eggs.

The minister encourages anyone with pertinent information or related complaints to contact the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety’s Consumer Protection division, which, in conjunction with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, has responsibility for the investigation of alleged breaches of this legislation.