

Combined Poultry Industry Representatives

Submitter #821

Hearing 18 – Rural Zone

29 September 2020

Industry profile

56 Poultry Farms in the Waikato District

Meat chicken Farms

6 x Free Range
15 x Barn-raised

Meat Chicken Breeder Farms

15 farms, incl. a Cobb-Vantress Farm in Rangiriri, supplying livestock to China & other parts of Asia

Egg Laying Farms

9 x Free Range
1 x Barn & colony
1 x cage (closing Dec 2022)

Egg Layer Breeder Farms

9 x hatcheries
1 x rearing farm

This makes the District **the most important** for **poultry production** in the **region** in terms of food supply as well as for breeding of poultry for both the domestic and international markets.

The District is **perfectly located** to provide affordable land for the poultry sector and to provide supply to the triangle of Auckland, Hamilton, and Tauranga.



Industry profile

Most popular meat for NZ consumers since 2001
No importation of eggs or chicken meat into NZ due to our avian disease-free status

Annual egg consumption in NZ
247 eggs per person

Compared to: France – 213 per person;
Ireland – 188 per person; India – 76 per
person; Netherlands – 205 per person;
Australia – 237 per person; Japan – 337 per
person; UK – 199 per person

Annual chicken meat consumption in NZ
44kg per person

NZ national flock
120 million chickens

Definitions

Free Range	Barn	Cages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meat or layers – housed in a barn with access to an outdoor area. Codes of Welfare set standards for indoor up to 34kg/m² for meat chickens and up to 9 hens/m² for layer hens.• The maximum outdoor stocking density for layers is 2,500 hens/ha.• The outdoor stocking density for meat chickens is a minimum area of 1.5 times the area of the shed and there are requirements for access to the outdoors during daylight hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meat chicken or layers (marketed in egg industry as “cage-free”) housed in a barn without access to outdoors.• Layers may have a multi-tier aviary.• Environmental factors are computer controlled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current cages are an enclosure constructed of metal, 3-7 birds, no perches, or nests.• Colony cages: 20-60 birds with nest area, perches, and scratching pad.• Environmental factors are computer controlled.



Definitions - continued

Hatchery	Rearer	Meat breeder
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A facility in which fertile eggs are incubated and hatched in controlled environment cabinets.• The growth of the poultry and egg market requires the ongoing development of hatchery sites to meet demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm at which day-old layers are raised to point of lay, i.e. 18-20 weeks of age.• Stocking densities vary based on age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farms raise grandparent and parent stock to produce the meat chickens that are sold to consumers.• Stocking densities are generally between 7- 9 hens per square metre.



Environment

Meat chicken farms and larger layer farms (>5,000 hens) have a **computer-controlled environment** governing feed, water, heating, cooling and air flow.

Meat chicken farm litter (consisting of animal waste and wood chips) is sold as fertiliser and is a **popular source of fertiliser** for horticulture and pasture on many dairy and other farms in the Waikato.

Larger scale layer farms have belts below cages or living areas to **capture and remove animal waste** which is also popular as a source of fertiliser.

Generally you want a farm with 5,000 hens to justify mechanisation e.g. belt to remove faeces for a layer farm



Market factors

Consumer demand is seeing a steady shift to **free range and barn** for eggs.

This has been increased by NZ supermarket policy to **no longer sell current cage eggs** from 2022 and **colony cage eggs** from 2025/26.

A similar shift is occurring in the **meat chicken** market with a **steady shift to free range**.



Level of setback

- Protection of existing poultry farm activities (intensive farms) from new dwellings establishing nearby
- Inclusion of the proximity to the poultry farms in the LIM reports to inform any requirements for setback when constructing a building for a sensitive activity
- Appropriate setbacks for PERMITTED ACTIVITY - BARN SYSTEM to internalise the effects of the poultry farming activities:
 - 100m from any site boundary (other than a road boundary);
 - 300m from any sensitive activity; and
 - 500m from any boundary of Residential Village and Country Living Zone
- Appropriate setbacks for PERMITTED ACTIVITY – FREE RANGE SYSTEM:
 - Buildings set back at least 50m from site boundary (other than a road boundary);
 - 200m from a sensitive activity;
 - 500m from any boundary of Residential Village and Country Living Zone; and
 - For free range, a vegetated range area is maintained.

Rationale for the setbacks:

- These are appropriate setback distances to internalise any amenity effects of poultry farming activities (based on our experience)
- The reciprocal setbacks need to be applied to any new sensitive activities wishing to establish in the close proximity to an existing poultry farm.
- Any larger setback requirements are not deemed appropriate for the scale and nature of the effects from the poultry farming activities and are significant economic hindrances – size of the land required for larger setbacks becomes excessive / inefficient for the size of the activity / actual land requirement.



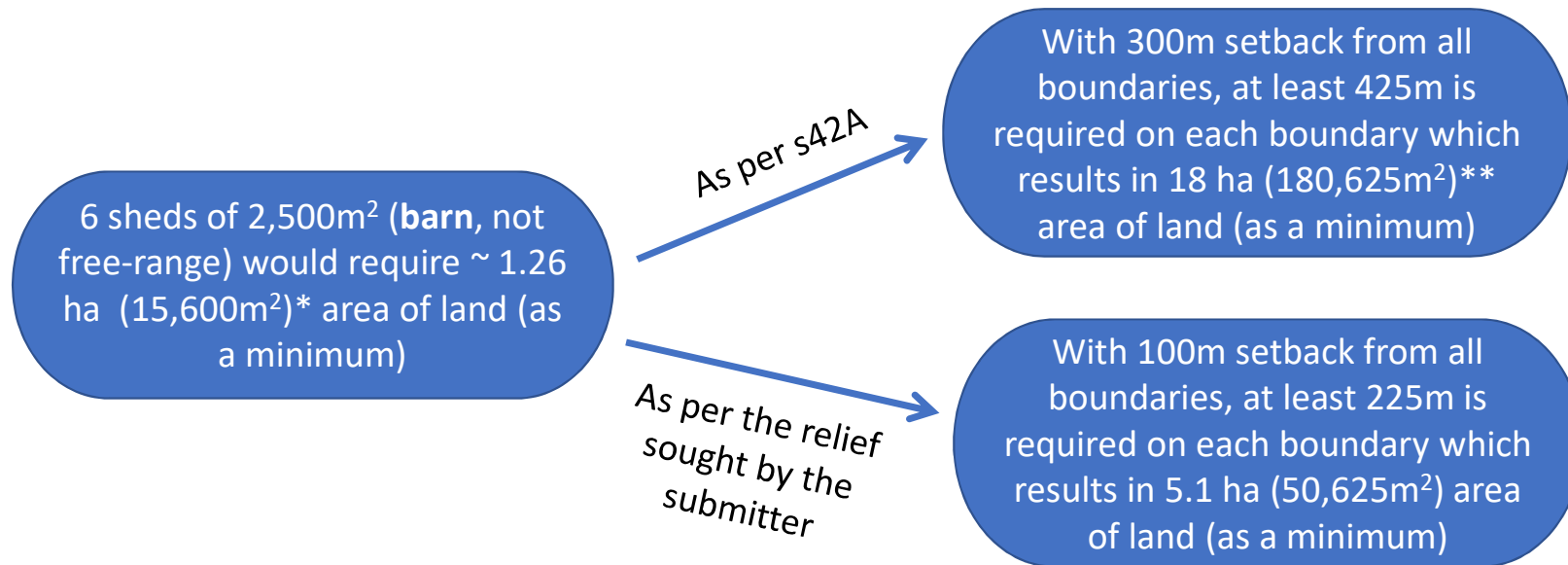
Farm size

- In the Waikato a poultry farm can be on land between 0.6 ha and 57 ha.
- The shed floor areas and the required range areas would take up most of the area. Sheds can be 600m² – 2,700m²
 - Allowing for all the support mechanisms and implements (i.e. track for trucks, and room for the feed silos etc.) including the manager's house on-site, gives the farm sizes of mainly 2ha – 5ha farms.
- Given the stocking rate and range area required for **a large layer farm**, looking at approximately 10ha.



Impact of setback as per s 42A recommendation

For **barn sheds** - assuming a square property



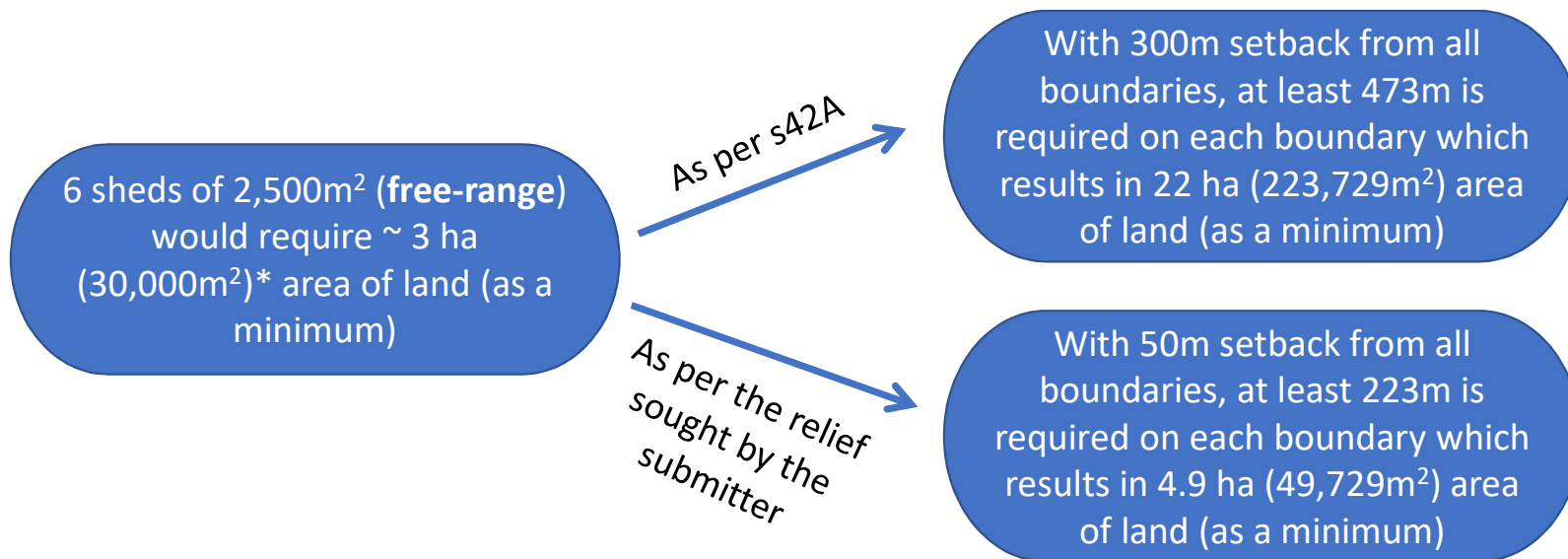
* Calculated as 125m x 125m = 15,600m²

** Calculated as 425m x 425m = 180,625m²



Impact of setback as per s 42A recommendation

For free-range - assuming a square property



*Calculated as 2,500m² shed would require 2,500m² range, so 6 sheds would require 30,000m². A square property of 30,000m² would need each boundary to be 173m



Local grower information

- 34 meat-chicken growers
- Smallest Farm area = 0.97ha (in this sample)
 - Larger Farm area = 57ha
- All of the farms larger than 5ha have multiple land-use: animal grazing, maize growing etc.
- Purely poultry production: no more than 5ha required for a 6-shed farm (up to 6.5ha for an 8-shed farm)

