

Women's Climate Congress
WCC Conversation #1 — follow up
Wed 13 May 2020

Dear women

Thank you for registering for our first WCC online conversation yesterday. I hope that you found it worthwhile.

I know that a few of you were not, in the end, able to attend so you might be interested to watch the recording which we have posted on our [website](#) and [Facebook group](#) page.

Please feel free to also share with your friends and colleagues.

Some of you asked for a link to my discussion paper – which is here: [Independent mediation for united action on climate change](#).

I wrote it to promote discussion, so please feel free to send frank and fearless comments!

And just as important, please read our [vision statement](#), which sets out our values and commitment as women.

To help us frame future online conversations, we would also appreciate any comments you have about today's event, or the WCC in general.

And don't forget to 'Join up' on our website, join our social media feeds and/or email us to let us know your ideas. New members are also welcome on our Working Group.

Keep the conversation going ...

Finally, thank you for comments posted in the chat.

Some points raised are here with brief answers (in italics) – but we hope that this is only the start of some bigger conversations.

'Sustainable' implies we want to stay as we are. I prefer the concept of 'regenerative' — *Great point. Language is so very important in how we think about things.*

Hi All! Much international research has been done about how legislative chambers that have more women result in greater collaboration across party lines, increased representation of constituents and an increase in trust in the democratic process. There is also a high correlation between an increased number of women in Parliaments and those countries that have the most ambitious climate change policy. That's why we're focussed on getting more women elected at Women for Election Australia. Our view is that we need to change the faces in our Parliaments rather than change

their opinions — *Thanks to WEA for this comment. Certainly support more women in parliament and admire your work to help women who want to stand. I hope we can work together.*

Thank you for creating this meeting. I am very keen for young women and girls to be given their own voice in this forum. Is this happening? — *it is certainly our intention and we have quite mixed ages in our FB group. Any contacts/ideas appreciated.*

There are some gender politics at work here: we speak of "Mother Earth" with all the associations of forgiveness, patience, and forbearance that "mother" has. By contrast, most of our industry/political leaders are male, putting value on thrusting power and so forth. So do we need to foreground the stronger, more corrective aspects of "mother earth"?

Thanks – and again language is important. In my discussion paper, I used the term 'Earth's fury' quite deliberately to convey the corrective aspects of the Earth system which happen when the laws of nature are pushed too far. In Greek mythology, the Furies were the (female) avenging spirits of

Earth and the 'Kindly ones' were the nurturing spirits that we more commonly associate with 'Mother Earth'. There is great discussion to be had around this for those interested!

With kind regards

Janet, Lyn, Kirsten, Barbara and Jenny

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