



MEDIA RELEASE

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To: News Editor
From: Uniting Church Synod of WA,
Maggie Johns mobile 0419 831 576

Aim Higher on Climate Change

“The Uniting Church views climate change as a most serious threat to the future and integrity of life on earth,” said the Moderator of the Uniting Church in Western Australia, Rev Ron Larkin.

“The time has come to aim higher on climate change action. The Government, through its Direct Action Plan (DAP), has dangerously lowered the bar to a level that is inadequate for effectively tackling climate change.”

The Uniting Church in Western Australia welcomes the submission made by UnitingJustice Australia, the justice unit of the Uniting Church National Assembly, to the Senate Inquiry into the Government’s Direct Action Plan expressing our concern at what we see as ‘a minimalist approach to climate change mitigation.’

The submission expresses several major concerns the Uniting Church in Western Australia has with various aspects of the DAP, including the abolishment of the Climate Commission and the Climate Change Authority, funding cuts to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the overall efficacy of the plan to adequately meet Australia’s fair share of emission reductions.

The UnitingJustice submission states, ‘Committing to a scheme that has been shown to fail to reach desired outcomes at a significantly higher cost than anticipated seems foolhardy to say the least.’

The UnitingJustice submission continues by saying that, ‘We are deeply concerned that abolishing both the Climate Commission and the Climate Change Authority will negatively impact the ability of both the Government and the Australian people to access independent, up-to-date and accurate information on climate change.’

‘As it stands, the DAP appears to be a policy driven by the interests of large-scale businesses (those primarily responsible for the high levels of CO2 emissions), while being devoid of any consideration of the health and integrity of the natural world, and the human rights implications of anthropogenic climate change on both the people of Australia, and our neighbouring countries.’

Rev Larkin said, “Climate change, caused by developed nations, is already having its greatest impact on developing countries, many of those our closest neighbours.” Rev Larkin stated his particular concerns for our brothers and sisters in the Pacific, where our partner churches have asked us to speak up on their behalf, as their land recedes under the rising ocean.

“The time has come for Australia to be proactive in addressing climate change, but unfortunately the Government’s underfunded, short-sighted and poorly planned DAP is an inadequate response.”

Ends

Social Justice Board Chairperson, Mrs Glen Banks is available for comment. Please contact Media and Communications Manager, Maggie Johns on 0419 831 576.