



The Hon. Scott Morrison
15 September 2019
Prime Minister
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Morrison,

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA), represents over 140 religious congregations across Australia with approximately 5,500 Catholic religious, women and men throughout the nation. CRA members and our colleagues serve in education, health care and social services and have grass-roots knowledge of the needs of First Australians, refugees and asylum seekers, people struggling to survive on the margins of society and many others in need of assistance.

As Australia is wracked by bushfires and drought, the Amazon burns, the oceans warm, floods submerge parts of India, Nepal and Bangladesh, and experts from every corner of the world give us clear and compelling information about the effects of climate change, the members of CRA find it inconceivable that the Prime Minister of Australia would not attend the UN Climate Action Summit.

The Pacific Leaders at the recent meeting left no doubt that they looked to Australia to take a lead in combating climate change in the Pacific. Prime Minister Sopoaga of Tuvalu put it very clearly: *you are concerned about saving your economies...I'm concerned about saving my people in Tuvalu and likewise the leaders of other small countries.* They could feel nothing but discouragement and disappointment when they see you absent from your place among world leaders, particularly as Australia is recognised as a leader in the Pacific.

This Summit provides Australia with an opportunity to respond to the increasing chorus of voices from big business to farmers, scientists to school children, European nations to Pacific islands by producing a genuine plan which will lower our emissions to levels below those promised at the Paris meeting.

Given that you will be in the United States the members of CRA urge you to attend the Summit and outline Australia's plans to combat global warming.

Yours sincerely,

for CRA Justice Committee