



The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament of Australia  
Canberra

10<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Prime Minister

I write on behalf of the Justice Committee of Catholic Religious Australia (CRA). CRA represents approximately 5,500 Catholic religious, women and men, throughout the nation, as well as many thousands of people working in organisations run by religious institutes. Our members and their lay colleagues work in education, health care and social services. We work with First Australians, refugees and asylum seekers, people surviving on the margins and many others in need of assistance.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> October this year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released their Report. It states that efforts to tackle climate change must be accelerated in order to limit global temperature rises. Since mass industrialisation, along with increasing greenhouse gas pollution from the burning of oil, coal and gas, the world has already warmed by one degree.

We in Australia are already seeing the effects including more frequent, longer lasting and more intense heatwaves, harsher droughts, coastal flooding and longer, more dangerous bushfire seasons. However the Government seems intent on denying the urgent need to change outlined by the great majority of scientists who know what they are talking about.

The Department of Environment and Energy's latest report shows there has been a 1.3 increase in climate pollution in the year to March 2018. It is the third consecutive year our greenhouse emissions have risen yet your Government quietly released these findings late on the Friday before football grand finals. It does suggest you want to hide the fact that Australia has no credible climate and energy policy.

Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target of 26-28% below 2005 levels falls significantly short of what is required to tackle climate change effectively. The window of opportunity to tackle climate change is rapidly closing. We ask that the Government accept the science and introduce credible policies to cut rapidly and deeply our greenhouse gas emissions before it is too late.

Yours sincerely

*M M Hinchey*

Margaret Hinchey RSM  
Social Justice Committee  
Catholic Religious Leaders