

## Mark Zirnsak

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**From:** Abigail Rose [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 July 2020 3:30 PM  
**To:** Mark Zirnsak  
**Subject:** Climate Change consultation paper

Hi Mark,

I hope you're keeping safe and well, particularly over these last couple of challenging days!

Firstly I just want to say thank you for all the amazing work you're doing with the climate change consultation paper and synod resolution.

I came to one of the consultation sessions last week, and really appreciated the thoughtful discussion and in-depth responses you had to questions too.

One of the questions I asked was around a First Nations voice in the consultation paper/recommendation, and it was great to get an understanding of the context you're working in in that space.

I was just wondering, given it seems difficult (in Vic) or not appropriate (in Tas) to engage First Nations members of UCA, if it would be possible to add a line to the recommendation about respecting the voices and following the leadership of First Nations people more broadly regarding climate justice. Of course there may be nuances around the appropriateness of this that you'd be much more aware of in relation to our First Nations UCA members and leadership. However, as there are so many reasons in which climate justice is intrinsically linked to First Nations justice, and there are many First Nations climate action leaders in the wider community, I feel it would be very important to at least acknowledge and respect that. (Again, if this was appropriate and not disrespectful to the UCA Indigenous community).

I'd be interested to hear your thoughts on that, if I haven't left it too last minute!

Also, I'd just like to add my support to the recommendation that we call for a climate crisis (for the reasons outlined by Brunswick UC) - I really do understand the challenges you're facing around that and 100% trust your judgement on what will best get the whole recommendation passed, but just adding my two cents in case it helps to have more voices around that at some stage.

Many thanks again for all your incredible work.

Kind regards,  
Abi Benham-Bannon  
(Member Brunswick UC/Ascot Vale UC)

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*I acknowledge the Wurundjeri, Boon Wurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land on which I inhabit and work. I pay my respect to elders past, present and emerging. Sovereignty has not been ceded and treaties never signed.*