

**Submission
No 31**

**INQUIRY INTO LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE
DAIRY INDUSTRY IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Mr Leonard Fitzpatrick

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I wish to express my deep concerns about the dairy industry, both in terms of animal welfare and environmental impacts. The mental and physical cruelty to animals in the dairy industry is unacceptable. The mental distress of calves being separated from their mothers is unconscionable, as is the callous 'disposal' of calves i.e. killing, treating them as industrial waste. This is abhorrent. The depth of the cruelty is outlined further by PETA Australia:
<https://www.peta.org.au/issues/food/the-truth-dairy-cows/>

The cruelty of this industry has been widely reported internationally, and I provide two examples below:

- <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/dairy-industry-animal-rights-cow-treatment-milk-production-a8554196.html>

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/30/dairy-scary-public-farming-calves-pens-alternatives>

In the attached research paper, it considered the "... notions of cruelty and kindness through our eyes and those of our participants. We found that to lesser or greater extents, participants used techniques of rationalisation to give revised versions of animal lives and wellbeing in order to facilitate their own moral and ethical comfort, with most maintaining that harmful animal practices within the industry were necessary, for economic reasons, tradition, expediency and/or for the good of the animals." This again sadly underscores where animal welfare rates as a priority/consideration in this industry.

The dairy sector also undeniably contributes to global warming through the greenhouse gas emissions from manure. Where manure and fertilisers are not appropriately managed, this poses a clear risk to water sources. Large-scale dairy operations also degrade the ecological health and biodiversity of the area.

I offer my voice of deep concerns in the hope that the Committee will take due consideration in order to subsequently make the long-overdue and required recommendations to uphold stronger and more compassionate animal welfare standards and practices and to reduce the significant negative environmental impacts which we all pay for in the end.