

**RM RESPONSES TO DIA23 REPORT PART B: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**  
**Climate Emergency and Species Extinction Working Group Report with Appendices**  
**as of 11.5.23**

**CRQ:**

1. CRQ commits to practically implementing the seven action areas of the draft Action Plan
  - a. Taking Action
  - b. Educating & Mentoring
  - c. Righting our Relationship with the Earth
  - d. Putting our Finances to Work
  - e. Mourning Loss & Instilling Hope
  - f. Repairing the Earth
  - g. Listening to & Supporting First Nations Peoples

We welcome any further practical actions proposed by the Working group and accept the offer of assistance from Christine Larkin to work with the Clerks to monitor implementation and actions.

We also note the historical opportunity for powerful Australian Quaker input if Australia co-hosts the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP29) in 2024.

2. CRQ Clerks will prepare a short, written report on CRQ activities in relation to advocacy on climate and biodiversity mitigation over the past year for the Working Group by the end of April 2023. This will assist the Preparatory Meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 15 May 2023.
3. We agree that the Working Group be extended for 1 year to Yearly Meeting 2024 in order to complete the draft Action Statements
4. We note QPLC involvement in the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARCC) online workshops on 'How to meet your MP' on Monday 24 & Wednesday 26th April 2023 – see <https://www.arrcc.org.au/>
5. We encourage all Quakers Australia committees with funding capabilities to review their guidelines to enable and facilitate the release of funds individually and/or collectively to support climate activism, education, community building and earth repair actions wherever possible.
6. We encourage Friends to avail themselves of Clearness Meeting processes where they are led to travel under concern, particularly with respect to the climate and biodiversity crises. We encourage Ministry Committees or equivalent to discern and facilitate these opportunities.
7. We note that Canberra & Region Quakers have already incorporated our *Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crises* as a key standing item for every Meeting for Worship for Business. We encourage consideration of *Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Crises* as a standing item on all Quaker Meeting agendas, encouraging consideration of the climate and biodiversity impact of all our business decisions.

**NSWRM:**

We agree that this issue is a matter of urgency and that immediate action is needed. Statements of position may not be the best way to do this. We need to continue to raise awareness of the urgency of the situation and continue to take actions such as limiting travel for Friends business. We will encourage sharing with one another the actions we are already taking. This sharing is meant for encouragement, not evaluation of sufficiency. Many

Friends are already involved in local activities and personal actions that may not necessarily be auspiced by Friends.

We agree with the principles of the need for:

- Taking Action
- Educating & Mentoring
- Righting our Relationship with the Earth
- Putting our Finances to Work
- Mourning Loss & Instilling Hope
- Repairing Earth
- Listening to & Support for First Nations Peoples.

**QRM:**

1. We have read and accept the draft of the Action Plan. We commend the working group for this contribution and call to action.
2. The Co-Clerk Frances Long and Christine Venner-Westaway have collated reports on actions taken on this issue by Queensland Friends as individuals and collectively and have sent these to the working group convenor.
3. We agree to extend the CE&SE Working Group for one year.
4. We support the proposal for QPLC with cooperation from other relevant Quaker groups to organise lobbying workshops.
5. We agree that AYM finance-related committees review their guidelines to release funds to support activities such as education, activism and earth repair.
6. We note that Clearness meetings are requested by individual Friends as they feel led.
7. We will consider including the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis as a standing item on our RM agendas at a later date.

**SANTRM:**

1. We support the Action Plan of the Working Group, accepting that it is a “living document” which requires ongoing engagement of Friends and Meetings.
2. The Clerk will send, as soon as possible, a report to the CESE WG on the activities of SA and NT Friends in relation to mitigation activities in relation to climate emergency and species extinction for the Preparatory Session on the 15th May.
3. We agree that YM23 extend the Working Group for one year to enable the completion of the draft Action Statements.
4. We support the proposal that QPLC, in consultation with relevant Quaker groups, conduct lobbying workshops online during 2023-24 on the topic of climate crisis and species extinction.
5. We support the proposal that AYM finance-related committees review their guidelines as necessary. We are aware that that many competing, and equally worthwhile demands, are made on these funds.
6. We understand that all local and regional meetings offer clearness Meetings for any Friend with a concern.
7. We agree to discuss further the possibility of including a statement of awareness as a standing item in our agendas.

**TRM:**

1. TRM accepts the Working Group’s Action Plan
2. The Meeting points out that a number of TRM Friends engage in action either individually or through other groups, but we hear the request and will do what we can. We do not have a CESE correspondent currently, although our Nominations Committee are seeking someone.
3. TRM accepts this.

4. Yes, we are in agreement
5. TRM accepts this recommendation.
6. Yes, we agree
7. TRM does not support the proposal to make the climate and biodiversity crisis as a standing item on our MfWfB agenda. We will prioritise as and when we can.

**VRM:**

1. Friends felt that they needed more time to consider the lengthy report, the appendix and Part B and look forward to the Preparatory Session on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30 p.m.
2. Point 2. John Gare is preparing a report from VRM as requested.
3. Point 6. Friends noted that Clearness Meetings are usually requested by individual Friends.
4. Point 7. The Clerk noted that items for Regional Meeting agendas usually include items for discernment/decision.

**WARM:** WARM Friends accept items 1-7 put forward for consideration. We ask the Clerks to collate information from WARM Minutes 2021-2023 and forward to Amanda Hamilton-Holloway (WARM's correspondent to CESE Working Group).