

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

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Hi, my name is Samantha Marr, I live in Newcastle NSW, and I have great concerns about the NSW dairy industry and how it is unsustainable. Dairy is responsible for the immense suffering to the animals affiliated with this industry. Because of this, so many consumers are waking up to this fact and are making informed choices of switching from dairy to plant-based milks because of the suffering that happens to the animals on these dairy farms and the massive impact it has on our environment. The industry has and will continue to decline due to the unethical practices and consequences of raising these animals and the environment that has been sabotaged due to this toxic industry.

The huge amounts of water use, the 'wastage' of male bobby calves who are killed off and the huge CO2e emissions coming directly from cows in the dairy industry, and the horrid effect this has on our already growing climate crisis. It's disappointing that an inquiry into the sustainability of an industry did not include in its terms of reference the environmental and animal cruelty concerns.

Dairy Australia estimates that an average of 400,000 bobby calves (calves less than 30 days old) are slaughtered in abattoirs each year because they are considered industry "wastage". This figure also doesn't include bobby calves that are slaughtered on farm. This is not okay in the slightest, these are still baby animals, who are being horrifically slaughtered in cruel ways such as blunt-force trauma within the first 24 hours of life. They are also slaughtered by farmers using firearms, captive bolt gun, or chemical euthanasia. Calves that are over 5 days old can legally be deprived of food and milk for the last 30 hours of life, this is extremely inhumane to starve your own animals. Yet it is perfectly legal for farmers on these farms to do so.

Another problem with this industry is cows are being forcibly impregnated (via artificial insemination) annually to ensure milk production remains consistent. The process of this is extremely disgusting. The farmer will restrain the animal, shove his/her arm up the cows anus until they feel and hold her cervix from within her body and then insert bull semen with a long rod through her vagina to forcefully impregnate her. And it doesn't end there, once the calf is born, the farmer will rip him/her away from their mothers, so the baby doesn't drink their mum's milk so the farmers can profit off of her body, in the process destroying an important baby-to-mother bond. When this happens, cows are known to chase the vehicle taking their babies away, in a desperate attempt to protect and get them back, they mourn for weeks after their calves are stolen from them.

The health of cows in the dairy industry is another factor, a significant number of dairy cows suffer from mastitis: a painful and sometimes fatal inflammation of the mammary glands which causes the udder to be swollen, hot, and occasionally gangrenous and blackened.

Our environment is also at high risk and is being destroyed and damaged for the sake of animal agriculture. The dairy industry alone produces between 19% of all greenhouse gas emissions, produced by the animal agriculture industry in Australia, equivalent to 3% of total emissions. 10% of Australian water use is attributed to the dairy industry: it takes 1,020 litres of water to produce just 1 litre of milk. This is extreme water wastage that needs to be taken seriously. Animal agriculture (including the dairy industry) is a key factor in land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, ocean dead zones, species extinction, water stress and pollution.

Please take all these facts into consideration, animals are suffering right now at the hands of the Australian Dairy Industry, and something needs to be done before we cause irreversible damage to our environment and land. This industry has been dying for a long time and it's only going to get worse and worse. Support plant-based farming instead. It's extremely friendly to the environment and doesn't abuse/exploit animals. The market for plant-based milks is booming, while the dairy industry is dying, along with our planet and the animals that are unfairly sent off to slaughter with it. I strongly encourage you to think about this, as this is an issue that will not go away until something is done about it.