



The Honourable Kristy McBain  
Mayor of Bega Valley Shire  
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PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

**Australia**

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Dear Ms McBain,

Congratulations on joining the Cities Power Partnership! We at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) know that Bega Valley Shire Council is a community leader when it comes to climate change action, so we have a suggestion that would boost your environmental credentials and help pave the way to a greener future: mandate that all council meetings, functions, and other events serve only vegan food.

As you likely know, animal agriculture is a leading cause of climate change and environmental degradation in Australia and around the world. More than 50 per cent of Australia's greenhouse-gas emissions come from livestock. Farmed animals also use almost one-third of the country's scarce freshwater resources and take up 58 per cent of its land area. Going vegan can more than **halve** a person's dietary greenhouse-gas emissions.

Recently, Germany's environment ministry announced that it would no longer serve any meat at official functions since it wanted to act as a "role model" on environmental and sustainability issues. The UN has also acknowledged that a global shift towards vegan eating is imperative to slow climate change.

Whether it's a barbecue or a brunch, vegan meals offer the easiest and most effective way to take a bite out of climate change. As local community leaders, the members of Bega Valley Shire Council must surely set an example, eating as if you mean business, by enjoying only planet-friendly vegan foods during all official events. Not only would this strategy immediately reduce the council's emissions, it would also do so without any cost to ratepayers.

May we hear from you that you're committed to making this small but powerful change?

We are available to provide vegan meal planning assistance and have enclosed some of our vegan starter kits to get you on your way. I look forward to your reply.

Very truly yours,

Ashley Fruno  
Associate Director of Campaigns  
PETA

**Affiliates:**

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)