



**Central Australian  
Aboriginal Congress**  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION | ICN 7823

3 December 2020

Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy  
By email: [Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretariat

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress) is the largest Aboriginal community controlled health service based in the Northern Territory. We are one of the most experienced organisations in the country in Aboriginal health, a national leader in primary health care, and a strong advocate for the health of our people.

Climate change is one of the most significant threats to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people and will put additional pressure on pre-existing health conditions including heat stress compounding chronic disease; increased rates of infectious disease; poor respiratory health; and malnutrition/obesity due to food insecurity. This is due to higher proportions of Aboriginal people living in poverty, having poor quality drinking water and living in poor housing often without functional air-conditioning.

I would like to draw your attention to Congress' submission to the [Northern Territory Government's development of a Northern Territory Climate Change Strategy](#). Our submission to this Strategy includes the evidence-informed rationale for a zero emissions target, alongside recommendations for limiting and adapting to climate change.

Congress therefore supports the Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 and related legislation to achieve zero net emissions by 2050. Additionally we support the submission provided by the Central Land Council, which supports the Bills as well as recommending they be strengthened to better protect people who will be disproportionately impacted by climate change due to social, economic and challenges.

Thank you for considering this important issue. If you have any further questions please contact Dr John Boffa, Chief Medical Officer Public Health, on 08 89514401 or at [john.boffa@caac.org.au](mailto:john.boffa@caac.org.au).

Yours sincerely

Donna Ah Chee  
Chief Executive Officer

**Central Australian Aboriginal Congress  
Aboriginal Corporation**

ABN 76 210 591 710 | ICN 7823  
PO Box 1604, Alice Springs NT 0871  
(08) 8951 4400 | [www.caac.org.au](http://www.caac.org.au)



**Aboriginal health  
in Aboriginal hands.**