

UnitingCare NSW.ACT Supports

Climate Emergency Rally

On Saturday 13 June 2009 UnitingCare NSW.ACT joined thousands of Australians at Climate Emergency Rallies in Sydney and Canberra.

The Climate Emergency Rally was a huge community demonstration protesting against the Rudd Government's lack of action on climate change. The rally was initiated by the community climate network, a coalition of over 140 groups active on climate change and there will be concurrent demonstrations in most capital cities across Australia.

Both UnitingJustice and UnitingCare NSW.ACT, following extensive information gathering and analysis, believe that far too little is and has been done to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. This view is consistent with a NSW.ACT Synod Standing Committee Resolution of 21 November 2008 which commits the Synod to:

Advocating to governments for rapid and just transitions to a post-carbon economy, with specific emissions cuts guided by the 2°C limit.

Rev. Rex Graham, Social Justice Consultant, UnitingCare NSW.ACT, who spoke at the Wollongong rally, is a strong environmental advocate, pushing for at least a 25% cut in greenhouse gas emissions to provide a reasonable chance to prevent global temperatures rising dangerously above 2°C.

"Few commentators believe that an emissions trading scheme of the kind being advocated by the Federal government, and its other renewable energy measures will achieve anywhere near this level of reductions", says Rev. Graham.

"People across the world are already being affected by climate change, particularly the world's poorest who are least responsible for the problem. For example, Australia's per capita greenhouse gas emissions (the highest in the world) are 30 times those of Tuvalu (a Polynesian island nation in the Pacific Ocean) and Bangladesh, two of the countries most affected by climate change."

UnitingCare NSW.ACT views this is a grave injustice which needs to be addressed through effective action. Furthermore, there is the matter of inter-generational injustice: the current generation enjoying the environment at the expense of future generations who will suffer most from climate change.

This rally followed World Environment Day on 5 June when UnitingCare NSW.ACT urged Australians to continue their efforts for the sake of current and future generations.

For more information please visit http://www.unitingcarenswact.org.au/resources/environmental_initiatives



Rev. Rex Graham marching at the Wollongong Rally.