

Hello Friend --

What a result! It's hard to take it all in.

In a few days we should know more but this email will sketch out a few initial responses to the extraordinary change that has just taken place. If you want to hear more about what this all means and where ARRCC is likely to be heading, please do come to the [AGM on Wednesday night](#) when I'll be speaking about exactly that, by which time more of the dust should have settled on Canberra. One thing we know for sure, a lot less of it will be coal dust.

So first: thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who has volunteered, prayed, meditated, organised, showed up or spoken up in any way over the many years that have led to this point. I don't know about you but I woke up on Sunday morning with a huge sense of relief and hope, as well as a sense that the heavy weight of fear for our future is actually starting to lift. I know there is a long, long way to go, but I'm so grateful that I can write those words honestly. We're at this point because of a huge and dedicated climate movement and we can be proud that we as people of faith have been a part of that.

### **This was a Climate Election - let's shout that from the rooftops!**

It's very clear that there has been a seismic shift for stronger action on the climate. An exceptional number of independents and Greens were elected and the climate rated as the most important issue for the 1.5 million voters who responded to the ABC's Vote Compass. This is doubly extraordinary given that climate was rarely mentioned by the major parties during the campaign. It is being reported as fact by the [BBC](#) and the [New York Times](#) (paywalled).

None of this indicates a bias on our part for a particular party or candidate. The facts speak for themselves.

**Yet we need your help in telling that story.** More on that below, but first let me mention a few opportunities coming up.

## Choosing fossil free insurance

A dedicated and skilled working group invites you to attend one of their upcoming online workshops on choosing insurance companies which are committed to avoiding investment in fossil fuels. The sessions are 90 minutes over Zoom.

This is a standalone session, other sessions in the series cover other aspects of finance such as Banking, Superannuation, Utilities, and Shareholder actions.

Book your session on **Insurance** for either

- **Tuesday 7th June 2022**, 12 noon - 1:30 pm AEST ACT/NSW/Tas/Vic/Qld, starting 11:30 am SA/NT, 10 am WA, or
- **Thursday 9th June 2022**, 7:30 - 9 pm AEST ACT/NSW/Tas/Vic/Qld, starting 7 pm SA/NT, 5:30 pm WA.

Book via Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUNQF>

## AGM on Wednesday

If you would like to know more about how we can make sense of this much more encouraging political landscape, please come to the AGM this Wednesday evening.

You will need to [RSVP to get the link](#).

## Contemplative Tuesdays for climate justice

UN climate negotiations COP27 will be held in Egypt in November this year, and a group meets weekly to pray and meditate for an outcome there that brings us much closer to climate justice. See [more here](#).

## Together We Can media splash

Late next week, ACF will coordinate a big media splash in Canberra at the close of Together We Can, as the movement delivers the People's Voice to the newly elected government. If you are in one of twelve electorates that ACF has chosen to amplify this, you may be receiving an invitation to participate in a parallel local event in which

community groups will deliver the People's Voice to their newly elected (or re-elected) MPs.

## Now the Election is over .....

**We need your help in telling the story that this was a climate election.** There's a risk that either the incoming Government or the outgoing one will fail to learn the right lessons from this election. The conservative side of politics is already debating whether they need to adopt better climate policies or double down on their previous position. Fortunately, New South Wales Treasurer (LIB) Matt Kean [came out swinging yesterday](#).

And it would be tempting for an incoming Labor Government to believe that the climate wave was limited to a few locations where the Greens and independents got in.

### **Here are a few things you can do.**

- **Post on social media.** Please take a moment to say something on Facebook or Twitter about this election result being a real mandate for strong climate action. Please use the hashtags #TheClimateElection and #auspol. If your place of worship has put up a banner, then posting a photo of this would be a wonderful addition, even if you've already done so before now.
- **Keep your banners up a bit longer.** If you have a banner up outside your place of worship please could you keep this up for at least the next month? There is a huge effort going on right now to create 'surround sound' for the new Government to show that people right across the board want stronger climate action.

## After that?

It's early days but there are a few things we're sure of. We want both major parties to be on board with strong climate action. That's been not only ARRCC's aim, but the aim of most of the broader climate movement.

There is much to be done in reaching out to those on the conservative side of politics. We need to start by extending an olive branch to those who have lost and show them that they can win back hearts and minds if they join the common cause of curbing climate change. There is likely to be a particular part we can play as people of faith, as we're more likely to be listened to than some others in the movement.

We could all have a role to play over the coming three years to engage more with others in our faith communities. This is likely to be slow and quite challenging, as every faith community has a range of views within it. However, it is also likely to be very valuable work. ARRCC also plans to work in a handful of key electorates to build strong support at the congregation level.

## Moving Australia Beyond Coal

Another important form of effective action is to target corporations currently making profits from fossil fuel industries. Corporations place a high value on their brand's good reputation, so have often proven to be more open to change than politicians.

ARRCC has been a mainstay of the #StopAdani movement, which saw over 100 companies withdraw their support from Adani and thermal coal. There is a new bold, diverse, justice-centred campaign brewing to take on the financial pillars of the wider coal industry. ARRCC remains committed to moving Australia beyond coal, and Fahimah will be speaking more on this at the AGM.

Note that the **Tour de Carmichael has been cancelled** due to flooding in central Queensland, at least partly driven by climate change!

## Faiths 4 Climate Justice

We will be integrating some of the above work into our advocacy leading up to COP27. ARRCC will be joining with GreenFaith International in a Global MultiReligious Faiths 4 Climate Justice Week of Action in the week of 2 - 9 October. We will raise awareness about a simple, clear set of demands:

- An immediate end to new fossil fuel projects and deforestation
- A rapid transition to 100% renewables and a decline in fossil fuels

- A commitment to a just transition.

More on that soon!

Finally, we all need to re-find our balance right now. There will be a lot to do now that the wind is at our back. Yet we each also need to respect our own needs for rest and reflection. Let's take a moment to take this in and let go of some of the burden we've all lived with for so long. It's not the end of the story, but it is a moment to breathe and give thanks.

Tejopala - ARRCC

<http://www.arrcc.org.au/>