

## Faith leaders urge Morrison to act

*CathNews*, 21 February 2020 <https://cathnews.com/cathnews/37293-faith-leaders-urge-morrison-to-act>



*Australian Religious Response to Climate Change group members at the release of the signed letter yesterday (ARRCC)*

Religious leaders have appealed to Prime Minister Scott Morrison as a “fellow person of faith” to heed climate science following the country’s catastrophic bushfire season. Source: *Canberra Times*.

***Heather McNab, AAP via Canberra Times.***

An open letter – signed by 18 Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim and other faith leaders – urges Mr Morrison to show leadership and urgently transition Australia away from fossil fuels.

The signatories include: Parramatta Bishop Vincent Long OFM, chair of the Bishops Commission on Justice, Mission and Service; Dr Peter Catt, the Dean of St John’s Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane; Muslims Australia president Dr Rateb Jneid; and Buddhist Council of New South Wales president Dr Gawaine Powell Davies.

“We are writing to you as a fellow person of faith about the climate crisis that has been playing out so tragically,” the letter states.

The faith leaders said viable alternatives exist for the “destructive practices” of fossil fuel burning, animal agriculture and land clearing, and called for Mr Morrison’s government to urgently adopt such measures.

They said climate change-fuelled disasters had “damaged God’s creation” and placed indigenous and farming communities at risk.

“We are asking you to have the wisdom, courage and humility to admit that it is time to chart a new course when it comes to climate policy,” the letter states.

“It will take courage to admit that policy directions chosen so far have been unwise but this is what this moment in history calls for.”

### PHOTO

*From left: Thea Ormerod (Chair, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change); Ghaith Krayem (CEO, Muslims Australia); The Most Venerable Sujato Bikkhu (Buddhist monk); and Wies Schuiringa (vice president, NSW Ecumenical Council & Co-Clerk, Quakers NSW)*