



# National Council of Churches in Australia

Tuesday, 12 November 2019

## Media Release

### A Call for unified National Leadership regarding Climate Change

The National Council of Churches in Australia urges the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and Opposition Leader, Anthony Albanese, to convene a roundtable on climate change, shaping a bipartisan approach and drawing in civil society leaders.

“Let us draw the line now under what is past,” says the council’s President, Bishop Philip Huggins. “Let us just get on with working together to prevent global temperatures rising further.”

Bishop Huggins said it would be wonderful, if this could be done before the crucial next UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP25), next month, from December 2 to 13.

“I came back yesterday from the Annual Pacific Church Leaders meeting in Suva to the discourse here about the awful bushfires.

“In Suva, Church leaders from all over Pacific shared their current experiences of climate change: the trauma for communities displaced and forced to relocate inland and away from a swapped coast; the anguish then for traditional cultures of ‘leaving ancestors behind’; the dread of more frequent and more violent cyclones and even the monthly anxiety for places not far above sea-level at the time of a full and new moon’s impact on tides. Said folk from such places: ‘We don’t sleep so well those nights!’

“It is a global issue. Humankind must find a quite unprecedented and sustained level of cooperation.”

Bishop Huggins said the human family could do with some places of hope where there was a unified national response.

“We urge our PM and our Leader of the Opposition to meet together and shape a way forward, as soon as practicable. Let Australia be an island of hope! It is a matter now of intelligent and cooperative leadership.”

Bishop Philip Huggins  
NCCA President

MEDIA CONTACT: Bishop Philip Huggins 0418 799 515

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

379 Kent Street Sydney

✉ Locked Bag Q199  
QVB NSW 1230

☎ (+61 2) 9299 2215

☎ (+61 2) 9262 4514

🌐 [www.ncca.org.au](http://www.ncca.org.au)

E: [secretariat@ncca.org.au](mailto:secretariat@ncca.org.au)

ABN 47 000 391 104