

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN

2023-2025



Scope

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference *Laudato si'* Action Plan encompasses the operations of entities under the direct governance of the Conference, that is:

- ♦ the Plenary Meeting;
- ♦ the Permanent Committee;
- ♦ the Episcopal Commissions and Episcopal Panels; and
- ♦ the General Secretariat.

It does not encompass agencies of the Conference which exercise their own governance.

The Conference *Laudato si'* Action Plan shall incorporate:

- ♦ longstanding commitments of the Conference which are consistent with *Laudato si'*;
- ♦ initiatives undertaken since 2015 that respond to *Laudato si'*; and
- ♦ new initiatives undertaken following the Conference's commitment in 2021 to develop a *Laudato si'* Action Plan

Coordination

The Conference's Social Justice Statement 2021-22, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, committed the Conference to continuing its well-established efforts to respond to *Laudato si'* by developing a *Laudato si'* Action Plan.

The Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service has been given oversight of the Action Plan, each iteration of which requires the approval of the Conference. The Commission will be assisted by a *Laudato si'* Working Group, established to provide for collaboration between the Commission and the Conference.

The Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace has been tasked with coordinating the development and response of the Conference's *Laudato Si'* Action Plan, in consultation with the General Secretariat.

Timing

The Conference has been responding to parts of *Laudato si'* since 2015. The Conference's Action Plan will be developed initially for the first two years of the Conference's participation, and then for the remaining five years.

Organisation of Plan

Several actions could logically sit under more than one *Laudato Si'* Goal. Their placement within this document reflects the organization of material within the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform.

Costs

Costs for the first two years will be met within current budget allocations. As the seven-year rolling plan is developed, additional costs will be submitted for approval via the standard budget process.



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference acknowledges the Traditional Custodians, past, present, and emerging of the lands on which we live and work.



“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”

(Laudato Si’ 160)

	Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
1.1	Gardening staff to identifying native species and other plants which are suitable for use in grounds of the general secretariat, and which can survive with minimal watering during dry summers.	2025	General Secretariat
1.2	Purchase hybrid vehicles.	2025	General Secretariat

“Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

- *Laudato Si’ (1)*



“When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person... it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected.”

(Laudato Si’ 117)

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
2.1 Consult representatives of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) in the ongoing development of the Action Plan	2023	Working Group
2.2 Promote the perspectives and contributions of First Nations Catholics through the annual celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday in July.	2023-2025	Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (BCRATSIP)
2.3 Support the drafting and promotion of the annual Social Justice Statement (commenced 1973) of the Bishops Conference and promote the celebration of Social Justice Sunday in August.	2023-2025	Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace (OJEP)
2.4 Provide resources and promote the annual Migrant and Refugee Sunday (commenced 1949).	2023-2025	Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office
2.5 Provide resources and promote the annual World Day of the Poor in November.	2023-2025	Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service (BCSJ)
2.6 Provide resources and promote the annual Prison Sunday in November.	2023-2025	BCSJ
2.7 Promote resources prepared by Stella Maris for the annual Sea Sunday in July.	2023-2025	BCSJ
2.8 Provide resources and promote the annual International Day for People with Disability in December.	2023-2025	Disability Projects Office
2.9 Maintain and encourage the practice of soup luncheons as staff fundraiser to support works of the Church such as Aid to the Church in Need, Catholic Mission, Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion, and Mass For You At Home.	2023-2025	General Secretariat

3 **Ecological Economics**

“Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act.”

(Laudato Si’ 206)

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
3.1 Establish procedures to ensure slavery-free supply chains and use of recyclable products where possible.	2023-2025	General Secretariat
3.2 Support the Chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service to issue an annual Message for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (commenced 1998).	2023-2025	OJEP
3.3 Prepare the annual National Wage Case submission (commenced 1996) to the Fair Work Commission supporting fair wages for the lowest-paid workers.	2023-2025	Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations
3.4 Promote and encourage use of video-conferencing to minimise travel demands.	2023-2025	General Secretariat

4 **Sustainable Lifestyle**

“If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. An awareness of the gravity of today’s cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits.”

(Laudato Si’ 208-209)

Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
4.1 Where practical and without increasing waste, continue installing LED lights at Conference facilities where this has not already occurred.	2023-2025	General Secretariat
4.2 Continue to extend the range of materials that are currently recycled at Conference facilities.	2023-2025	General Secretariat
4.3 Encourage staff to utilise the current worm farm collection bins in the staff kitchens to enhance gardening and lessen landfill waste.	2023-2025	General Secretariat

5 **Ecological Education**

“Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change.”

(Laudato Si’ 202)

	Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
5.1	Explore opportunities to develop and implement initiatives arising from the 2023 Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania, including collaboration with the Federation and its other member Bishops Conferences	2023-2025	BCSJ; OJEP
5.2	Plan a webinar on the Great Artesian Basin including the perspectives of First Nations people to be held during Laudato Si’ Week 2024.	May 2024	OJEP

6 **Ecological Spirituality**

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”

(Laudato Si’ 217)

	Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
6.1	Produce prayer and reflection resources and promote Laudato si’ Week each year on behalf of the Bishops Conference.	2023-2025	OJEP
6.2	Collaborate to provide sample general intercessions suitable for use during the annual ‘Season of Creation’.	2023-2025	OJEP; National Liturgical Office
6.3	Conduct a Spirituality Day for Bishops Conference staff on ‘An Integral Ecology of the Heart’, to take forward the fruits of the Laudato si’ Spirituality Afternoon held in 2020.	2023-2025	General Secretariat

7 *Community Engagement*

“Bring the whole human family together... for we know that things can change”

(Laudato Si’ 13)

	Goal	Implementation	Responsibility
7.1	Finalise the Bishops Conference Laudato si’ seven-year Action Plan and develop a strategy for the plan to become an ongoing ‘rolling’ plan beyond the life of the Action Plan.	2025	Working Group
7.2	Further develop and promote initiatives amongst staff to contribute to awareness of and raising of funds for apostolic works which serve people who are poor.	2023-2025	General Secretariat
7.3	Support and assist the internal General Secretariat Laudato si’ committee to foster ecological awareness, conversion, and practical initiatives at Bishops Conference facilities.	2023-2025	General Secretariat; Working Group
7.4	Foster initiatives for participation in Clean Up Australia Day (Sunday 5 March 2024), National World Tree Day (Sunday 30 July 2024) and World Water Day (Wed 22 March 2024)	2023-2025	Working Group
7.4	Engage with Caritas Australia and its programme, Catholic Earthcare, as they contribute to the implementation of Plenary Council Decree 8 – Integral Ecology and Conversion for the Sake of our Common Home	2023-225	BCSJ; OJEP