



12 October 2021

The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)**

Given the urgent warning from the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report, COP26 will be one of the most important climate events of the decade. The report urges that to avoid catastrophic and possibly unliveable conditions on earth, we must rapidly achieve net zero emissions. It is imperative that the Australian Prime Minister attends COP26, to make a commitment to an expediated, just transition towards this goal.

COP26 President Alok Sharma has stated: “Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets (NDCs) that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century. To deliver on these stretching targets, countries will need to accelerate the phaseout of coal, encourage investment in renewables, curtail deforestation and speed up the switch to electric vehicles.”<sup>1</sup>

Australia’s major trading partners and strategic allies, including the United States and the United Kingdom, are rapidly shifting away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy, implementing strong emission reduction targets, and pledging support for climate action in developing countries. These actions greatly exceed Australia’s own, and Australia needs to act in greater global solidarity to do its fair share to avert the worsening climate crisis.

CRA appeals to our Prime Minister, and repeats the call of some 40 leaders of the world’s major religions, who recently gathered at the Vatican to petition governments to raise their ambitions and their international cooperation, “We plead with the international community, gathered at COP26, to take speedy, responsible and shared action to safeguard, restore and heal our wounded humanity and the home entrusted to our stewardship... What we can achieve depends not only on opportunities and resources, but also on hope, courage, solidarity and good will.”<sup>2</sup>

Yours faithfully,

  
Peter Carroll FMS  
President

  
Anne Walker  
National Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> COP26 Explained, <https://ukcop26.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/COP26-Explained.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Joint Appeal, <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2021/10/04/0627/01342.html#en>