

Women's Climate Congress: e-Update #3

We have held two Zoom conversations	<p>Women's Climate Congress has an ambitious plan to raise women's voices to promote the cultural change needed to break the deadlock and build new paths towards nonpartisan collaborative climate action.</p> <p>Since the past e-Update, we have hosted 2 online conversations to give further information on who we are and how we started, the vision of WCC and how to get involved. Each of these events were well attended by about 40 women from around Australia and (in a few cases) from overseas.</p> <p>Details of speakers and links to the recordings from these two events are on our website Events page.</p> <p>Our next online conversation will be on 23 June (and we are running a morning and an evening session on that day). Details are on our website Events page.</p>
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Read on if you would like more information about our plans and how you can get involved

Our network is growing	<p>We are creating a network of women of all ages, walks of life and political perspectives.</p> <p>Our Facebook group now has 306 members — mostly in Australia but with members in Laos, New Zealand, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Germany, Sweden, and Denmark.</p> <p>Members are spread around Australia, which will allow us to build relationships with members of Parliament across the country.</p> <p>We have other interested women on our mailing list and we are developing our systems to keep in touch and promote activities.</p>
We have launched an information kit on our website	<p>We have created materials to help members run local conversations and make contact with their local representatives.</p> <p>See our website Get involved page for further information and links to various information and templates. Let us know how you go.</p>
We have continued our outreach to the Australian Government	<p>We have continued our outreach to the Australian Government by writing letters to the PM and members of the national cabinet to congratulate them on their collaborative response to COVID-19 . We let them know that we would like to see a nonpartisan evidence-informed approach to continue after the pandemic, including in relation to the threat of climate change.</p> <p>We have written to all women Coalition MPs and senators, and the PM, to introduce WCC and express our dismay at the gender</p>

	<p>imbalance of the National Covid-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC). We contacted coalition women to give them an opportunity to express concern within their own party without making it a partisan issue. We also contacted the Chair and women members of the committee and we will be meeting with Neville Power (Chair) on 25 June.</p> <p>You can read these letters on our website News page.</p> <p>Thanks to those WCC members who helped to prepare and circulate the letters.</p> <p>We have maintained contact with Zali Steggall's office and followed up a number of contacts they have recommended to us. You can support Zali's Climate Change Bill here: https://www.climateactnow.com.au/</p>
<p>We are networking with other organisations</p>	<p>We are continuing to network with other women's groups. New contacts include:</p> <p>Women's Agenda</p> <p>Women for Election Australia</p> <p>Homeward Bound</p> <p>Angela Priestly, one of the owners at Women's Agenda, wrote:</p> <p><i>'Addressing action on climate change – and aiming to elevate women's voices on it – has become my number one purpose behind Women's Agenda. We're trying to bring it into much of what we cover, it's not always easy to get eyeballs on those stories – although the interest has improved significantly over the past year. I too felt that sense of grief earlier this year. While we've been reporting on climate change for some time, I saw it as absolutely essential that we use our platform to keeping the conversation constantly front of mind – not always easy during a pandemic!'</i></p> <p>It is good to have a vision of the country and world we are working for and we have continued to develop our relationship with Australia reMADE. We were delighted that the Chair of the AR Secretariat, Louise Tarrant, joined us as a speaker on our Women's Climate Conversation #2 (see above).</p>
<p>We are developing our principles and concepts</p>	<p>We are continuing to develop information about our principles and concepts to promote widespread conversations and inform advocacy.</p> <p>A draft paper on what we mean by 'climate balance' on our website Resources page.</p> <p>We will add further information to this page ASAP.</p>

<p>We are learning from the COVID-19 pandemic</p>	<p>Since the last e-Update we have become proficient at Zoom meetings and our Zoom online Women’s Climate Conversations have helped us network with women from around the country — something that we might not have achieved in this time frame had it not been for the pandemic.</p> <p>The global pandemic is an opportunity for Australia to show true leadership and progressive thinking. From the trauma of lost lives to the crippling impacts on the economy, now is the time to harness the good and reshape our thinking to the future we want to move on to after the restrictions are lifted. WCC finds itself in the right place at the right time to influence these conversations, which is both exciting and overwhelming. But it is a moment in history that we need to make the most of.</p>
<p>We are setting up our organisation</p>	<p>We are in the process of registering our organisation, completing the various regulatory processes, setting up financial arrangements, finalising a logo and organisational ‘look’ and so on. These time-consuming but necessary steps will ensure we are a visible and credible organisation, which can have influence in the country and world.</p>
<p>We need you to get involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ‘Join us’ on the home page of our website and invite others to do the same. ● See our website Get involved page and follow the steps described there to start conversations and activities in your area. ● Join us on Facebook and invite your friends. ● Contact us to join the activities of the WCC Working Group, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ developing and coordinating our outreach, educational and advocacy activities ○ setting up an organisational structure. ● Introduce us to other women’s groups or other organisations working on climate change. ● Let us know your ideas for how to achieve our vision <p>To get involved in any of the above activities, contact us at: womensclimatecongress@gmail.com</p>