



The Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Minister for Emergency Management
PO Box 6022
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

28 February 2024

Dear Mr Watt:

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals – PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters worldwide – to enclose a gift of a box of matches to help you make the connection between your government's continued support of animal agriculture and the escalating climate catastrophe and its impact on Australia. **We hope that these matches will remind you that when we use animals for food, we may as well be lighting bushfires.**

Australia is increasingly experiencing the devastating effects of climate change, including high temperatures and ever-worsening bushfire seasons. Projections indicate that we can expect more frequent warm days at higher temperatures and longer drought periods in southern states. Because of climate change, Australia has been experiencing an underlying 1°C increase in average temperatures since industrial times began. This increase, combined with the variability of the country's existing climatic events, creates conditions conducive to the catastrophic fires that have swept large areas of land and claimed the lives of humans and other animals.

When it comes to identifying key drivers of climate change, the science is clear – animal agriculture is a death knell for the planet. According to a 2020 study, cows and other ruminant animals produce nearly as much methane as the entire fossil fuel industry. In the same year, researchers from the University of Oxford warned that “even if fossil fuel emissions were eliminated immediately, emissions from the global food system alone would make it impossible to limit warming to 1.5°C and difficult even to realise the 2°C target”.

Happily, we *can* help douse the heat simply by striking meat from our menus. Studies show that we could stay within a 1.5°C temperature rise by adopting a plant-based food system, and [the most comprehensive analysis to date](#) concludes that eating vegan produces 75% less climate-heating emissions and water pollution than meat-rich diets and requires 75% less land. A vegan world would not only be better for the planet but also spare billions of sensitive animals a miserable life and a terrifying death.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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Entities

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



I'm sure you can agree that the climate catastrophe is among the most pressing issues of our time. By continuing to subsidise and promote the products of animal agriculture, such as meat, eggs, and dairy – which also involve extreme animal suffering – you are striking a match against our fragile planet and condemning the nation to suffer the consequences of reaching a climate tipping point, including the destruction of homes, loss of life, and a bleak future for the next generation.

Please use these matches responsibly, such as for firing up the grill under a delicious animal- and planet-friendly vegan burger.

Kind regards,

Mimi Bekhechi
Campaigns Advisor
PETA

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