


DIET AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Your Choices Can Make a
Difference!

A lush green forest with many trees and ferns. The text is overlaid on the image.

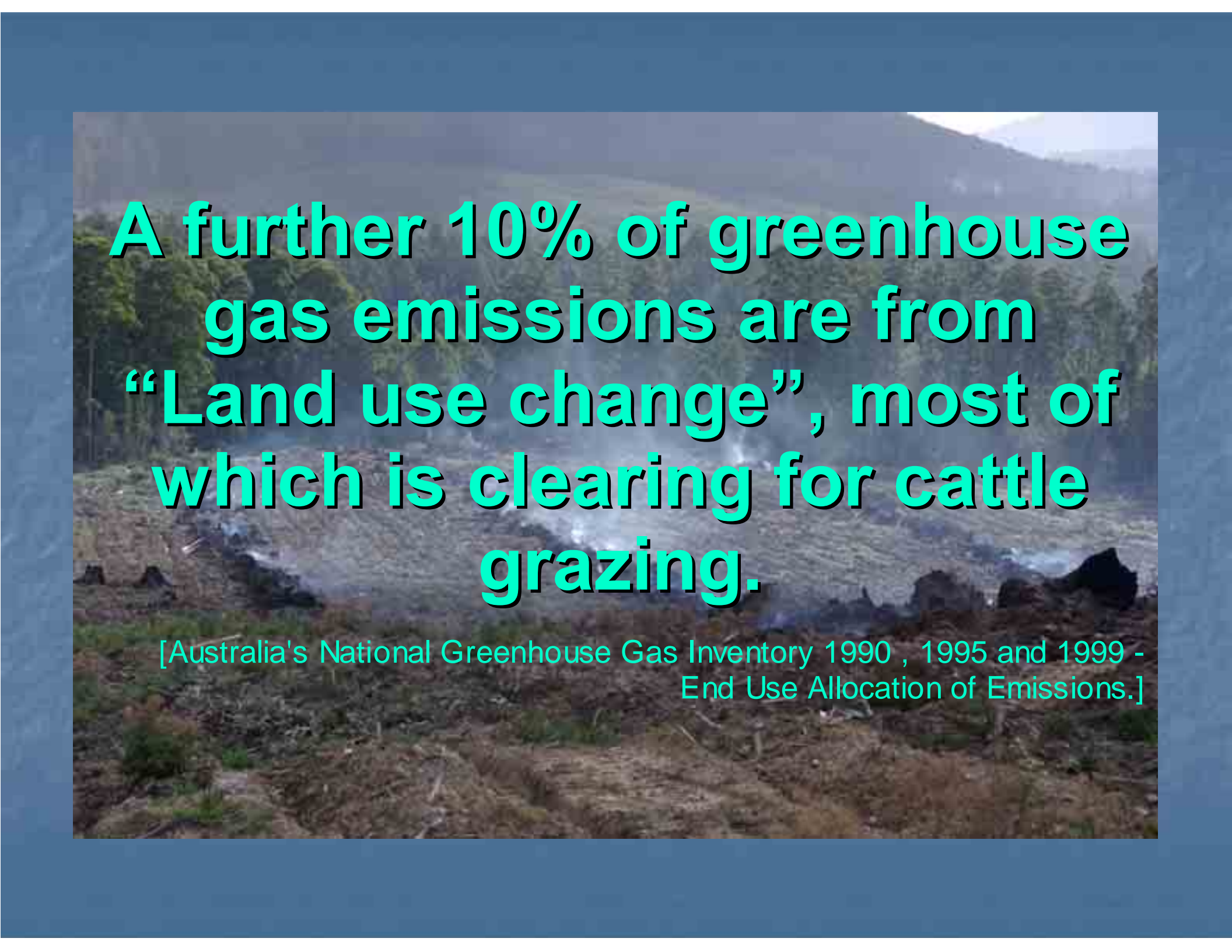
Global production of foods from animals causes 18% of greenhouse gas emissions (measured in CO₂ equivalent). This is more than for transport.

[Livestock's Long Shadow, FAO 2006, Page xxi]



In Australia, over 31% of all greenhouse gas emissions are from animal industries.

[Balancing Act, CSIRO and University of Sydney, 2005]

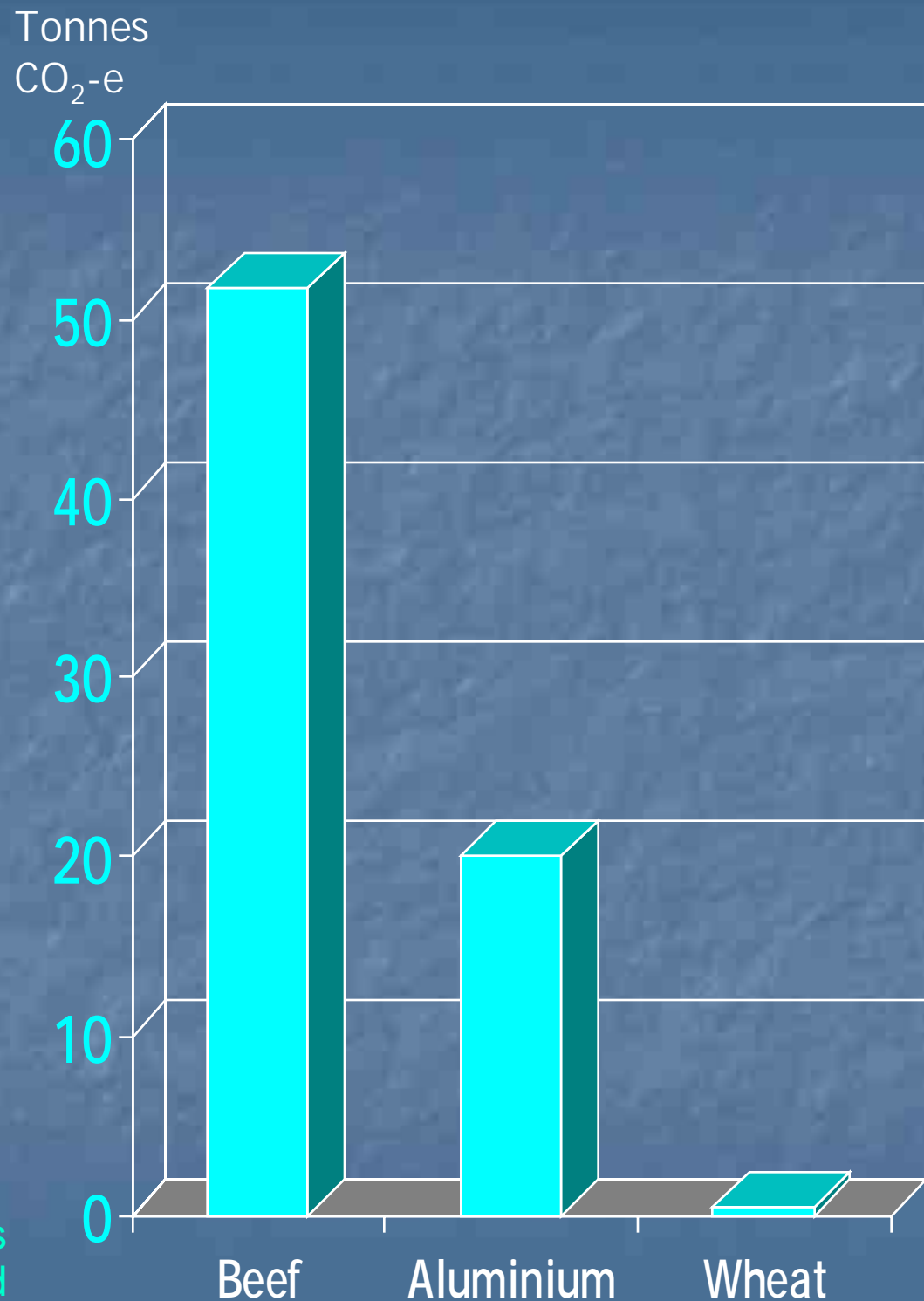


A further 10% of greenhouse gas emissions are from “Land use change”, most of which is clearing for cattle grazing.

[Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990 , 1995 and 1999 - End Use Allocation of Emissions.]

A tonne of beef produces more than double the greenhouse gas emissions of a tonne of aluminium, and over a hundred times the emissions of a tonne of wheat.

[Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990 , 1995 and 1999 - End Use Allocation of Emissions.]





The 2.7 megatonnes of methane created by 28 million cows and 103 million sheep in Australia in 2005 accounted for over 55 percent of total methane emissions in this country.

[ABARE Australian Commodity Statistics 2007]




**Methane is 72 times more
potent than carbon dioxide as
a greenhouse gas.**

[Forster, V. et al. (2007). Changes in Atmospheric Constituents and in Radiative Forcing. In S. Solomon et al. editors, Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Cambridge University Press.]

Methane cycles out of the atmosphere in 10-15 years...


During that time it has a massive impact on climate.

[B. Poon, Climate Change – Re-examining the data from a Vegan Perspective, 2007]

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. The middle ground is dominated by a dense forest of tall, dark green trees. In the background, rolling hills or mountains are visible under a bright, overcast sky with scattered white clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

**Eliminating animal agriculture
quickly reduces methane
production, helping with rapid
climate stabilisation.**

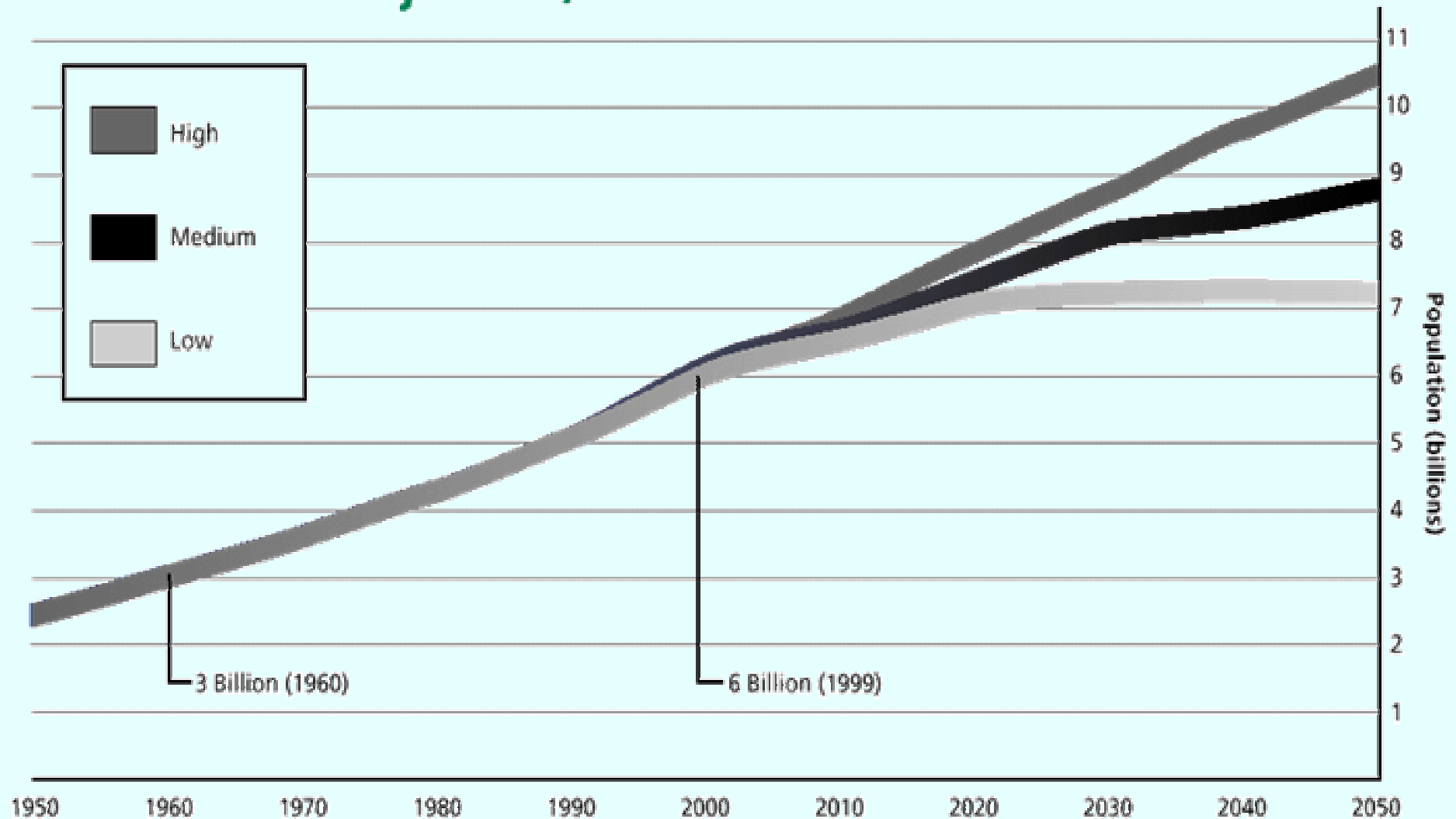
[N. Mohr, A New Global Warming Strategy, 2005]

A photograph of a herd of cattle grazing in a lush green field under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, bold font.

If land used for grazing of beef cattle and dairy herds was freed, this would make available around 110 million hectares (an area the size of NSW and Victoria put together).

[Lenzen and Murray, Ecological Footprint - Issues and Trends, University of Sydney, 2003]

World Population Growth, Actual and Projected, 1950-2050



Source: United Nations, 1998. *World Population Prospects (The 1998 Revision)*.

Galloping meat consumption (land animals)

[kg per person per year]

<i>Country</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>2002</i>
Australia	104	114
US	92	126
Europe	56	89
Brazil	28	81
Japan	8	44
China	4	53

[<http://earthtrends.wri.org>]

If meat consumption continues to increase at the current rate, and everyone eats as much meat as the average American, by 2050 it would take 4 planets the size of earth to grow the crops to feed all the animals.

[Eat Less Meat – It's costing the earth – CIWF 2004]



Land animals slaughtered in Australia for human consumption, 2004-2005

Cattle	8,200,000
Calves	900,000
Sheep	13,300,000
Lambs	20,200,000
Pigs	5,300,000
Chickens	453,900,000
Other fowls and turkeys	10,800,000
Ducks and drakes	5,400,000
Total	518,000,000

[Year Book Australia (2006), Australian Bureau of Statistics]



Sea animals slaughtered in Australia for human consumption, 2004-2005 (tonnes)

Prawns	23,200
Rock lobster	16,200
Abalone	5,500
Scallops	8,700
Tuna	12,700
Other fin fish	146,500
Other	29,200
Total	241,000

[ABARE, Australian Commodity Statistics 2007]

Annual water usage for animal agriculture in Australia 2004-2005

A photograph of a single, leafy tree standing in a vast, dry, brown field under a clear blue sky. The tree is positioned on the right side of the frame, and the field extends to the horizon.

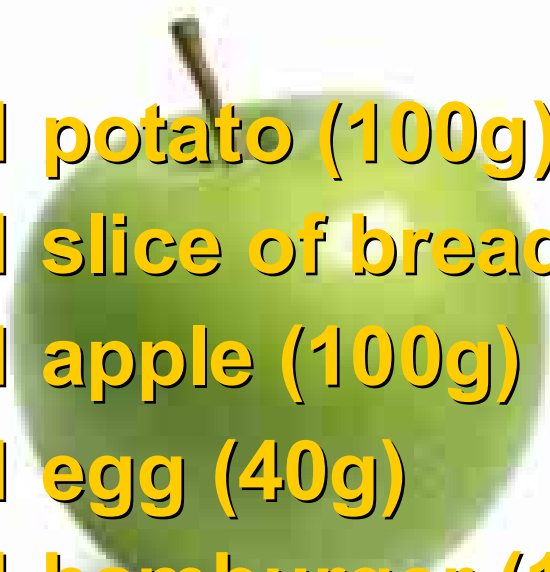
Dairy farming	3,542 gigalitres
Cattle	3,229 gigalitres
Sheep & wool	774 gigalitres
Other	1,105 gigalitres

Total annual consumption of 8,650 gigalitres is 52% of all water consumed by agriculture.

[Balancing Act, CSIRO and University of Sydney, 2005]

Global average virtual water content

Product



1 potato (100g)
1 slice of bread (30g)
1 apple (100g)
1 egg (40g)
1 hamburger (150g)
1 pair leather shoes

Virtual water content (litres)



25
40
70
135
2400
8000

[Hoekstra AK & Chapagain AK (2007) Water footprints of nations: water use by people as a function of their consumption pattern. Water Resource Management 21: 35-48]

How Big is Your Foodprint?

The average Australian diet needs 27 hectares per person

A vegetarian diet needs 4 hectares per person

[taken from www.myfootprint.org]



Green Your Diet

A vegetarian diet, or even better a vegan diet, can do more for the planet than replacing the family car with an energy efficient hybrid model.

Thinking of making the change? Ask us how!



www.tasveg.org