



MEDIA RELEASE: 22nd July 2015

Faith Groups Call for Change to the Growth Economy

Re: Healthy Earth! Endless Growth! Are they compatible? A Forum Offering Multifaith Solutions.

Representatives of different faith groups agree, “The Earth is our common home. It is sacred and it is in urgent need of protection.”

We also agree that many of the threats facing planet Earth have been created by heavy reliance on economic growth. Things need to change. We need to realign the values that prioritise “the market” over the well-being of peoples, all other species and ecosystems.

“Decisions like the approval of the Shenua coal mine are an example of short-term economics coming before healthy food, soil and clean water,” said Anne Lanyon, Co-ordinator of the Faith Ecology Network (FEN).

“That is why we are bringing people of different faiths and none together to consider our concerns which we feel sure are being felt across the community. We want to listen to the science and share the values our different faith perspectives bring to the issues,” she continued.

The key speaker at the forum will be Haydn Washington, Visiting Fellow at the UNSW Institute of Environmental Studies and author of the recently released book, “Demystifying Sustainability”.

Representatives of the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths will respond followed by discussion.

The forum will be held on Thursday 23rd July at the Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney. Light refreshments will be served from 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

The Faith Ecology Network (FEN) connects faiths to grow in ecological awareness and care. Participants currently come from Aboriginal, Anglican, Baha’i, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, Quaker, Greek Orthodox and Uniting Church religious traditions.

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