The Climate Future We Want to See

A statement and call to action from the Uniting Climate Action Network

What is the Uniting Climate Action Network?

The Uniting Climate Action Network (UCAN) is made up of members of the Uniting Church and wider community who are concerned about the impacts of climate change and extreme weather. UCAN members affirm that care for the world, it's peoples and all its life, is an important part of Christian faith and the church's mission.

UCAN members seek to act on these concerns in our own lives and communities, as well as by advocating for better climate and environmental policies by governments and other leaders.

This statement outlines UCAN's perspective on the problems that face us, and the positive action we would like to see if we are to address the challenge of climate change and secure a safe, fair and positive future for all.

The problem we face

Along with the wider Uniting Church, UCAN believes that the world has intrinsic value that goes beyond its usefulness to human beings. The world and all its life are created and loved by God and so worthy of the deepest respect and care.

The overwhelming scientific consensus is that global warming poses very significant threats to human beings and other life on the planet. The harmful impacts of climate change are already being felt by the Australian community. In recent years we have witnessed devastating floods, the worst fire season in history and extreme heat. Climate change is already taking lives, damaging homes and livelihoods and harming the physical and mental health of Australians. An urgent response to these circumstances is required.

Magnifying disadvantage

While climate change affects everyone, UCAN members know that it is poorer, marginalised and vulnerable people and communities that are hit first and hardest, and have least capacity to recover. Harmful climate change will magnify existing disadvantage and inequity unless we work against it. This is true at a global scale as well as at a national level. UCAN members believe we have a responsibility to reduce climate impacts and ensure climate justice for less resourced nations, including our near Pacific neighbours.

Inadequate government action

Despite the clear and present danger posed by climate change, successive Australian governments have failed to act adequately to address it. We have also failed to heed the wisdom of First Nations peoples in caring for country. Instead, climate change and policy has been used as a divisive issue for short term political gain. As a result, much time has been wasted. All Australians will bear the cost of this reckless and irresponsible inaction through increasing climate harm.

The need for concerted climate action

Our Federal government (and parliament) must take decisive steps to cut climate pollution and prevent worsening climate impacts and disasters. We must also act to take full advantage of our abundant resources in renewable energy as we transition speedily to a new, reliable and ultimately lower cost

energy system. We cannot promote policies that lock us into continued reliance on harmful fossil fuels and thereby add to damaging climate change.

What UCAN is calling for

We must end our dependence on fossil fuels

- We must set more ambitious, science-based emissions reductions targets for 2035, in keeping with the Paris agreement (staying under 2.0 degrees of warming and ideally 1.5 degrees)
- We must stop development of new coal or gas extraction (either new or expanded mines) immediately
- We should develop a transparent plan and timetable for the phasing out of all fossil fuels

We must speed up the shift to an economy and society based on renewable energy

Australia has more sun and wind than almost any other country on earth. Harnessing that cheaper, cleaner energy is the fastest way to transition our economy and for households to reduce their energy bills.

- We must continue to scale up the policies, investment and infrastructure necessary to transition to a carbon neutral economy and ultimately one based on 100% renewable energy
- We should actively support industries and communities currently dependent on fossil fuels to transition to new job opportunities in renewable energy and related industry and manufacturing
- We must support Australian households to make the switch to energy efficient appliances, electric heating and cooking.

We must leave no one behind in the transition to a clean energy future

- All homes and communities, no matter where we live or what we earn, should have access to affordable and reliable renewable energy
- Every household should be supported to install solar energy, improve their home's energy efficiency and switch to efficient electric appliances, with low income and rental households a priority
- Australia must contribute its fair share to climate adaptation projects and climate loss and damage funds for Pacific nations.

Prepared by the Uniting Advocacy team, 2026