

Women's Climate Congress

MEDIA RELEASE

9 July 2020

New national climate group calls for more women on National COVID Coordination Commission

The new national group, Women Climate Congress (WCC), has expressed concern about a lack of gender balance in the National Covid-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC). It has noted that a total 19 men and only 9 women currently make up the NCCC executive, advisors and working groups, despite the fact that women make up half the population and at this critical moment in history, women's jobs have been very severely impacted by COVID-19.

WCC Founder, Dr Janet Salisbury, said today, "There are too few women and the number should be increased to meet the government's target of at least 40 per cent."

The Women's Climate Congress was formed this year after the devastating bushfires. It has a network of hundreds of women in every state and territory across the country working to build common ground for action to restore climate balance.

"Women's voices and leadership, collaborating beyond partisan positions, can show the way to address climate change and focus on nurturing life on Earth for future generations" said Dr Salisbury.

The WCC recently met Mr Neville Power, Chair of the NCCC to share its concern and asked him to approach the Prime Minister to increase the number of women members to at least the government's own recommended target.

WCC founding member, Barbara Baikie, who is a well-known advocate for women's issues commented "It's not good enough. Women make up half the population and should have more of a voice for genuine representation on matters essential to our shared future emerging from the pandemic."

Dr Salisbury also stressed that the NCCC has a great opportunity to address climate change issues when considering how to stimulate the economy post COVID-19. She went on to say that although some time had elapsed since the Commission was formed, its work on economic reform is now at a critical stage and it is timely to review who is at the table.

The WCC urges the government, the NCCC and other decision making bodies, to adopt a collaborative approach to policy on the transition to renewable energy and reduction in carbon emissions, and to engage with all levels of the community.

"Given the urgency of restoring jobs, and the complexity of transitioning to 100% renewable energy, we think it is timely to develop an inclusive process that enables people of different perspectives to find common ground and work together to balance economic, human and planetary considerations. With a well-designed process, this could happen without compromise of overall party political perspectives, and offer governments and the community a win-win way forward," said Dr Salisbury.

CONTACT: Dr Janet Salisbury

Founder, Women's Climate Congress

Email: womensclimatecongress@email.com

Telephone: 0416 167 280

FURTHER INFORMATION: <https://womenscongress.weebly.com>