

FOOD STANDARD 4.2.5 — EGG STAMPING

878. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the minister delay the 26 November implementation of changes to Food Standard 4.2.5—primary production and egg stamping component—as has been done in Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria; and, if not, why not?
- (2) If the minister will not delay the implementation, what action will the minister take to address the concerns raised about the Commercial Egg Producers Association of WA with the Department of Health?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No. Standard 4.2.5, Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg Products of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, is a new standard that comes into operation on 26 November 2012. There are no changes proposed for the standard. Industry participated in the development of standard 4.2.5 and supported the standard requirements, including the implementation period of 18 months, to enable industry time to comply with the standard.
- (2) Enforcement issues raised by industry will be managed by local government with any necessary guidance provided by the Department of Health. The Department of Health will work with industry concerning issues related to the unique identification of eggs. The code is adopted by the Food Act 2008 and the Food Regulations 2009, which means that any change that is made to the code automatically applies in Western Australia. In Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria, other regulatory measures are used to implement the requirements of the code. These states, for various reasons, have either delayed the implementation of the code or the unique identification of eggs required of the standard.