



Councillor Chris Hanna
Mayor of Snowy Monaro
Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Via e-mail: Chris.Hanna@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

19 March 2024

Dear Mr Mayor:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). We've been following the stories about Adaminaby's Big Trout sculpture and understand that it will soon be the subject of another makeover. **This poses a wonderful opportunity to draw attention to how fabulous fish are and the fact that they're sensitive, sentient beings. We'd like to offer to foot the bill for repainting the Big Trout if you'll accept our proposed addition: the words "Don't batter us!" on the fish's belly.**

Fish are misunderstood and much maligned, but in all the ways that matter – including the ability to feel pain – they're no different to you, me, or any other animal, including those with whom many of us share our homes.

Fish are smart and social. They can recognise shoal mates and change their behaviour to avoid hazards they've seen other fish fall victim to. Some gather information by cleverly eavesdropping, and others use tools. *All* of them suffer when they're yanked from their watery homes – gasping for air while they suffocate – before being beheaded and gutted.

Not only is eating fish (or catching them for "fun") cruel, it's also bad for the planet. Fishing in freshwater ecosystems like Lake Eucumbene – which are essential to life on Earth – decimates fish populations, negatively impacting biodiversity. Shamefully, one-third of freshwater fish species are now threatened with extinction.

Of course, our proposed design speaks for *all* fish, including those who live in the ocean, where trawlers damage delicate ecosystems and release planet-warming carbon and abandoned ghost gear kills some 150,000 seals and cetaceans annually. Farming fish is no solution – aside from the cruelty of confining living, feeling beings, these facilities increase the risk of disease and pollute waterways with nitrogen and phosphorus, leading to deadly algal blooms.

Please find our proposed design, which adheres to the colour palette changes demanded by locals, below. I'm sure you'll agree that it carries an important message – one which will remind residents and tourists alike that fish have feelings and *none* of them wants to be battered.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Australia

PO Box 20308

World Square

Sydney NSW 2002

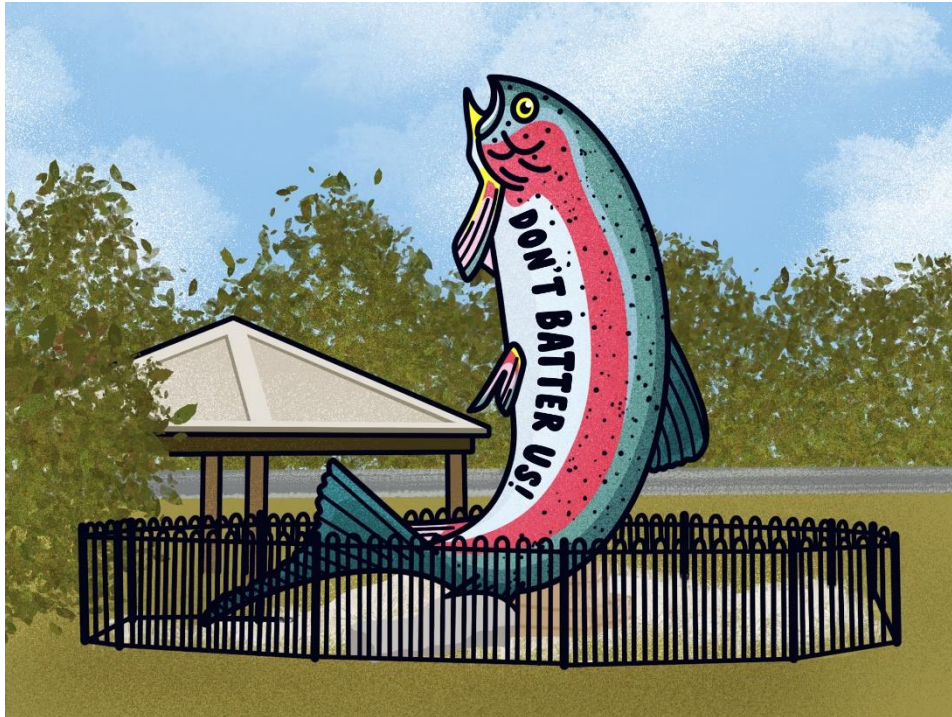
08 8556 5828

Info@peta.org.au

PETA.org.au

Entities

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)



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I hope you'll consider our offer! I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Emily Rice
Senior Communications Advisor to PETA Australia

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