



To: Zali Steggall MP
From: Emily Rice, Senior Outreach and Partnerships Manager, PETA Australia

Via e-mail: Zali.Steggall.MP@aph.gov.au

14 February 2020

Dear Ms Steggall,

I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to commend you for proposing a climate action bill and for recognising that responding urgently to the climate crisis is "a matter of conscience". We'd like to suggest a simple, tangible action that you could take to show your personal commitment to tackling this issue: *eating* with a conscience by adopting a vegan lifestyle.

The UN states that **a global shift towards vegan eating is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change**, and University of Oxford researchers agree that **cutting animal-derived foods from our diets is the "single biggest way" to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and conserve water and land**.

Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Chu surveyed the world's carbon-emitting industries and concluded that **emissions from agriculture are a bigger problem than those from energy generation**, warning that "[i]f cattle and dairy cows were a country, they would have more greenhouse gas emissions than the entire EU 28".

Of course, Australia must leave the thirsty coal industry behind, but that's not the only solution. Since farming animals is responsible for approximately *one-third* of the world's water consumption, Aussies are increasingly questioning the logic of persisting with our enormous animal agriculture industry, especially on a drought-stricken continent that was recently "the hottest place on Earth".

A single cow raised for beef can drink up to 60 litres of water per day, and this country is home to 26.2 million of them. Add to this the 1.4 million cows used for dairy, who each need up to 85 litres a day while lactating, and you're looking at as much as 1.6 *billion* litres of our scarce water supplies going to cows – who pollute even more water with their waste, emit the potent greenhouse gas methane, and experience pain and fear when they're slaughtered. As **ruminant animals also generate 66.3% of agriculture's greenhouse-gas emissions** and suffer terribly when slaughtered, a vegan lifestyle is clearly the only one that makes sense for anyone who cares about animals and the planet.

People expect those in power to lead by example. By publicly announcing that you're ditching meat, dairy, and eggs, you'd no doubt influence many people in Warringham and across Australia to make the same eco-friendly, compassionate move at this critical time. Overhauling the global food system might seem overwhelming, but we each hold immense power by choosing what we put on our plates.

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Kind regards,



Emily Rice