

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

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The dairy industry is unsustainable for several reasons. The dairy industry has a detrimental impact on the environment (land-clearing, huge water usage) and is responsible for large greenhouse gas emissions. The industry is also inherently cruel and unethical. Cows are forcibly impregnated every year so they will produce breast milk. Most of their calves are taken away within hours of birth, and bobby calves are killed. Cows are extremely maternal animals and will bellow and cry for their calves for days. The industry works dairy cows extremely hard.

Despite having a natural life-span of 20+ years, dairy cows are usually slaughtered after 5-7 years. By that time they are spent because of regular pregnancies and intense milk production. How can we justify this treatment of cows for a substance (bovine breastmilk) that is not intended for human consumption and that we as humans do not need to survive, or indeed to stay healthy? In fact, research is increasingly finding that dairy has a negative impact on human health.

More and more consumers are becoming aware of the cruelty of dairy production and its environmental and health impacts, and so demand for dairy will continue to fall (as it has for some time now), especially given consumers now have plenty of choice with so many great alternatives on the market. It's time to look forward, to invest in creative and cruelty-free change, not to prop up a destructive old industry for sentimental reasons. Invest money in helping dairy farmers transition to sustainable and ethical plant-farming instead.