



Cr Gordon Bradbery AM
Lord Mayor, City of Wollongong
Via e-mail: records@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

20 August 2019

Dear Lord Mayor,

I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to commend Wollongong City Council for declaring a climate emergency and to suggest a simple, tangible action that would make the move more meaningful: **introduce a policy of serving only vegan food at Wollongong City Council premises and events.**

As you've recognised, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) "Global Warming of 1.5°C" report states that urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to limit the catastrophic damage that will be caused by climate change. Whilst the council's commitment to renewable energy targets is admirable, we can no longer ignore findings that animal "products" account for 58% of the greenhouse-gas emissions of food nor that animal agriculture is responsible for 14.5% to 18% of human-induced global-greenhouse gas emissions.

Indeed, the evidence has never been clearer that eliminating our consumption of meat, eggs, and dairy is the single most effective thing we can do to combat climate change. Clearing grazing land for farmed animals and growing feed crops are major causes of deforestation, drought, desertification, and biodiversity loss. In Australia, more than 50% of methane emissions come from farmed animals – this is terrifying when you consider that methane is roughly 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a heat-trapping gas. Additionally, animal agriculture is a thirsty industry: a whopping 15,415 litres of water are required to make just 1 kilogram of beef, compared to the 287 litres of water needed to produce 1 kilogram of potatoes.

The IPCC, the United Nations, and leading scientists are calling for a major shift in food production – specifically, the reduction or elimination of animal-derived food consumption – as a matter of urgency. Melbourne's Moreland Council has already taken a bold step by introducing meatless Mondays, but, with no reasonable justification for continuing to support the production of animal-based foods, and our planet at risk, we must do more.

People expect those in power to lead by example. **During this crucial time of climate crisis, we urge the Wollongong City Council not merely to talk the talk but to walk the walk and remove animal "products" from council plates.**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully yours,

Emily Rice
PETA Australia

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