

In my opinion, Kimberly Deeney's opinion, (letters, February 3) that cessation of meat eating is the most significant means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, is wrong.

Agriculture causes about 15% of Australia's total emissions, of which 80% are due to livestock i.e. livestock represent 12 % of emissions, or the equivalent of a 72 million tons of carbon dioxide, and these emissions are relatively stable. In contrast, Australian emissions from all sources other than agriculture rose by 126 million tons of carbon dioxide between 1990 and 2006. Abolishing the entire livestock sector would only halt Australia's emissions growth for less than a decade (data sourced from the Australian Department of Climate Change).

Emissions from livestock industries must be reduced if Australia is to cut its emissions by the required 50-80% by 2050, but reducing our nation's addiction to burning fossil fuel is the main game in minimising global warming. This message should be endlessly rammed home to our politicians and business leaders, and not muddied by people opposed to livestock production on ethical grounds.

Yours Sincerely

Sandy Cameron