NCWA NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AUSTRALIA

RESOLUTIONS FORM

PO Box PO Box 389
HALL ACT 2618
info@ncwa.org.au

Meeting	**Mid-Term Conference**
Date	**14-16 June 2017**
Title	**CLIMATE CHANGE**
Resolution	The National Council of Women Australia (NCWA) urges the Federal Government to give priority to strategies combating global warming while ensuring energy security, given the implication for Australia's environment and such unique ecosystems as the Great Barrier Reef.
Rationale	1. After past conferences (2006, 2009, 2014, 2015) the NCWA has sent submissions to Government about combating global warming. However recent polarisation of support in politics and the community requires NCWA to address this development and reaffirm its position. While no one wants to see people without power so that governments can meet targets on renewables, this generation has a responsibility to future generations to preserve unique ecosystems in its custody like the Great Barrier Reef, and not pollute aquifers possibly interconnected to the Great Artesian Basin. Policy makers have the challenge to develop strategies for secure affordable power while preserving the environment, as well as for funding of vital research. 2. While the NCWA recognises the good work undertaken by the Federal and Queensland Government such as *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* and *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan,* it notes the reservations of the Great Barrier Reef Independent Review Group on the chance of success at meeting the targets and the funding shortfall of $143m to $408m to meet the Reef 2050 Plan actions. ***Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan, Progress On Implementation Review By Great Barrier Reef Independent Review Group February 2017*** *https://independent.academia.edu/DiTarte* 3. There is a body of literature supporting anthropogenic warming. *The human fingerprint in global warminghttps://skepticalscience.com/its-not-us-advanced.htm e.g. Meehl, G. A et al (2004) Combinations of Natural and Anthropogenic Forcings in Twentieth –Century Climate J.Climate 17,3721-7.* Also many papers on the science behind climate change conclude that human greenhouse gas emissions are resulting in climate changes that cannot be explained by natural causes. *https://theconversation.com/climate-change-is-real-an-open-letter-from-the-scientific-community-1808; https://theconversation.com/the-greenhouse-effect-is-real-heres-why-1515; https://theconversation.com/speaking-science-to-climate-policy-1548; https://theconversation.com/our-effect-on-the-earth-is-real-how-were-geo-engineering-the-planet-1544* 4. The monitoring of indicators such as greenhouse gases; temperatures throughout the atmosphere, ocean, and land; cloud cover; sea level; ocean salinity; sea ice extent; and snow cover how patterns, changes, illustrate trends of the global climate system. *Blunden, J. and D. S. Arndt, Eds., 2016: State of the Climate in 2015. Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc., **97** (8), S1–S275, DOI:10.1175/2016BAMSStateoftheClimate.1 https://www.climate.gov/news-features/featured-images/2015-state-climate-global-temperature, https://www.climate.gov/news-features/featured-images/2015-state-climate-sea-level; https://www.climate.gov/news-features/featured-images/2015-state-climate-ocean-heat-storage; https://www.climate.gov/news-features/featured-images/2015-state-climate-carbon-dioxide; https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/2015-state-climate-warm-oceans-loss-sea-ice-behind-big-changes* 5. The mass coral bleaching events in 1998, 2002 and 2016 were related to heat stress (Degree Heating Weeks, DHWs; °C-weeks) during each mass-bleaching event. Even good colonizers and fast growing corals can take 10 to 15 years to recover hence assemblage structure of corals is expected to change. A fourth bleaching event could interrupt the slow recovery. The authors urged immediate global action to curb future warming to secure a future for coral reefs. *http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v543/n7645/full/nature21707.html?WT.mc_id=COM_Nature_1703_Hughes* On 10 March 2017 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority confirmed mass coral bleaching is occurring on the Great Barrier Reef for the second consecutive year. *http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/media-room/coral-bleaching* 6. Research conducted on Heron Island demonstrated that increasing ocean acidification to elevated CO_2concentrations predicted to occur in 2050 and 2100, advantages seaweeds over corals *Del Monaco, C., Hay M.E., Gartrell1, P., Mumby P. J., & Diaz-Pulido1,G. Effects of ocean acidification on the potency of macroalgal allelopathy to a common coral. Sci. Rep. **7**, 41053; doi: 10.1038/srep41053 (2017).* The authors said it was futile to remove seaweeds that have the ability to regrow, and the problem could be tackled only by cutting carbon emissions. *https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/feb/03/rising-carbon-emissions-could-kill-off-vital-corals-by-2100-study-warns*