

Australian religious leaders call for bolder climate action

Anglican Media Melbourne/CathNews, 15 January 2010



Leaders of Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist faiths from around Australia have written a letter to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott, calling for stronger action on climate change.

The faith community leaders have written the letter as members of ARRCC, the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, expressing disappointment over the outcome of the recent Copenhagen climate negotiations.

They have asked for bold and visionary leadership, the Anglican Media Melbourne reports. "With few exceptions any vision for a more sustainable and just world appears to have been sacrificed for more short-term national interests," said the religious leaders in the letter.

"Any economic system has its long-term health deeply embedded in a sustainable environment...Responding to the environmental challenge should therefore be couched in the language of investment rather than cost."

"In the lead up to Copenhagen, the language of cynicism has been used to sway public opinion against responsible action and towards short-term economic gain."

"We request that you set an example of honest and responsible language in the leadership of your respective parties and to the Australian people."

The letter urges bi-partisan support for Australia to submit to the United Nations emissions reduction targets of 40% of 1990 levels by 2020, as well as mitigation and adaptation measures.