

CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

CLRI (NSW)

ABN: 52 476 362 010
Member of the Catholic Church Religious Group

Senator Christine Milne
Parliament House
Canberra 2600

28 February 2006

Dear Ms Milne,

I am writing on behalf of CLRI (NSW) Social Justice Committee, a group that represents more than 3,000 religious men and women in NSW. The Social Justice Committee works for justice for all in our society, especially those who are marginalised and unable to make themselves heard in the public domain.

I am writing to commend the Australian Greens on establishing a specific portfolio for climate change and global warming. We are very concerned about the Australian Government's failure to sign the Kyoto Protocol, commit to binding emission reduction targets and timelines and recognise environmental refugees.

We commend the Australian Greens on both the motion proposed to the Senate by Senator Nettle on 15 June 2005 and also the motion proposed to the Senate by yourself in November 2005 concerning the need to recognise environmental refugees and that as we are part of the problem in contributing to global warming, we must also be part of a solution.

In a conversation with the Greens office in Canberra, we understand that while you have spoken out on these issues, this has not become Greens policy as the Greens policy concerning climate change and in particular environmental refugees has not been rewritten since the 2004 Election. We are writing to ask that you give significant consideration to including this in your revised policy.

We are concerned by the rising numbers of environmental refugees who are not currently recognised under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees nor under our domestic legislation. In addition to reducing the greenhouse gases that are causing global warming, we believe now is the time to act at both the national and international level to address the issue of environmental refugees.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.

Yours Faithfully,

Liz Snell
For CLRI (NSW) Social Justice Committee

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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