

Born free

Eggcellent bid on boil

CANTERBURY is the latest council to join the free range egg bandwagon, but is the move all it's cracked up to be?

It was recently resolved that "Canterbury City Council encourage the

purchase of free range eggs and will use its best endeavours to encourage our caterers and food suppliers to use free range eggs."

The policy has since been praised by Animal Liberation, which says Can-

terbury is "showing compassion and leadership".

However, Canterbury hasn't taken as strong a stance on the issue as several of its Local Government counterparts.

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Council goes free

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For example, Hurstville, Cessnock and North Sydney councils all share the same policy - one where not using eggs sourced from caged chickens means catering arrangements are only made with caterers who can guarantee they use free range eggs.

Where there is no option but to source food from a vendor who uses caged eggs, these councils have decided that no eggs are the preferred option.

They have also resolved that the use of non-cage eggs will be stipulated in future tenders or contracts relating to the supply of food in which council is party.

In Canterbury, food suppliers and caterers will be written to and advised of council's free range egg policy.

There are currently no



Free range: Canterbury Council will no longer use caterers who source caged eggs.

plans for a free range chicken policy.

The free range egg movement isn't much further advanced in Marrickville.

A spokesperson for Marrickville Council said that some time ago an investigation into the source of all eggs purchased was undertaken but, "because of the cost, the council did not pro-

ceed at the time with non-battery hen eggs across all of its areas of operations".

However, Tom Foster Community Care Centre

stopped buying battery hen eggs in early 2009 and, more recently, all council run child care centres have been instructed to stop buying eggs that are sourced from battery hens.