

# Women's Climate Congress

## 'The natural thing to do' to secure a safe future for our children

### Purpose

We are a network of women from all walks of life and political views. We have come together now because we cannot stay silent while the unfolding climate emergency threatens the future of our children and all life on Earth. We will work with open minds to inspire mediation and collaboration across political parties to overcome current roadblocks to a just and sustainable future.

We accept the scientific consensus expressed in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports. As beneficiaries of the industrial age, we suspend judgment on the leadership decisions that have brought us here. Our mission is future-focused and will be a catalyst for united and creative change to restore climate balance and a renewed commitment to care for life on Earth.

We believe that it is time for women to lead the cultural change needed because their leadership style can help rebalance our currently stuck system towards compassion, inclusion and collaboration. To bring women's voices to the fore, we will design processes that suit women's schedules and ways of working together – through local groups, workshops and national congress as required. Through these gatherings, we will develop and model principles for the cultural shifts we seek to prioritise nurture of life and custodianship of the Earth in policy decisions. We will progressively promote these principles across all genders and parties to build trust that collaborative processes can serve the common good, and allow mediation of currently blocked policy pathways.

### Why now?

In 2020, humanity stands at a crossroads. Climate scientists warn that we have only one more decade to get our house in order before we suffer the consequences of Earth's fury. Our children are calling for action to secure their future and our country is ravaged by fire. But our political system of government has resulted in deadlock. We have all enjoyed the benefits that the industrial revolution has brought to the developed world, and we must all work together to transition our economy and lifestyles to a sustainable and just future.

### Background

This initiative is based on a discussion paper first circulated by Janet Salisbury in late 2019. The paper was inspired by the actions of women in 1915 in response to the unprecedented suffering and loss of young lives in WW1. It also grew out of many years of leading a culture of conversation in Canberra, as well as creatively giving voice to citizen concerns with A Chorus of Women.

The paper proposes that to break the deadlock, we need thinking minds from all perspectives to come together to consider the issue of climate change. Such a national (and indeed world) 'thinking organ' could offer to the currently opposing political forces an opportunity to collaborate in finding a just and sustainable way to stabilise the climate and secure a safe future for our children without renouncing their overall convictions.

[Read the full paper here](#)