



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES
IN NEW SOUTH WALES
CLRI(NSW)**

Prophetic. Pro-Active. Prayerful.

27th November, 2009

Senator Barnaby Joyce

PO Box 628

ST GEORGE

QLD 4487

Dear Senator Joyce,

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, women and men, throughout the state, as well as many people working in organisations run by religious institutes.

You have made yourself known to ordinary Australians across the country by standing up for what you believe is right, and by striving to act in the best interests of those who live in rural areas. We call upon your "country style of getting straight to the issue" in this time of urgency. It is increasingly apparent that "the issue" facing us is that of climate change.

Recent studies conducted by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO provide evidence to confirm the link between climate change and Australia's painfully-long drought. Given that you represent people for whom drought is most damaging, we felt it necessary to write to you in light of these findings.

The Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) has generated much controversy and debate. No matter what the result of these debates, we ask you to push for strong action on climate change on behalf of rural people all across Australia. This means that Australia must adopt ambitious targets for emissions reductions and begin to work to achieve those targets immediately.

A big part of Australia's shift to a sustainable future will be the creation of a renewable energy economy. Rural Australia will obviously have a lot to gain from a boom in green jobs, and a lot to lose if runaway climate change occurs and our drought worsens.

We ask you to carefully consider all of the facts and science on this issue and represent the long-term interests of your fellow rural Australians to the best of your abilities.

Yours faithfully,

Frances Egan

Research Worker for the Social Justice Committee of CLRI(NSW)

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