



Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

14/4/11

You are warmly invited to participate in a forum and opportunity to advocate for effective policies to address climate change, organised by the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC). The event will be held **in Canberra on Thursday, June 2nd, 2011**, during the Parliamentary sitting period. For those who are interested in promoting certain agreed policies, we are organising visits to Members of Parliament.

The event will have two main parts. Obviously, you may prefer to attend both or simply one: **An evening forum** on Thursday June 2nd 7.30 – 9 pm at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACCC) in which Bishop George Browning, retired Anglican Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn, will present a paper giving a religious perspective on how Australia could ideally respond to the challenge of climate change. Responses will be given by the Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change, the Shadow Minister and a respected scientist. All MP's will be invited. We anticipate the presence of many religious leaders from a range of traditions among a colourful religious gathering of up to 200 people. Media coverage is being organised.

Visits of Members of Parliament during the day by religious leaders from around Australia (people with some leadership role in their own faith tradition). The messages are yet to be finalised, but they will be around a religious perspective informing the need for legislation which will *effectively* reduce demand for carbon-intensive products and increase the use of renewable energy. Participants will be briefed accordingly.

If you have time, you are also invited the day before to a multi-faith discussion at the ACCC for dialogue among religious leaders on the issue of climate change from a religious perspective.

ARRCC is a multi-faith organisation which inspires religious communities to take practical action to help create an ecologically sustainable and just future. Our mission is twofold, (1) to promote ethical, environmentally sustainable, healthy and contented lifestyles which respect the Earth's precious natural resources, (2) to advocate, from a faith perspective, for public policies which contribute to climate justice. For further information please visit www.arrcc.org.au

The event has been endorsed by the Hindu Council of Australia, Catholic Religious Australia, Sikh Council of Australia, Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Union for Progressive Judaism, Australian Sangha Association, Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils, Canberra Multicultural Community Forum and Christians for an Ethical Society. Further endorsements are expected.

We would be very grateful for a reply to our invitation ASAP particularly if you choose to participate in MP visits. This would allow us time to include you in the delegations being organized, and involve you (to the extent necessary) in preparations. Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

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Chair, ARRCC

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