

**National Council of Churches in Australia**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

**CHURCH LEADERS PROMOTE  
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN TIME OF DROUGHT**

Heads of Christian Churches meeting in Sydney last week acknowledged and supported the various calls from church groups and other Australians for prayer in this time of severe drought, including a National Day of Prayer on 26 November.

The heads of Churches called for all Australians to pray for:

- desperately needed rain
- those who are severely drought affected, and
- commitment to responsibly care for all our natural resources.

“We invite all Australians to express their solidarity with those who are suffering by taking a few moments to pray or to join a local worship service where prayers will be offered,” said Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, Primate of the Anglican Church.

Archbishop Philip Wilson, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said, “At a time when our political leaders and climate experts are giving close attention to the economic consequences of this drought, we should remember the many people on farms and in small businesses who are suffering often in a deeply personal way. Local Churches are already providing practical and personal support, and will continue to do their utmost. Our prayer shows that Australians stand together in the face of adversity.”

“We need to seek God’s guidance as to how we can better manage Australia’s water resources at a time when climate change is upon us. This too will be part of the prayers on 26 November,” added the Revd Gregor Henderson, President of the Uniting Church in Australia.

The Church leaders acknowledged the recent statement of Queensland Church leaders: “We are very conscious of the life and death needs that beset so many people around this world every day and we in no way intend that much needed prayer be deflected from these situations. At the same time we recognise that water is an urgent and immediate need affecting so many of us here and now in the most basic ways. So it is with the confidence that Jesus urged upon us that we simply go to God with this need.”

Many resources for prayer are already available from local church groups, and links and resources will also be gathered and posted on the web pages of the National Council of Churches in Australia, at [www.ncca.org.au](http://www.ncca.org.au)

This statement is made on behalf of the following leaders of Australian Churches:

**The Most Revd Dr Phillip Aspinall**  
Anglican Church

**His Eminence Archbishop Paul Saliba**

Antiochian Orthodox Church

**His Eminence Archbishop Aghan Baliozian**

Armenian Apostolic Church

**Pastor Brian Houston**

Assemblies of God

**His Grace Bishop Mar Meelis Zaia**

Assyrian Church of the East

**The Revd Dr Ross Clifford**

Baptist Union

**Bishop James Chang Hua Ha**

Chinese Methodist Church

**Mr Richard Menteith**

Churches of Christ

**Dr Harry Melkonian**

Congregational Federation

**His Grace Bishop Daniel**

Coptic Orthodox Church

**His Grace Bishop Suriel**

Coptic Orthodox Church

**His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos**

Greek Orthodox Church

**The Revd Mike Semmler**

Lutheran Church

**The Rt Revd Bob Thomas**

Presbyterian Church

**Lyndsay Farrell**

Religious Society of Friends

**The Most Revd Philip Wilson**

Roman Catholic Church

**His Beatitude Patriarch Teoctist**

Romanian Orthodox Church

**Commissioner James Knaggs**

The Salvation Army, Southern Territory

**Commissioner Les Strong**

The Salvation Army, Eastern Territory

**Pastor Chester Stanley**

Seventh Day Adventist Church

**His Eminence Archbishop Mor Malatius Malki Malki**

Syrian Orthodox Church

**The Revd Gregor Henderson**  
Uniting Church  
**Mar Thoma Church**