

PROPOSAL

AYM Expert Working Group on Climate Emergency and Species Extinction

Builds on:

- Australian Quaker Statement on Earthcare (2008)
- Quaker Earthcare Committee Epistle (2019, attached)

Notes that:

- the current period of uncertainty and adjustment within and between countries of the world (due to Covid19) could present an opportunity for science-based, urgent and focussed action
- the Head of the International Energy Agency stated (June 2020) that we have only 6 months left to change the course of energy use and carbon pollution if the world is to stave off climate catastrophe
- Climate Emergency and Species Extinction issues intersect with the peace and development concerns of many Friends (such as potential for civil unrest and international conflict, food insecurity, climate extremes, living standards and our relationship with nature): and
- there is a campaign in UK for “ecocide” to be recognized as an international crime against peace to close a gap in the law, which allows the perpetrators of large-scale environmental crimes to avoid accountability. Currently, the International Criminal Court is tasked with prosecuting individuals accused of committing four “crimes against peace”: war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and crimes of aggression. Ecocide would be the fifth.

Timeframe: Two years – commencing late 2020 or January 2021

Membership:

Appointed by AYM Nominations Committee. While not a representational working group, it is anticipated that membership would:

- reflect the geographic and social/cultural diversity of Friends
- draw on the wide talent, expertise and experience of Friends
- be able to co-opt additional Friends for specific work as needed
- workable size and expertise, include at least one Young Friend, perhaps total 5-10 membership

Purpose:

To design, develop and drive an Australian wide action plan to:

- Educate and encourage Friends to engage with local, state/territory and national governments and those in Opposition, businesses, community leaders and other influencers on climate emergency issues
- Strengthen working relations and collaboration between AYM and the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, including actions at the national, state/territory and local levels
- Reflect voices of Children’s Meetings and Junior Young Friends

- Amplify a national Quaker voice on this time-urgent and essential topic (could include social media and other communication form, as well as participation in actions)
- Complement, not duplicate, work already undertaken by AYM (and its committees) on climate/environment related topics.

In consultation and collaboration with:

- Other AYM Committees and groups (including: Earthcare, QPLC, FNCC, Peace and Social Justice Fund, Publications, QLA, QSA Linkages, SWQC, Children and JYF Committee and Young Friends).
- Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

Working method: email, zoom, local discussion groups.

Reporting

The AYM Expert Working Group on Climate Crisis and Species Extinction would report to each mid-year Standing Committee and Yearly Meetings during the two years.

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