



EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION
of New Zealand (Inc)

1st Floor, 96D Carlton Gore Road,
AUCKLAND 1023, New Zealand
Phone: +64-9-520 4300
Fax: +64-9-520 1553
Email: michael@pianz.org.nz
Website: www.eggfarmers.org.nz

19 March 2012

Dear Natasha

We have considered your offer to appear on *Campbell Live* and have decided to decline. The Code belongs to, and has been developed by NAWAC, based on extensive scientific study and advice. It has also been through an extensive public consultation period and is with NAWAC for its final draft before being forwarded to the Minister for his decision and sign-off. The Code has not been released and the EPF does not intend to comment now until it is released.

NAWAC in the 2005 review of the Layer Hen Code of Welfare called for research comparing cage and alternative systems including enriched colonies for “supplying New Zealand’s ongoing egg consumption needs” and to “consistently provide better welfare outcomes for birds and to be economically viable.”

Research was undertaken for MAF by AgResearch comparing current cage, free-range and barn systems. The EPF encouraged farmers of all systems to co-operate with AgResearch to enable that research to be undertaken and farmers did that. That research did not compare colony systems because there were none in New Zealand at that time. A research project primarily funded by MAF with a contribution by the EPF was established at the Mainland Waikouaiti site to investigate the animal welfare science and the farming practicality of enriched colony systems in New Zealand. This enabled research to be undertaken in a farm environment, not in a university laboratory.

Mainland Poultry was chosen as the site because it had the scale and resources. The research was continuously peer-reviewed over a three-year period by international animal welfare scientists. The information was provided to NAWAC for its work on the draft Code.

It is on the basis of all this and previous work that NAWAC will make its final decision on the Code.

Yours sincerely

Michael Brooks
Executive Director