



National Council of Churches in Australia

Tuesday, 8 September 2020

Hon Angus Taylor MP
Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Greetings of peace!

I write as President of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) to ask if we could have a meeting with you, at your convenience.

Our hope would be to discuss Australia's preparations for the next UNFCCC COP26, planned now for late 2021 in Glasgow.

I was in Madrid for the last UNCOP 25 as part of the World Council of Churches' delegation.

My main contribution was to offer a Retreat and pastoral care to folk working so hard - diplomats, negotiators and UN staff.

With international colleagues, we intend to offer this contribution also in Glasgow.

During the Madrid COP, with other Australians, we were much assisted by the briefings given by Ambassador Jamie Isbister and departmental staff.

I am aware that Australia is in the process of finalising our Nationally Determined Contribution to present at UNCOP26, as well as present our other energy and emissions reduction policies as part of the 2020 Budget papers on 5 October. It would be good to hear your latest thinking and converse about these matters.

We understand that the next COP will be at a time when economic recovery from the consequences of COVID19 will still be taking place.

We understand the pressure this places on our Government.

You will be aware of the research on how an expanded renewable sector can give us the best outcome in terms of both prosperity and preventing climate change. For example, this is the persuasive thesis in Ross Garnaut's book "*SuperPower*".

You will also be aware of concerns about what some call a "gas-powered recovery" and the downside of this in terms of emissions causing further global warming.

Our goals are the same - an economic recovery that creates a thriving and climate-resilient Australian and world economy.

We would value an opportunity to listen and speak with you about this common goal.

We are all aware the decisions we take now not only impact the immediate years ahead but will also impact God's little people, our children and grandchildren.

Anglican Church

Antiochian
Orthodox Church

Armenian
Apostolic Church

Assyrian Church
of the East

Chinese Methodist
Church

Churches of Christ

Congregational
Federation

Coptic
Orthodox Church

Greek
Orthodox Church

Indian
Orthodox Church

Lutheran Church

Mar Thoma Church

Religious Society
of Friends (Quakers)

Roman Catholic Church

Romanian
Orthodox Church

Syrian
Orthodox Church

The Salvation Army

Uniting Church

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If you can see a time when we might meet, even 'virtually', I will invite a couple of our informed and concerned NCCA colleagues to join us.

With prayers for you in your important work.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Philip Huggins in black ink.Handwritten signature of Elizabeth Stone in black ink.

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President, NCCA

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