

the ninth in a series of

CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

Monday 1 August 6pm for 6.30 - 9.30pm

Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly

presented by A CHORUS OF WOMEN

in collaboration with ANU CLIMATE CHANGE INSTITUTE

sponsored by MLAs Mary Porter AM and Caroline Le Couteur

with assistance from an ACT Government Environment Grant

Donations toward the cost of refreshments would be appreciated.



a chorus
of women



FROM PROMISE TO ACTION

How will we turn the tide on Canberra's carbon emissions?

Bookings are essential. To book email Sue Hoffmann at hoffie@iinet.net.au. Sue will email you a link to enable you to complete an online booking. Interested participants are advised to book early as we may need to close bookings before our RSVP date of 28 July.

In 2010, the ACT Government passed legislation to set an ambitious 40% target for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. Citizens' concerns, voiced through local community groups such as Canberra Loves 40%, SEE-Change, the Climate Change Coalition and others, were very important in supporting the ACT Government to set this bold target. The ACT has also pledged to have its per capita emissions peak by 2013. A year on from setting the 2020 target, we will explore how we can work together to meet these targets.

Meanwhile, our Prime Minister has promised to put a price on carbon this year in order to reduce Australia's carbon emissions overall. This policy is currently under vigorous discussion in the multiparty climate change committee ahead of legislation being tabled in parliament later this year. According to our scientists, this price on carbon will be only just in time because, to avoid dangerous climate change, atmospheric carbon dioxide must be stabilised this decade and the 'tide turned' from further increases to a rapidly decreasing trajectory.

In this conversation we will explore the relationship between local and national emissions reduction and discuss what Canberrans can do to help our city, Australia and the world to turn the tide on dangerous climate change.

WHO WILL BE THERE?

PROFESSOR WILL STEFFEN, Executive Director, ANU Climate Change Institute; Adviser to the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee established by the Prime Minister to help build consensus on how Australia will tackle climate change; member of the Climate Commission, established by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency to provide expert advice and information on climate change to the Australian community.

A CHORUS OF WOMEN will provide artistic input relating to the conversation.

DR JANET SALISBURY (Director of the science communication consultancy Biotext and a member of Chorus) will facilitate the discussion.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS will include business people, policy makers, members of community and environmental groups, and concerned citizens of Canberra.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Canberra Conversations is a community initiative of A Chorus of Women.

ABOUT CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

Canberra Conversations are a series of citizen conversations on topics of importance for our future. They include information sharing, small group and facilitated larger group discussions, together with A Chorus of Women's artistic representation of the social and ethical challenges that these subjects present to our community. The aim is to see how community engagement and wise decision making could be helped by a more open dialogue among citizens, scientists, technical specialists, artists, business people and policy makers.

HOW DO CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS DIFFER FROM OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS?

Most public discussion is based on debate, which is inherently adversarial. In Canberra Conversations we take a different approach, which Dr Janet Salisbury is developing in line with A Chorus of Women's mission and practice from the kind of dialogue proposed by physicist David Bohm in his book *On Dialogue* (1996).

Canberra Conversations aim to promote dialogue in which participants listen to each other with sufficient interest and empathy to understand the meaning and motivations of other positions properly. This can take participants beyond the fixed positions they might bring to an adversarial discussion and open them to engage constructively on the topic, paving the way for creative thinking and wise actions.

CHATHAM HOUSE RULE FOR CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

We hold Canberra Conversations under the Chatham House Rule with the aim of creating an environment conducive to open and free-flowing conversation. We ask that all participants commit to the Rule as follows:

Participants may report the substance of the conversation to non-participants, but they may not attribute particular quotes or statements to specific individuals or the organisations they represent without the express permission of those speakers.

OUR NEXT CANBERRA CONVERSATION

Details including the topic: to be advised. Watch our website for information.

PREVIOUS CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

The topics for our most recent Canberra Conversations were:

- FILLING IN CANBERRA - Can a denser city still be a 'home among the gum trees' – May 2011
- CANBERRA'S FUTURE: Thinking together about sustainability, development and growth – May 2010
- CANBERRA - CELEBRATING 2010 & IMAGINING 2030 – December 2010

See www.chorusofwomen.org for details of these and earlier Canberra Conversations.

CONTACTS FOR BOOKINGS & FURTHER INFORMATION

TIME	Monday 1 August, 6.00 for 6.30 - 9.30pm (light refreshments provided)
PLACE	Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic Square, London Circuit
BOOKINGS	online bookings via an email to hoffie@iinet.net.au by COB, 28 July
CONTACT	For further information contact Janet Salisbury: janetsalisbury25@gmail.com or Sue Hoffmann: hoffie@iinet.net.au or phone 6262 7374.
WEBSITES	www.chorusofwomen.org www.anu.edu.au/climatechange



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