

## MEDIA RELEASE

28 July 2022



### WOMEN LEADING THE CALL FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

*Canberra to host historic women-led event on climate action this September*

Women across Australia are being called to Canberra for a two-day gathering on 11–12 September 2022, to take part in the **National Congress of Women** and bring their voice to a Women's Charter for Change for climate action. Online participation is also welcome.

Hosted by the [Women's Climate Congress](#) – a non-partisan, women-led group formed out of the Black Summer bushfires – the event will weave together two years of work and ongoing conversations with women across the country to call for a **new approach to leadership on climate change** that is collaborative, inclusive and sustainable.

“It is only by working together across diverse interests that we can have hope of surviving the challenges we face,” says Dr Janet Salisbury, founder of the Women's Climate Congress.

“We urgently need to move beyond the adversarial party politics of recent decades and work collaboratively to stabilise the climate, for the sake of our young people and future generations.”

Some of Australia's leading thinkers on climate change and women from across the political spectrum will be speaking at the **National Congress of Women**, including First Nations and Pacific women, current and former women MPs and senators, women in the business community and women artists.

Guest speakers include **Sam Mostyn AO** (President, Chief Executive Women), **Sharon Claydon MP** (Federal Member for Newcastle), **Bridget Archer MP** (Federal Member for Bass), **Zali Steggall OAM MP** (Federal Member for Warringah), **Dr Valerie Cooms** (Chair, Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation), **Margaret Reynolds** (former senator and minister for the status of women), **Jo Vallentine** (former senator), **Dr Sharman Stone** (former federal MP, minister and ambassador for women and girls) and **Charlie Wood** (climate activist, former campaigns director, 350.org Australia).

Designed as a participatory event, sessions will explore the aspirations and vision of women in response to climate change, the potential for collaboration on developing a national climate policy, and the transformation needed across government, business and the wider community to respond to the current climate emergency, and ensure the long-term safety and wellbeing of humans, biodiversity and the environment upon which we depend.

“The results of the recent federal election show what's possible when women take the lead on climate action. We have more women in power than ever before, which is an incredibly positive step forward,” Dr Salisbury said.

“Women have been largely absent from the negotiating table for too long. We need true diversity in decision making to break the deadlock and find new ways of moving forward.

“Time is running out. This is why we're calling on women to join us, to help drive the change we need and support our leaders to pull together on climate action.

“We urge the government to listen across difference, work for consensus based on scientific advice and develop a national action plan on climate change we can all support.”

For further information on program details and guest speakers, visit [nationalcongressofwomen.com](https://nationalcongressofwomen.com).

Standard tickets cost \$295 to attend the event in Canberra or \$90 to participate online. Other fee options are available for those with different economic needs.

## About Women's Climate Congress

Women's Climate Congress was founded in Canberra in the wake of the Black Summer bushfires in 2019-2020. Women came together in grief from the devastation caused by the fires and believing that we can work together across political differences to pivot the maelstrom before things get even worse. It has since grown to a national organisation with members in most federal electorates, working towards a shared vision to restore climate balance by 2030. Visit [womensclimatecongress.com](https://womensclimatecongress.com).

### Contact:

Dr Janet Salisbury,  
Founder, Women's Climate Congress  
+61 416 167 280  
[janet.salisbury@iinet.net.au](mailto:janet.salisbury@iinet.net.au)