



The Right Hon The Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore
GPO Box 1591
Sydney NSW 2001

1 July 2019

Dear Lord Mayor,

I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to commend you for setting a goal of reducing Sydney's emissions by 70% by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. We'd like to suggest a measure that would go a long way towards helping you reach that goal: introducing a policy of serving only vegan food at City of Sydney council premises and events.

As you've recognised, we're facing a severe crisis. Whilst it's admirable that the council will complete its transition to 100% renewable energy in 2020, it could immediately further reduce its emissions – at no cost to ratepayers – by introducing a vegan food policy.

As you know, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's "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. Animal agriculture is responsible for a greater proportion of global greenhouse-gas emissions (14 to 18%) than the entire transportation sector combined (13.5%), and therefore, eliminating our consumption of meat, eggs, and dairy is the single most effective thing we can do to combat climate change. For example, the production of pulses such as peas and beans contributes 40 times fewer greenhouse-gas emissions than the production of beef. Grazing farmed animals and growing feed crops is, as you no doubt realise, a major cause of deforestation – particularly in South America's biodiverse rainforest – as well as drought, desertification, and the devastation of ecosystems. All these issues involve a loss of livelihood – and even of life – for humans in affected areas, in addition to destroying animals' habitats. Here in Australia, more than 50% of our methane emissions come from farmed animals.

The United Nations and leading scientists are calling for the reduction or elimination of animal-derived food consumption as a matter of urgency. Today, no one can offer any reasonable justification for continuing to support the production of animal-based foods. At this crucial time of climate crisis, we urge the City of Sydney to join us in calling for a shift to vegan eating. We need those in positions of power to lead by example, and we hope the council will walk the walk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Mimi Bekhechi
Campaigns Adviser

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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