

## Women's Climate Congress – e-Update #2

<b>We have launched our work into the world</b>	<p>In the past week we have launched our work into the world via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a <a href="#">Facebook group page</a></li><li>• a <a href="#">website</a>.</li></ul> <p>Please visit these sites, join up, share them widely, contribute to the discussion and invite your friends to do the same.</p>
---	--

### Read on if you would like more information about our plans and how you can get involved

<b>We have developed a bold plan</b>	<p>Women's Climate Congress has an ambitious plan to raise women's voices to promote the cultural change needed to allow mediation of the currently blocked paths towards nonpartisan collaboration on climate action. In Australia, we are creating a network of women in every electorate – of all ages, walks of life and political perspectives. Through this network, we will build relationships with MPs of all parties across the country.</p> <p>We are also reaching out to women and women's groups internationally to tap into great thinking happening elsewhere, and to further empower each other to promote global action on climate change.</p> <p>Amazingly, our mailing list and FB group membership already covers many parts of Australia and has international members.</p>
<b>We have started our outreach to the Australian Parliament</b>	<p>We have started our outreach to the Australian Parliament by establishing contact with the Friends of Climate Change Parliamentary group (which has members from all parties). Zali Steggall has offered a phone meeting and we are setting that up.</p> <p>We are also thinking about how to coordinate our approaches and messages to federal members. We will share information about that shortly.</p> <p>Meanwhile, it is encouraging to see that the French Government has established <a href="#">a citizen's assembly (a 'wisdom council') to develop policy on climate change</a>.</p>
<b>We are networking with other women's groups</b>	<p>We are networking with other major Australian women's groups, including the National Council of Women Australia, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's Environment Leadership Australia and 1 Million Women. Your help to reach out to more groups would be much appreciated.</p> <p>We have also received a lovely contact from Geraldine Robertson who runs <a href="http://www.womensweb.com.au/">http://www.womensweb.com.au/</a>. This website has great information about the history of women working together in Australia. See the <a href="#">Resources</a> section of our website for further information and a script that you can use as a conversation starter.</p>

<p><b>We are developing our principles and concepts</b></p>	<p>We are developing materials to expand our principles and concepts to promote widespread conversations and inform advocacy. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the rationale behind our call for women’s leadership (we have some great materials coming on this topic)</li> <li>● further discussion of our ‘no-blame’ principle and the potential for mediation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>We are adapting to a COVID-19 world</b></p>	<p>Before COVID-19, we were planning to arrange further WCC open meetings, workshops and a possible national conference. These ideas have now all been put on hold. But just as one door closes, other opportunities open up. And through the wonders of online meetings, we can talk to each other across the country, and world, in ways that we probably would not have done before.</p> <p>Australia’s response to the pandemic has shown that our parliamentary representatives can work together in the public interest, and that dramatic policy change is possible. Now is the time to congratulate our leaders for their collaborative response and let them know that we want a similar bipartisan evidence-informed approach when dealing with the existential threat of climate change.</p> <p>Watch this space for information about online conversations, webinars and the like. And, of course, you can hold your own local online conversations! Use <a href="#">Janet’s discussion paper</a> as a starting point for discussion alongside the many interesting analyses that are currently appearing in the media. Send us a harvest of your conversation in words, pictures, poetry, song or a combination of all these things (or post this on the FB Group page).</p>
<p><b>There is much to do and we would love your help</b></p>	<p>Here are some ways that you can become involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Join us on <a href="#">Facebook</a> and invite your friends.</li> <li>● Get on our electoral map by signing up as a member on the home page of our <a href="#">website</a> and invite others to do the same.</li> <li>● Host your own conversation group and let us know how you go (see above).</li> <li>● Contact us to join the activities of the WCC Working Group, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ developing and coordinating our outreach, educational and advocacy activities</li> <li>○ setting up an organisational structure (eg incorporated association or similar).</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Introduce us to women’s groups or organisations with whom we can explore opportunities to work together.</li> <li>● Let us know what you think of this initiative and your ideas for how to achieve our vision</li> </ul> <p>To get involved in any of the above activities, contact us at: <a href="mailto:womensclimatecongress@gmail.com">womensclimatecongress@gmail.com</a></p>