

# National Congress of Women

Monday 12 Sept, 11 am

## NEW GROWTH 1

### 'Roomies' harvest from small group conversations on WCC Charter themes

Participants were invited to choose a group. Each group had a designated host with a prior interest/expertise in the topic. A scribe entered discussion responses onto butcher's paper. Any participants could add notes to the board

Group hosts were asked to consider 3 questions:

- a. What comes alive in you in response to this call to action?
- b. How could the WCC bring this aspect of the Charter to life - as a call to action at the national level?
- c. What other ideas do you have for action at a local, community and personal level?

This summary collates very lightly edited feedback notes from the Roomies and, where possible, the Zoomies. Where there were additional details discussed by the Zoomies, a link to the Zoomie's Google document is provided.

Comments in [green/square brackets] are added by WCC

In Key issues sections, red text is wording from the charter.

## Actions to secure the climate

### 1 Embrace gender-balanced governance

Key issues raised:

- **Definition:** what does it mean to include other genders and who is included when we speak of gender-balance? Is it appropriate to talk specifically about gender balance or do other marginalised groups need to be included for governance to be balanced, especially First Nations people?
- **The role of men:** may be shared leadership; engagement of young men; as supporters of women and their rights (parental leave).
- Women's participation in governance involves **introducing women's ways of doing things** rather than women acting like men in a structure designed by men.
- What **specific changes** may be important? (Language, valuing caring work, quotas)
- See also notes on Action 5 (Listen and learn from FN's knowledge). Should the FN's action (#5) come first ?

Ideas for the charter wording	Ideas for advocacy	Ideas for Broader policy thinking	Ideas for WCC Action
<p>Be clear it is about changing the [patriarchal] system itself rather than just including other individuals in it.</p>	<p>Small but powerful act – lobby for ‘inaugural’ rather than ‘maiden’ speech</p> <p>Quotas for diversity – gender cultural and biological</p>	<p>Problems of definition. What does inclusivity even mean?</p> <p>Youth have more of a handle on gender/non-binary — women and men framing may need rethinking [but meanwhile a binary gender imbalance based on patriarchy prevails]</p> <p>Language is important – gender based labels can be problematic [WCC has done some work on this but it is tricky – women are definitely currently underrepresented]</p> <p>Valuing women’s unpaid work – Universal Basic Income? [this is covered in Action 7 about new economic models and values]</p> <p>Proper participatory democracy is one way to include all. Engaging all stakeholders in policy development would ensure diversity is included. (APS has a stakeholder engagement framework – but is it used?) [see Action 8]</p> <p>How do we support men to engage with feminine processes?</p> <p>Paid parental leave for fathers (already exists in some areas?)</p> <p>Co--chairs] is an excellent idea. Could be broadly applied to governments, businesses and civil society</p> <p>It is not just gender – need to include more Indigenous voices and more people of colour in all our panels</p>	<p>Support creation of a cross-party non-partisan women’s climate congress (caucus) in the Australian Parliament. ‘Caucus’ has connotations as an ALP term in party politics.</p> <p>Use the WCC Charter for change as a focus for meetings/activities</p> <p>A parliamentary group not only for women but with links to the WCC?</p> <p>If old stale white males cannot be persuaded to take climate action, what about young men? What role can women play in nurturing young men to see it as genderless action?</p> <p>“How do I find a mentor?” Offer the support of an older woman – in the way the community independents worked</p>

## 2 Take responsibility

[This action was not discussed in a designated small group]

Comment from small group conversations about First Nations knowledge: 'Action 2 understates the impacts of our culture on the planet'

## 3 Create a unified national plan

Key issues:

- Who? **Political parties, industry and community leaders**. Make sure all stakeholders are included. It's important to work with State legislatures.
- What? **Work together to comply with scientific advice**. 43% isn't enough.
- Why? **To secure the climate and transition our economy and lifestyles**. Include a reference to **protecting biodiversity**.
- How? **Sustainable and justly**.
  - The Plan should have detailed guiding principles around development and implementation. Models can be found in the Australian Climate Roundtable; Australia Together; Transition Towns.
  - How important is process? Good process can avoid problems later down the track OR it can get us bogged down.
  - How do we use relationship-building to better shape climate action in a way that's broader and just?
  - How do we acknowledge our grief?
  - Suggestions about ways to promote the Plan.
- Including:
  - **phase out fossil fuels**
    - Make ff development unprofitable.
  - **transition to renewables**
  - **adapt C2-intensive activities**
  - **address risks from extreme weather**
    - Mexico's Catastrophic Insurance Scheme to share risk
    - Climate migration: people looking for work and people whose homes are unlivable.
  - **always consult and engage with communities**

Other issues raised:

1. The focus must be on Action: short-, medium- and long-term
2. Mention protecting biodiversity;
3. the way in which the Unified Plan is developed (what framework, process should we use? There are models);
4. what the Unified Plan should contain; and
5. how do we focus on relationships in building the Plan and in responding to Climate Change? In particular, it's important to connect with other groups.

Ideas for the charter wording	Ideas for advocacy	Ideas for broader policy thinking	Ideas for WCC Action
<p>Include reference to protecting biodiversity in the plan (either here or under 'Uphold... rights of all earth life') [it is included in Action 4 on intergenerational equity and the rights of all Earth life]</p>	<p>Write to polities and meet to talk about the plan</p> <p>Set up groups in each state to lobby for the plan</p> <p>Recognise power and influence of State legislatures and work with them</p> <p>Talk about a 'Climate Accord'?</p> <p>How to deal with the 43% target being not nearly enough?</p>	<p><b>About the plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need guiding principles around developing and implementing the plan (Australian Climate Roundtable may have some pointers for stakeholder engagement) <a href="https://www.australianclimateroundtable.org.au/">https://www.australianclimateroundtable.org.au/</a></li> <li>• Consider <i>Australia Together</i> (Bronwyn Kelly) as an organising principle</li> <li>• Developing good process is the longest part [However, should not get bogged down in perfect process. The recent economic summit was quick with further work afterwards.]</li> <li>• Identifying and engaging missing stakeholders</li> <li>• National Risk and Insurance sharing schemes (eg Mexico's Catastrophic Insurance)</li> <li>• Actions specified – immediate, short term and longer term</li> <li>• Reclaim 'just transition'</li> </ul> <p><b>In the plan [but we can't be too prescriptive as that is the purpose of the roundtable process]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate migration and labour migration</li> <li>• Climate visas</li> <li>• Integrated planning and Reporting</li> <li>• How to reduce the profits of fossil fuel and polluting companies so it is no longer profitable for them</li> <li>• How to get beyond the 43%</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government</li> <li>• Philanthropy</li> <li>• Parliamentary Budget Office</li> </ul> <p><b>Community support and coordinated action</b></p> <p>How do we make education on the climate science and action more accessible to people and communities</p> <p>What is stopping us from acknowledging together our grief? ( happens in faith orgs and caring professions)</p>	<p>Form a WCC group to manage the advocacy for this and the associated policy development and communications</p> <p>Develop a communications strategy about the plan – how do we cut through to politics and business - why is preservation of the life of future generations not enough?</p> <p>Appoint plan ambassadors [champions]</p> <p>Gather info on collaborative models that are working eg SA Conservation Council and Universities</p> <p>Look at what Get up is doing on climate advocacy??</p> <p>Check out <a href="#">Katrina Gaita Climate for Change</a></p> <p>Contact Tennant Reed Head of Climate, Energy and Environment Policy at the Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/today/author/tennant-reed-427baa16">https://www.linkedin.com/today/author/tennant-reed-427baa16</a></p>

Ideas for the charter wording	Ideas for advocacy	Ideas for broader policy thinking	Ideas for WCC Action
		<p>How can we use relationship building to better shape climate action in a way that is broader and just?</p> <p>We need co-ordinated road maps for every sector all working together /talking with each other to secure a safe climate as soon as possible – we need total life-affirming inclusive, reconstructive systemic change. Road map for every sector. Action plans for every community. Transition towns provides a model</p> <p>See further comments from Zoomies  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uaFCEk3i7NKUb-TNsQYc8gyueShYOBA1?rtfpof=true&amp;authuser=janet.salisbury%40iin.et.net.au&amp;usp=drive_fs">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uaFCEk3i7NKUb-TNsQYc8gyueShYOBA1?rtfpof=true&amp;authuser=janet.salisbury%40iin.et.net.au&amp;usp=drive_fs</a></p>	<p>(?chair of the Australian Climate Roundtable)</p> <p>Set up a secretariat re the Charter [not sure if this was referring to internal or external, but if the Charter is to be our main focus for 2023 an internal secretariat or Circle may be useful]</p>

## Actions for long-term human and planetary wellbeing

### 4 Uphold Intergenerational equity and rights of earth

Key Issues:

- Wellbeing of future generations and all of Earth’s biodiversity to be considered in the development and implementation of all policies
  - Should the rights of the Earth have its own Chapter?
  - How do we protect the Rights of Earth? There are a couple of models we can look to.
  - How far does existing legislation already achieve this?
- Introduce Protection of Future Generations legislation
  - Do we need to define “Equity”?
  - Indigenous practices provide a model.
  - Do we need to lobby against existing economic models?
- uphold the rights of nature, repair damage, prevent future loss and destruction
- Commission for the Future to apply future generations, and planetary well-being lenses to proposed policies
- promote young leaders, especially women.
- acknowledge the grief and fear around this issue.

Ideas for the charter wording	Ideas for advocacy	Ideas for broader policy	Ideas for WCC Action
<p>Pulling out the rights of the earth as a standalone chapter??-[or more emphasis in this one? ]</p> <p>Geographic injustice is not specifically mentioned in the charter</p> <p>Equity of what?</p>	<p>WCC needs to take the Charter to all State governments which have a lot control over environmental protection</p> <p>Review corporations act to prioritise environmental responsibility</p> <p>GDP as a success measure has to go [or use be limited – see below]</p> <p>Economics is a tool to help us make different social choices. Consider UBI?</p> <p>Support the new parliament</p> <p>New taxation policy to support Charter values</p>	<p>This aspect underpins everything we are considering</p> <p><b>Rights of the earth:</b></p> <p>Give ‘human rights’ to the land – then we might protect it</p> <p>Rights of Mother Earth Act and Te Mana o Te Wai rights of waterways NZ)</p> <p>Bring States together on environmental protections</p> <p>Indigenous approach to care for the Earth</p> <p>Considering different models and roles to privilege the voice of nature - See NZ models . Also Transition Towns and Sea Change (local ACT)</p> <p>Environmental protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act takes climate impact into account in decision making</p> <p><b>Intergenerational equity:</b></p> <p>Indigenous frameworks – looking 5-7 generations ahead</p> <p>Encourage connection with nature for young people</p> <p>Importance of avoiding tokenism working with young people. How do we address the despair of many young people and support them?</p> <p>In any group a person is designated as the one to speak for the environment. Consider it in all things</p>	<p>[Other organisations may have more expertise in this area]</p> <p>Acknowledge the fear and allow the grief when considering the future for our children and grandchildren</p> <p>Consider conducting or commissioning a survey about 2050 desirable realities and our current anxieties wrt to eg Housing, food, health education, environment and so on [or possibly the key calls to action areas in the Charter]</p>

Ideas for the charter wording	Ideas for advocacy	Ideas for broader policy	Ideas for WCC Action
		<p>How to plan for 50degree summers?</p> <p>How to live locally when we still need to draw on global resources eg our drugs come from China and India)</p> <p>See further comments from Zoomies  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uaFCEk3i7NKUb-TNsQYc8gyueShYOBA1?rtpof=true&amp;authuser=janet.salisbury%40iin.et.net.au&amp;usp=drive_fs">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uaFCEk3i7NKUb-TNsQYc8gyueShYOBA1?rtpof=true&amp;authuser=janet.salisbury%40iin.et.net.au&amp;usp=drive_fs</a></p>	

## 5 Listen to and learn from First Nations knowledge

Key Issues:

- May we reach out to join with First peoples and share grief and sorrow together and reparation. Then we can move forward together with their ancestral knowledge and guidance about country and spirit.
- How do settlers/migrants/'the uninvited' – learn? We need to understand before we can learn, and before we can teach each other? White fellas need to learn not to ask questions - how to sit and learn: Wait. Listen with your whole body. Watch. Wonder (inside your head). Wait (again). Then figure out how the pieces fit together. Then wait to see if that was right – months or years
- Review/take care with language and context of ideas throughout the charter (e.g. FN's knowledge is mentioned in several places: FN ideas of gender are different for different nations).
- Move this theme up in the order [see below]

Additional input [see links below]

- An important paper by Honey Nelson (Roomie's group host) based on input from First Nations women, Professor Anne Poelina and Dr Mary Graham, who have both provided input for the Women's Climate Congress work on this issue.
- See also the discussion of this topic by the Zoomies

Issues for the charter wording	Ideas for advocacy	Ideas for broader policy	Ideas for WCC Action
<p>Determine the level of voice for this call to action. Are we speaking for or with FNP? How are FNP included?</p> <p>‘Voice of the charter is non-Indigenous – they are othered’ [ie the Charter document is written from a non-Indigenous perspective. Is this what we actually mean?]</p> <p>Make FN call to action as No 1 [#1 in human and planetary wellbeing section? Otherwise could lose current structure of emergency climate actions and longer-term H&amp;PWB actions? Needs thought]</p> <p>Send Charter to those First Nations women we know and to other FN people.</p> <p>Implicit power imbalance – we should not only think about <u>learning from</u> (= <u>taking from</u>) Indigenous knowledge holders, but to inform ourselves and to <u>give back</u> in ways they want.</p>	<p>Encourage deep listening and recognise how shocked FNP are from the violence of colonisation</p> <p>FN knowledge is about a philosophy as well as a technology for caring for the land</p>	<p>See paper by Honey Nelson <a href="#">[LINK]</a></p> <p>See further comments from Zoomies:  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uaFCEk3i7NKUb-TNsQYc8gyueShYOBAl?rtpof=true&amp;authuser=janet.salisbury%40iinet.net.au&amp;usp=drive_fs">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uaFCEk3i7NKUb-TNsQYc8gyueShYOBAl?rtpof=true&amp;authuser=janet.salisbury%40iinet.net.au&amp;usp=drive_fs</a></p>	<p>Send Charter to all First Nations women we know and through other connections.</p> <p>[Needs working through in relation to language and ownership issues.]</p> <p>Develop a ‘seed plan’ for practical meeting to initiate possible action together</p> <p>Start locally in person invite all WCC women and contacts to build networks and association with First Women and build nationally from there</p> <p>Invite WCC and associated women to contribute to First Nations connections and to join a seed group if they can.</p> <p>Undertake and promote deep listening</p>

## 6 Create paths and policies for tolerance, non-violence and peace

### Key Issues:

- Connect climate change and broader issues, including security, movement of peoples.
- Shift national focus from military to soft power. This includes creating a civilian body to respond to national emergencies and establishing a Ministry for Peace.
- Include military emissions in world calculations.

Ideas for the charter wording	Ideas for advocacy	Ideas for Broader policy	Ideas for WCC Action
<p>Call for a Ministry for Peace?</p> <p>Recognise climate change as greatest global security threat</p> <p>Create a Global Treaty on climate mobility</p>	<p>Call for a Ministry for Peace</p> <p>Cease the Defence Export Strategy. Create an economic future not based on an armaments industry.</p> <p>Redirect military budget to soft power eg training diplomats and facilitating grass roots interactions with neighbours</p>	<p>Tackle the refugee situation - build into the military budget to cover displacement and trauma eg Afghanistan. Talk about the connection between the two</p> <p>Properly resource civilian capacity to deal with domestic climate change calamities – not the role of the military</p> <p>Frame the debate re military role and expenditure around social license – on what basis do they act for the nation</p> <p>Challenge ANZUS and AUKUS</p> <p>Jo Valentine’s point that emissions from military activities isn’t included in world carbon emissions figures is an important one. I realise that nations around the world would be unwilling to disclose their true carbon emissions from military activities as it might make the extent of their munitions and tests evident, however because these military emissions are significant, we are living under an illusion so long as these emissions aren’t included.</p> <p>[See: Australians for War Powers Reform <a href="https://warpowersreform.org.au/">https://warpowersreform.org.au/</a>]</p>	<p>[Support WILPF’s work in this area]</p> <p>Participate in Defence submissions to rethink and redefine national security as resources allow</p> <p>In view of the Russia-Ukraine war and its emissions in the Northern Hemisphere, I think it would be a good idea to frame a recommendation from WCC to the Australian government to send on to COP27, worded something like 'In view of tipping points Earth is rapidly approaching, and significant emissions from the Russia - Ukraine war, Australia recommends that estimates of emissions from military activities be urgently included in world carbon emissions figures.'</p>