



Caritas
Aotearoa New Zealand

10 November 2009

To Whom it May Concern

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is pleased to endorse the "Kiwis for 350" petition calling on the New Zealand Government to address climate change through national and international policy and action aimed at lowering the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere below an equivalent 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide (CO₂). This is the level that many scientists and climate experts now believe is the safe upper level of CO₂ equivalents in the atmosphere. Currently the level is 390 parts per million.

This call is in line with a strong Caritas Internationalis climate justice campaign calling for an international framework to limit average global temperature rises **as far below 2°C as possible**, and for developed countries such as New Zealand to take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions **by more than 40% by 2020** (based on 1990 levels). Caritas also says such targets should be reviewed as the emerging science indicates.

In current international negotiations, our Government is only committing to 10-20 percent cuts below our 1990 levels, subject to various conditions.

We are pleased that the Kiwis for 350 campaign also recognises that climate justice ensuring a habitable earth for all requires commitment from individuals and organizations, as well as governments.

Caritas acknowledges the different views that people, including Catholics, have on climate change. However, we believe that the evidence for climate change - both scientific and anecdotal, including from some of our own development partners - is overwhelming. Strong, committed action is required from individuals and governments. We urge Catholics to reflect on the issues and consider signing the petition or otherwise making their views known to our Parliamentarians.

Yours sincerely

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Director

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