



# Veterinarians for Climate Action

A **Voice**  
for all Animals

an **Introduction** and our **Strategic Plan**



# Veterinarians for Climate Action

## An Introduction



**Australians love animals and are concerned for their welfare. We are a nation strongly connected to our natural environment, built on agriculture, and with homes filled with companion animals. However, the growing climate crisis threatens our wildlife, livestock and pets.**

**Veterinarians for Climate Action represents concerned veterinarians, veterinary nurses, practice and industry partners across Australia calling for urgent climate action:**

-  **We work to help everyday Australians understand the need for urgent climate action.**
-  **We train people within our industry to become advocates for action.**
-  **We set up Community Impact Groups to help create champions.**

**We call for a future where animals thrive.**

Climate breakdown creates more extreme weather events - heatwaves, droughts, floods and bushfires - which threaten the lives and wellbeing of Australian animals. We're seeing the impacts around Australia, from over a billion animal lives lost in catastrophic bushfires to the destruction of our beloved Great Barrier Reef. Our livestock die slowly in decade-long droughts and our farmers' livelihoods suffer. We support policies to protect all animals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions - bringing about a rapid shift to 100% renewable energy and stopping new coal mines and exploration - and improving forest management and agriculture to be climate positive.

We have a strong member base and passionate volunteers. We are honoured to have Professor Peter Doherty, Nobel Prize Laureate and veterinarian, as our Patron.

**Vets and animal experts have a special place in the heart of communities.**

As highly trusted professionals spanning multiple fields, we have expertise in farm, domestic and wildlife animal health and welfare, public health and the environment. Veterinarians hold a trusted place at the heart of local communities, and we can talk to millions of Australians about the health of animals, the importance of stable environments and the need for climate action.

**Veterinarians for Climate Action is mobilising the entire animal health sector to advocate for climate action:**

-  **Increasing awareness of the impacts of the climate crisis on wildlife, livestock and pets.**
-  **Mobilising our entire professional community to champion this cause.**
-  **Supporting policies to reduce carbon emissions.**
-  **Declaring a Climate Crisis on behalf of Australia's animals.**

**We welcome all who love our creatures great and small and invite you to become champions in your communities and strengthen our Voice for all Animals.**



A Voice for all Animals



# Veterinarians for Climate Action Strategic Plan



## Vision

**We work towards a future in which humans have solved the climate crisis to protect the animals we love.**

## Mission

The climate crisis is hurting the animals we love, so we inspire the veterinary profession to advocate for and achieve progress in tackling the climate crisis within and beyond our sector.

## Our Approach

We provide opportunities for veterinarians, veterinary support staff and the broader animal care industry to tackle the climate crisis both within and beyond veterinary practice. We help veterinarians reduce their own personal and workplace climate footprint, and advocate for policies to reduce Australia's climate pollution at local, state and federal levels. Our expertise with animals makes us trusted voices with our clients and in our communities. We support our members to educate and engage people within their own circles of influence, and influence politicians in taking action to tackle the climate crisis.

## Focus Areas

1. Build a powerful movement of veterinary and animal care professionals
2. Shift the veterinary profession and broader animal care sector to be climate champions
3. Use the power of veterinarians' voices to influence the general public
4. Encourage politicians to support climate mitigation
5. Organisational growth to magnify our impact

## Our Values

1. We rely on the best available science.
2. We care deeply about the environment as well as human and animal health and welfare. Consistent with the One Health paradigm, we recognise that the three are inextricably linked.
3. We measure our impact and adapt our model and activities to continually improve.
4. We work collaboratively and put our mission first.
5. We respect the trust that our communities have in veterinarians.

## Our Structure

Veterinarians for Climate Action is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. We are a member of the Climate Action Network of Australia. We are governed by a Board of Directors. Our Board is supported by three sub-committees:

### 1. Reaching in

-  **Membership growth**
-  **Climate Smart Hospital Program**
-  **Education on climate science, impacts and solutions for the veterinary and animal care industry**

### 2. Reaching out

-  **Communications, policy and advocacy**

### 3. Finance and risk

