



Edmund Rice Centre

for Justice & Community Education

Awareness ♦ Advocacy ♦ Action



*PCP Patrons: His Eminence Cardinal John Ratz, mscc,
Dr Richard A O'Brien, Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann*

OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER SCOTT MORRISON

Dear Prime Minister,

I write on behalf of the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education to express our deepest concern at Australia's unpreparedness for the bushfire catastrophe we are now facing.

There is now no doubt that the intensity of these bushfires is associated with climate change and its impacts. This association is [clearly acknowledged](#) by Bureau of Meteorology scientists such as Dr Andrew Dowdy.

In the face of the catastrophic nature of these bushfires, it is of the utmost importance that this link is acknowledged and that adequate action to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions be urgently taken. It is clear that Australian communities have not been adequately prepared to deal with the current and future impacts of the climate crisis.

In April 2018, more than 20 former fire and emergency chiefs from multiple states and territories stated that Australia is ["unprepared for worsening natural disasters from climate change and governments are putting lives at risk."](#)

The Edmund Rice Centre stands alongside the most vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and communities, including our neighbours in the Pacific, many of whom will suffer the gravest consequences as a result of the impacts of climate change. Like the people living in Pacific Islands, rural Australians have access to fewer resources to deal with such catastrophes.

As an organisation that promotes human rights, social justice and eco justice, we appeal to you and your government to communicate to all Australians the enormity of the challenge we are facing as a country and as a world community. We ask you to provide the leadership that this challenge so desperately needs.

Sincerely,

Phil Glendenning
Director
Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education.

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