

Dear Mr Rudd,

We are writing to express our deep concern with the Government's inadequate response to climate change.

Australians are starting to experience the devastating effects of climate change, through fire, drought and flood. Our partner organisations in regions such as the Pacific, South East Asia and Africa also tell us of the suffering of their communities due to extreme weather events and sea level rise, communities who bear so little of the responsibility for climate change, and yet are disproportionately impacted. We mourn and pray, for and with, all people across the world who are affected. The disappearance of species under increasing pressure from climate change is also a profound loss, as well as a threat to the biodiversity upon which all in this planet depend.

It is widely acknowledged that emissions in industrialised countries must fall by at least 25 percent by 2020 in order to give the world a chance of avoiding catastrophic climate change. Your Government's target range of 5 to 15 percent falls far short of this goal. With Australia's per capita emissions among the highest in the world, we have a particular moral responsibility to protect lives and livelihoods. At the moment we are failing, both in terms of what we achieve domestically, and in terms of global leadership on climate change.

We urge your Government to enact legislation that delivers the necessary emission reductions in an equitable manner, and to help shape a strong international agreement on climate change at Copenhagen.

A world that protects the most vulnerable, and values sufficiency rather than overconsumption, is a world where all can flourish. We call upon your Government to act with courage, compassion and hope.

**Signed:**

Dr Mohamad Abdalla, Director of Griffith University Islamic Research Unit

Susan Addison, Co-clerk, Queensland Regional Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Brian Ashen, President, Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils

The Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane and Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia

Rev Rod Benson, Ethicist, Baptist Union of Australia and Public Affairs Director, NSW Council of Churches

Barbara Bolster, Congregation Leader, Sisters of Mercy Grafton Congregation

Anne Boyd, Co-ordinator, EarthSong Project

Craig Brown, Federal Coordinator, Churches of Christ in Australia

The Right Rev'd George Browning, recently retired Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn

Christine Burke IBVM, Provincial, Loreto Sisters, Australia

Assoc. Prof. Colin Butler, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU

Rev. Tim Costello, CEO, World Vision Australia

Annette Cunliffe, rsc, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Charity of Australia

Sister Marilyn Farley s.m.s.m., Sector Coordinator, Strathfield

Lyndsay Farrall, Presiding Clerk, Australia Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Dr. Brian Farran, Anglican Bishop of Newcastle

Franciscan Friars Commission for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

Garek Fysch, Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies

Imam Riad Galil, past Chairperson, Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia

Alistair Gee, Executive Director, National Council of Churches in Australia - act for peace

Phil Glendenning, Director, Edmund Rice Centre

Rev Ariel Heber, Queensland Jewish Community Services, Inc.

Rev Gregor Henderson, President, Uniting Church in Australia

Joan Hendriks, Moorgumpin Elder, Stradbroke Island

D. Hoan, Treasurer of the Australian Monastic Council

The Revd. Dr. Jonathan Inkipin, General Secretary, NSW Ecumenical Council

The Most Reverend Peter Ingham, Bishop of Wollongong, and current President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania

Rev. Bruce Johnson, Moderator, Queensland Synod, The Uniting Church in Australia

Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins, Chair, Council of Progressive Rabbis of Australia, Asia and New Zealand

Ven. David Lungtok, Chair, Australian Sangha Association

Trish Madigan op, Executive Officer, Commission for Ecumenism, Broken Bay Diocese

Most Reverend Michael Malone, Catholic Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

Most Reverend Kevin Manning DD, Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta

Matthew Maury, National Director, TEAR Australia

Sr Marian McClelland sss, Australian Regional Coordinator, Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

Rev. Patrick McInerney, Columban Mission Institute, Sydney

Graeme Mundine, Executive Secretary, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia

The Right Reverend David Mulready, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the North West

Lorraine Murphy ocds, Chair, Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission, Parramatta Catholic Diocese

Archdeacon Philip Newman OAM, Archdeacon for Christian Unity and for Relations with the World's Religions, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

Professor Neil Ormerod, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, Australian Catholic University

Thea Ormerod, President, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

Ian Packer, Director of Public Theology, Australian Evangelical Alliance

Ven. Pannyavaro, Buddha Dharma Education Association

Mr Ikebal Patel, President, Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

Paul Perini, Chair, Micah Challenge Australia

Sharon Price rsm, Executive Director, Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in NSW

Sr Noelene Quinane rsj, Congregational Leader, Sisters of St Joseph of Goulburn, NSW

Celestine Pooley rsm, SJ coordinator, Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney

Elyse Rider, Chair, GreenFaith Australia

David Robinson, President, Union for Progressive Judaism

The Right Reverend Stuart Robinson, Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn

Rev. Dr. Charles Rue, Coordinator of the Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Office in Australia for the Missionary Society of St Columban

Anne L. Shay. Pbv, Justice Co-ordinator, Presentation Sisters Lismore

Mrs. Jessie Kaur Singh, President of COMMON (Centre of Melbourne Multifaith and Others Network)

Sr Mary Tinney, Coordinator, Sisters of Mercy Earth Link

Anil Verma, Hindu Council of Australia

Sr Maureen Watson, Congregational Leader, Presentation Sisters Wagga Wagga

Western Australia Regional Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rev Anne Wilkinson-Hayes, Acting Director of Ministries, Baptist Union of Victoria

Rev Ken Williams, Moderator of the Synod of Western Australia, Uniting Church in Australia