





# PROPOSED CHANGES

## Enrichment for meat chickens

Birds must have enough space to stand, turn around and flap their wings. There must be space sufficient to allow all birds to be able to sit at the same time.

Chicken breeders over 7 days of age, must have access to perches and/or platforms. Chicken breeders must have access to a scratch area and/or claw shortening device.

From 1 July 2032, stocking density in ideal conditions indoors must not exceed 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (measured as bird density in the useable space) for pullets and adult birds (including roosters).



## VFF ACTION

Following the announcement of the poultry standards, the VFF immediately took to national media explaining the concerns of industry toward the proposals. We also hosted an online meeting of VFF poultry farmers to provide information on the standards and our actions to date.

The VFF has requested meetings with the Victorian Minister for Agriculture and Agriculture Victoria to discuss the options available to government and to industry.

## Free-range poultry

Poultry must be adequately feathered before access to an outdoor area. Poultry kept in housing with access to an outdoor area must have ready access to the housing and shaded areas.

- By 1 July 2025, a person in charge of poultry kept in housing with access to an outdoor area must encourage use of the outdoor range by providing:
- Access to appropriately located shade and shelter from predators
- Opportunities to perform foraging and scratching behaviours reasonable number and size of access points.

By 1 July 2032, a person in charge must ensure that poultry, other than ratites, are able to be confined to manage welfare risks to birds in the outdoor area. Confinement must comply with housing standards, as well as stocking densities for the relevant species.

The VFF will be keeping members informed regularly through our regular email newsletters and member updates. VFF Members are welcome to contact the VFF Policy & Advocacy Team to discuss any matters related to the proposed standards.

## KEY CONTACT

For further information please contact

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