



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Catholic and Anglican Bishops release statement on the environment**

Over the weekend in Parishes across North Queensland, a statement titled *In the Care of Our Common Home: "Sister Earth"* was released. The statement was a message to the community on the need for the protection of the earth, its beauty, resources and its people.

In the statement the Bishops "recognise that every creature, every person, every element in creation is made in the love of God."

"As Christians and people of the world, every one of us has been called to care for the gift of creation both today and for future generations."

"For Christians, this care for our common home, is not an optional or secondary aspect of our daily living, rather it is an essential part of our faith."

The Bishops refer to the Encyclical released by Pope Francis in June 2015 *Laudato Si – On Care for Our Common Home*. In the document, Pope Francis addresses every person because of his concern for a planet where we no longer respect Nature as a shared gift. Instead, we regard it as a private possession to do with what we like. He is so concerned with the deterioration of the planet that he describes it thus: "The Earth, our home, is beginning to look like an immense pile of filth."

The Bishops in North Queensland, have concerns about many global and local issues that are impacting negatively on our environment and which require greater dialogue, examination, prayer and action.

They also give praise to those in the community who have already responded to the many serious issues that our *Common Home* faces; those who undertake their stewardship seriously day by day. "You are making a difference."

We are people of hope. We are people of prayer. We are people of action.

With a deep sense of communion with all that makes up our common home we can bring a compassion, a tenderness to all of creation that will make a difference for this and future generations.

Bishop Tim Harris, Bishop Bill Ray and Mr Paul Lucas will be available for further comment and interviews at Jezzine Barracks, off Mitchell Street, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of November at 9.30am

**For further information please contact Mr Neil Helmore, Townsville Diocesan Media Communications Officer on 0427 047 162 or email [nhelmore@tsv.catholic.org.au](mailto:nhelmore@tsv.catholic.org.au)**