



Responding to climate change in partnership with  
our Pacific Island neighbours

PCP patrons, His eminence Cardinal John Ribat (MSC),  
Dr Richard A O'Brien and Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann



**Edmund Rice Centre**  
Awareness. Advocacy. Action.

## **Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, Phil Glendenning has written an open letter to the Prime Minister.**

As a result of the [unprecedented nature of the bush fires](#) that are being experienced throughout Australia, together with the extraordinary political debate that has been provoked by the fires, the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, Phil Glendenning, has written an Open Letter to the Prime Minister.

The Pacific Calling Partnership, which is part of the Edmund Rice Centre, has been engaged for many years with the issue of climate change, especially as it impacts on our Pacific neighbours. As a result of this work, it is clear to us that climate change has the potential to inflict serious harm not only to our neighbours in the Pacific, but to Australians and the world community as a whole.

*Phil Glendenning is asking our Prime Minister to heed the calls of the United Nations and urgently reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Unless we do that, we are told that the risks of climate tragedies of the sort we have been experiencing this week will progressively intensify. This is the right time to seek greater commitment from our government to meaningful climate action.*

*This letter has been up-loaded on the [Edmund Rice Centre](#) and [Pacific Calling Partnership](#) facebook pages. Please share widely.*

### **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.

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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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