

## Global multifaith campaign for a Fossil Fuel Treaty

The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod is part of a new global multi-faith campaign for a [Fossil Fuel Treaty](#) to end the expansion of coal, oil and gas and provide a just transition for workers.

### [Fossil Fuel Treaty - ARRCC](#)

#### **Why the Fossil Fuel Treaty matters**

No mechanism currently exists to address fossil fuels and manage a fair transition away from oil, gas and coal.

International momentum for such a treaty is building with the [first ever global summit for a phase-out](#) of fossil fuels taking place in Colombia on April 28 and 29. The Australian Government has yet to commit to sending a delegation to the upcoming summit, even in an observer capacity. Let's make sure they hear loud and clear that faith communities in Australia want them to at least do that!

Faith communities around the world are uniting to show our support for a treaty of this kind. Check out the [international list here](#).

#### **Actions you can take**

##### Sign the global multifaith letter

All over the world faith communities, religious leaders and everyday persons of faith are signing up to show we want this global phase-out of coal, oil and gas - now. A copy of the letter is on the next page. [Sign here](#)

##### Spread the word

Can you help spread the word about this? If you sign up [here](#) for the ARRCC resources, you will get all the resources you need sent to you by email, including:

- A pre-written email for you send to people you know to ask them to sign up to support the Treaty.
- Copy for your place of worship's newsletter or pew sheet.
- A QR code to give people to ask them to do the same thing.
- A paper petition for you to print and ask people to sign up. [You will need to go to the website and enter each person afterwards]
- An A4 poster.

##### Sing to phase out coal and gas!

All over the country, people of faith are singing to show their support for a treaty to phase out fossil fuels.

The ARRCC has a set of seven songs created by the Melbourne Climate Choir all about phasing out fossil fuels. Some are adapted Christian hymns, others are just popular tunes.

[Check out the ARRCC singing page](#) and sign up to receive everything you need to get started, including all of the songs and how to video yourselves singing and post it online in a way that draws people's attention to the need to sign up to support the Fossil Fuel Treaty. There will also details posted soon for public multifaith vigils in Brisbane.

### [Faith Open Letter — Fossil Fuel Treaty](#)

As leaders across diverse religious and spiritual communities around the globe, we call on governments to develop and implement a Fossil Fuel Treaty

We have been granted a gift, an earth created in all its diversity, vitality, and abundance, for which we are called upon to be stewards. But **this role of stewardship has been overshadowed by neglect, exploitation, and unsustainable consumption that threaten the natural balance, social harmony, and existence of life on earth.**

**Too many coal mines and oil and gas wells are already under production**, setting the world on course to fail to meet the Paris Agreement's goal of 1.5°C. To avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis, we must hold ourselves, our neighbors, and our governments accountable and collectively act.

**For too long, government action has been painstakingly slow and catered too much to the reckless and deceptive fossil fuel corporations, preventing meaningful and timely climate legislation.** There is a glaring disconnect between countries' approvals for continued fossil fuel expansion and their rhetoric proclaiming long-term 'net zero' targets, a dangerous veil to evade responsibility, delay action, and rely on unproven technologies.

**The burning of coal, oil, and gas is responsible for 86% of CO2 emissions in the past decade, according to the IPCC.** Just 100 companies account for more than 70% of emissions. With these emissions also come the costs of local pollution, environmental degradation, and health impacts associated with extracting, refining, transporting, and burning fossil fuels.

**These costs are disproportionately paid by those who are most vulnerable to, and least historically responsible for, the consequences of climate change** - lives lost, homes and farms destroyed, and millions of people displaced. It is our moral imperative to protect those most in need and to uphold the human rights of future generations by employing renewable sources of energy.

The science surrounding the most urgent danger facing humanity is undeniable: **to be good caretakers of our common home, we must act and phase out the production of fossil fuels.**

Several faith institutions around the world have already divested from fossil fuel companies, now we take the next step in calling on governments to plan a global just transition.

The current scale of the climate crisis requires a cooperative global solution that addresses the fossil fuel industry directly. **We call on governments to urgently commence negotiations to develop and implement a Fossil Fuel Treaty, laying out a binding global plan to:**

1. End expansion of any new coal, oil or gas production in line with the best available science as outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme. This means developing the plan that would allow governments to stop building out the problem by ending the expansion of coal, oil and gas production;
2. Phase-out existing production of fossil fuels in a manner that is fair and equitable, taking into account the respective dependency of countries on fossil fuels and their capacity to transition;
3. Ensure a global just transition to 100% access to renewable energy globally, support dependent economies to diversify away from fossil fuels, and enable all people and communities, not least the Global South, to flourish.

**We hail from many faiths and beliefs, but together we can remedy the decades of negligence to safeguard our coexistence with this earth.** Just as our beliefs are entrenched in religious and spiritual teachings, our response to the climate crisis must be deeply rooted in science and equity to heal the planet and people alike.

We have a narrow window of opportunity to act which is why we are joining the growing chorus of Indigenous Peoples, civil society leaders, youth, cities, lawmakers, academics, and scientists calling for a global treaty to phase out fossil fuels and support a just transition powered by renewable energy and a sustainable future for all.