

the second in a series of  
**CANBERRA  
CONVERSATIONS**

Tuesday 26 May 2009  
6 - 9pm (light refreshments from 5.30pm)

ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic Square  
Reception Room

presented by A CHORUS OF WOMEN  
in collaboration with ANU CLIMATE CHANGE INSTITUTE

Admission: \$5 to cover costs

## **Emissions Trading**

**THE WAY FORWARD TO GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION?**



At this second Canberra Conversation we will consider the federal government's proposed emissions trading scheme, and facilitate a dialogue around the following question:

- How can we set targets and timetables to avert dangerous climate change at the same time as providing sufficient certainty for business and allowing us to learn and make further adjustments as we go along?
- How can we encourage individual actions to reduce emissions – and what should be the relationship of such voluntary actions to the larger scheme?

We will also explore the real difficulties in putting environmental considerations before economic and political imperatives, and consider how we would recognise an appropriate balance between these different priorities.

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### **Who will be there?**

Professor Frank Jotzo (environmental and resource economist and Deputy Director, ANU Climate Change Institute), will share information with us about the rationale and economic implications of emissions trading. He will be joined by other academics, business people and policy makers who will bring a range of perspectives to the conversation.

A CHORUS OF WOMEN will provide artistic input relating to the social and ethical challenges of 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, scientists, economists, members of community and environmental groups, and concerned citizens of Canberra. **WILL YOU COME?**

## 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, artists, business people and policy makers.

## How do Canberra Conversations differ from other public meetings?

In a discussion (or debate) people usually hold fixed positions and try to convince others to change. At best this may produce agreement or compromise, but it rarely gives rise to creative solutions. If issues of fundamental importance are involved, positions tend to become more entrenched and the discussion may either become confrontational or turn into a polite avoidance of the issues. In this process, benefits tend to be exaggerated, and risks and uncertainties downplayed. In a dialogue, participants listen to each other with sufficient interest and empathy to understand the meaning and motivations of other positions properly. Importantly, they bring an openness to changing or modifying their initial position as a result of the process. In this type of discussion, uncertainties and fears can be realistically acknowledged, while benefits and risks can be examined honestly. This allows the proper analysis of evidence that is needed for creative thinking and wise actions.

*'...it is proposed that a form of free dialogue may well be one of the most effective ways of investigating the crisis which faces society, and indeed the whole of human nature and consciousness today. Moreover, it may turn out that such a form of free exchange of ideas and information is of fundamental relevance for transforming culture and freeing it of destructive misinformation, so that creativity can be liberated.'*

*David Bohm and F. David Peat, 'Dialogue and culture', Science, Order, and Creativity, Bantam, New York, 1987.*

## Report and feedback from the first Canberra Conversation

The first Canberra Conversation was held on 26 February on the topic of 'Canberra's energy future'. For a brief report and other feedback see [www.chorusofwomen.org/whatsnew.htm#Conversations](http://www.chorusofwomen.org/whatsnew.htm#Conversations)

*'I found this an inspirational event; a nice balance between real dialogue on a topic on which we are all quite confused, and enjoyable social and cultural activity.'* Bob Douglas, Chair, SEE-Change, ACT

## Contacts for RSVP & further information

As numbers for this meeting are limited to approximately 50 people, please RSVP by COB, Friday 22 May to book your place (see contact details below). Please also contact us if you would like to find out more about this event.

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A CHORUS OF WOMEN WEBSITE [www.chorusofwomen.org](http://www.chorusofwomen.org)

THE ANU CLIMATE CHANGE INSTITUTE [www.anu.edu.au/climatechange](http://www.anu.edu.au/climatechange)

Canberra Conversations are a community initiative of A Chorus of Women in collaboration with the ANU Climate Change Institute.

a chorus of women

