



January 7, 2020

His Excellency Scott Morrison
Prime Minister of Australia

Your Excellency,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) U.S. and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide, in response to the apocalyptic Australian wildfires that have killed an estimated 25 humans and half a billion mammals, birds, and reptiles over the past several months. Even from here, the science is clear: These devastating fires have been intensified by climate change, which is conclusively linked to animal agriculture. Given that you are a world leader who could make a significant impact, I strongly urge you to set a positive example and reduce further environmental destruction by going vegan and by joining me in encouraging humans everywhere to do the same. Now is not the time to toady to animal agriculture but to stand up to it. If you do, others will follow you and every forward-thinking person will herald your leadership.

More and more Aussies are questioning the logic (and impact) of persisting with your nation's enormous animal agriculture industry on a drought-stricken continent that was, just recently, the hottest place on Earth. After all, agriculture diverts most of Australia's water supply (around 67%). Of this, an astonishing **43% is used for pasture and hay production for grazing animals raised for meat and dairy**—ruminant animals who generate 66.3% of agriculture's greenhouse-gas emissions and suffer terribly when slaughtered.

The link between climate change and animal agriculture is a global issue that has been extensively documented. Scientists have affirmed that a reduction in meat production is imperative in order to meet climate change targets, while the United Nations (U.N.) has stated that a global shift toward vegan eating is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change. Globally, the average person will need to eat 75% less beef, 90% less pork, and half the number of eggs. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., the [animal agriculture sector](#) is responsible for up to a fifth (18%) of human-induced [greenhouse-gas emissions](#). In nearly every step of meat, egg, and milk production, climate-changing gases are released into the atmosphere, disrupting weather, temperature, and the health of our ecosystem. The Union of Concerned Scientists lists meat-eating as the second-biggest hazard to the environment.

We can all do something tangible to protect the environment by switching to plant-based foods. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change declared that it's imperative that all sectors work to mitigate climate change, which cannot be achieved without addressing meat and dairy production. In fact, by going vegan, humans can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that they contribute by up to 60%.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington, D.C.

1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles

2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk

501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Oakland

554 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610
510-763-PETA

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Affiliates:

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

Last year, more than 2 million animals died in the Amazon after farmers cleared land to support the expansion of meat production in forested regions. Currently, dry weather is escalating Australia's mega-blaze. Now is the time to commit to preventing further environmental degradation—and personally saving nearly 200 animals a year—by going vegan. We hope you'll also consider implementing policy changes mandating the consumption and sale of only plant-based foods in all municipal buildings and public schools as well as at all events funded and organized by the government as a long-term solution for protecting our world. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ingrid Newkirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ingrid E. Newkirk
President