



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc.

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ACNC Registered Charity | ABN 48 036 173 161

Think Globally. Act Locally!

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 20 October 2025

Re: HOPE Inc. Urges Australian Cities and Towns to Endorse ICAN Cities Appeal for a Nuclear-Free Future

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc., as a mutual support partner of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), is calling on local councils across Australia to endorse the ICAN Cities Appeal. This initiative supports the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), urging the Australian Government to sign and ratify the treaty to help eliminate the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons to our environment, communities, and future generations.

Nuclear weapons represent one of the most severe risks to global sustainability, with the potential for catastrophic environmental damage through radioactive contamination, biodiversity loss, and long-term ecosystem disruption. A single nuclear detonation could devastate vast areas, poisoning soil, water, and air for centuries, undermining the very foundations of life that HOPE works tirelessly to protect. Aligning with our motto, "Think Globally, Act Locally" this appeal empowers local governments to take meaningful action against a global threat, fostering safer, more resilient communities.

The ICAN Cities Appeal is a straightforward declaration:

"Our city/town is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching, and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we support the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call on our government to adhere to that Treaty."

By adopting this through a council motion, local authorities can join over 600 cities worldwide in rejecting nuclear weapons and amplifying pressure on national leaders.

In Australia, support for the appeal is gaining traction, particularly in this 80th anniversary year of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, a stark reminder of nuclear devastation. Recent endorsements include Wollongong City Council (NSW), Randwick City Council (NSW), Inner West City Council (NSW), City of Sydney (NSW), City of Victor Harbor (SA), West Arnhem Regional Council (NT), Merri-bek Council (VIC), Yarra City Council (VIC), Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (NSW), and the City of Perth (WA). Perth's endorsement on 29 July 2025 marked the seventh Australian capital city to support the TPNW, following Melbourne, Sydney, Hobart, Canberra, Brisbane, and Adelaide. These local actions demonstrate how grassroots advocacy can drive national policy change.

Australia's stance on nuclear weapons remains complex. While our country has not signed or ratified the TPNW, the Albanese Labor Government has shown progress since 2022, including observing the third Meeting of States Parties in March 2025 and abstaining on UN resolutions endorsing the treaty for the third year. Labor's 2023 national platform commits to signing and ratifying the TPNW, subject to conditions like effective verification and integration with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Public backing is robust, with over 300 parliamentarians across federal, state, and territory levels signing the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge to advance Australia's adherence to the treaty.

However, challenges persist. Australia's uranium exports and investments in nuclear-related industries contribute to global proliferation risks. HOPE views nuclear disarmament as integral to environmental protection, as fallout from weapons threatens the biodiversity, climate stability, and natural resources we advocate for through our support of Landcare, sustainable natural resource management, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2015.

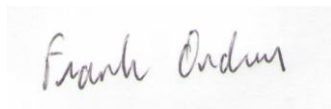
As Mr. Frank Ondrus, Office Manager of HOPE states: "Nuclear weapons are an unacceptable risk to our planet's health and humanity's future. At HOPE, we encourage Australians to make informed choices that protect the environment locally while addressing global threats. Endorsing the ICAN Cities Appeal is a practical step for councils to demonstrate leadership in sustainability and peace. We urge every local government to pass a motion in support, sending a clear message to Canberra that it's time for Australia to join the 70+ nations ratifying the TPNW and lead in the Asia-Pacific toward a nuclear-free world."

HOPE provides resources to facilitate this process, including sample motions available at <https://icanw.org.au/cities/>. We invite residents to contact their councillors, advocate for endorsements, and engage with ICAN Australia's tools for learning more about Australia's nuclear policy at <https://icanw.org.au/learn/australia/> and Labor's commitments at <https://icanw.org.au/laborpolicy/>. For parliamentarians, the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge at <https://icanw.org.au/pledge/> offers a way to commit publicly to disarmament efforts.

This call aligns with HOPE's long-standing commitment to education, awareness, and action on pressing environmental issues. By supporting the Cities Appeal, we can collectively build a more thoughtful, sustainable, and hopeful future, free from the shadow of any nuclear catastrophe.

More information on the ICAN Cities Appeal can be found at <https://icanw.org.au/cities/>.

About HOPE Inc.: Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. is an ACNC Registered Charity dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable living. Founded on the motto "Think Globally. Act Locally!", HOPE Inc. has actively supported the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2015.



Frank Ondrus, Office Manager- HOPE Inc.
(Written by Ai Attaran - HOPE media officer ACT)

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