

28<sup>th</sup> June 2008

The Honourable Kevin Rudd  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Suite MG 8  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

I write on behalf of the Social Justice committee within the NSW Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes. CLRI(NSW) represents approximately 3,500 Catholic religious, men and women, throughout the state, as well as many people working in organisations run by religious institutes.

We would like to affirm the action and the policy initiatives that your government has espoused as you grapple with the climate change issues and their devastating effects on our world, in particular our pacific neighbours.

We are mindful in writing this letter that you are about to face a round of climate change issues in July including the Ross Garnaut report and we believe it opportune to remind you of your intent “to do what is right for the future” (SMH Thursday, June 26,2008).. It seems to us that the recent visit of the President of Kiribati, Anote Tong offers an opportune moment for creative sustainable action.

You may remember that while in Australia, President Anote Tong is quoted as saying, “Some industrialized countries might be arguing that climate change would hurt their economic development. Sadly, I say no. Climate change is not an issue of economic growth (for us). It is an issue of human survival.” ... “For the people of Kiribati and our other low lying Pacific nations, “dangerous climate change” is not something spoken of in the future tense. We are confronted by dangerous climate change yesterday and today – catastrophic climate change is what also confronts our neighbours”.

While we acknowledge the importance of research and acting from an informed position, we strongly believe and recommend that now is the time for action, indeed courageous, timely, and honourable action.

Sincerely yours  
Brian Fitzpatrick OSA