



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sorrow over Great Barrier Reef UNESCO announcement

The Women's Climate Congress has expressed sadness that Australia's greatest natural asset, Great Barrier Reef, has been declared "in danger" in a draft ruling by the UN World Heritage Committee.

"We are concerned that, as the UN has now stated, targets to protect the Great Barrier Reef are not being met," says Congress founder, Dr Janet Salisbury.

"We have known for many years that climate change is behind the greatest pressure on the Reef. The Australian Government has acknowledged we must do all in our power to protect and salvage what we have left. The UNESCO announcement is an invitation for us to collaborate put this concern into action."

"We need to work together across the current political divides to create a national framework that protects the environment and makes the most of opportunities to create low-carbon industry jobs. Those objectives are not in opposition."

"While the states and territories have all set targets of net zero emissions by at least 2050, Australia is the only advanced economy not to embrace that target as a nation. UNESCO's announcement is an example of the international reaction to this hesitancy."

"Time is of the essence. Australia must move to join the global community for the sake of our children and future generations."

"The economy has to work for all of us and politics should be for the common good."
Dr Salisbury added.

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