**The Pledge System**

**We act in full public view and we take responsibility for our actions.**

A central aim of the mobilisation is to make people’s commitment to collective action deeper and more concrete. This has been done in previous movements through people writing, signing or reading a pledge. The plan is to provide a pledge campaign platform which can be filled in, either in person or online, which commits those choosing to sign it to engage in civil disobedience, in a number of various possible roles, at a predetermined time and location as part of an Extinction Rebellion Action. It will be a general pledge at first and then be focused on a specific major action which is presently being decided by the Actions Circle.

Aspects of the pledge could be:

* Pledge to attend in an Arrestable Role ( Non Prison potential)
* Pledge to attend in an Arrestable Role ( Prison potential)
* Pledge to attend in an Action Support Role ( 10 for every arrestee )
* Pledge to attend in a Logistics Support Role (accommodation etc)
* Pledge to provide Financial Support (support the mobilisers expenses, the arrestees legal costs etc)

Pledges made in person will be uploaded online (anonymised if desired) so there will be a real time total of the number of pledges seen on the website, for that specific action, these counts will be shared on social media, and made available to action planners. Each local group will be encouraged to achieve a set target number of pledges made by their members – if each local group’s commitment is to between XXXX people then we will be in the ballpark of getting YYY pledges just by this method alone with ZZZ groups being formed, facilitated by the mobilisers and existing groups utilising the Mass Mobilisation Techniques. Each group will know what they have to do along with all the other groups in the country/state and thus provide focus and the sense of engaging in a movement-wide collective project. Following on from making the pledge themselves each pledgee will also be asked to try and secure a further XXX pledgees from their influence circle, and so forth.

The reasoning behind deciding to use a pledge such as this is to turn a crowd of protestors that are perhaps indeed large enough to become an “unarrrestable crowd”, but do not necessarily know that they actually have that level of commitment, into a crowd that does understand this and has the commitment. The goal is to turn protests that HAVE already formed into an unarrestable crowd into protests that actually exert their will to create change in their political system by actually manifesting as an unarrestable, and hence unmovable, unstoppable protest movement on the ground. Knowledge of the level of commitment of the members of such a crowd, by the other members of the crowd, will change their behaviour due to the knowledge of this commitment throughout the crowd, this will change the psychology of the crowd and aim to activate a crowd or herd mentality in the protest where they are all feeling stronger and more protected, safe in the knowledge that they are functioning as a supported and committed group acting together in solidarity with strong levels of commitment, instead of attending as individuals, unsure of each other’s level of commitment. By providing the XR induction ( HFE, NVDA, REGEN101 ) to ALL of the pledgees attending the action, the crowd will remain peaceful, and that knowledge will also increase the willingness of the participants to remain and feel safe and supported.

**Together we're unstoppable – what does this mean.**

In the UK in 2019 there were approximately 1700 arrests over a 13 day period and that stretched the already thin police resources to the limit. Translated to the Australian experience, initial discussions around the capacity of Sydney police to arrest, transport and process protestors indicates that there would be a very interesting situation if we were to have even a few hundred protestors ( Assumed daily arrest limit Sydney under 500) arrested in a single day, we have estimated that it is doubtful that they even COULD arrest 1000 protestors (Assumed unarrestable) in a day in Sydney. Following on from this we assume that if we had 5000 protestors (likely unarrestable) who had all pledged to be willing and actively trying to be arrested, and if the police knew that (via our police liasons and social media ), that they simply could not process all of them, and that therefore they may not even start to try, hence achieving herd protection. At 50,000 protestors there is an assumed guarantee that they could not physically arrest them all, and that the crowd would become un-arrestable. At that level the risk of being actually arrested, assuming they actually began arresting people, up to the 1000 limit, also becomes small ( around 2% probability per activist). If those that were keenest to be arrested were “fed in” first, making their sacrifice, that risk then drops significantly for the others in the crowd.

So, we have had situations in Sydney recently where we have had 1000, 5000, and even 50,000 protestors on the streets for climate action, these numbers of people do exist, and they do come out. The role of the mass mobilisation is to not only recruit and activate new protestors, but to significantly change the behaviour of these protestors who have already been attending protests, from passive or powerless attendees (go home nothing changes) into empowered Rebels (stay strong, make the change). Our role is not just to get them there, but to change the behaviour of what they are willing to do once there. We need to turn regular protestors into potential arrestable activists. The most obvious few obstacles are the fear of being arrested and the risks / implications associated with that ( collective action herd mentality), and convincing them of the need to take that next level of action (Act Now) .We need to convince them that they will be successful, together, and that they will be safe and supported. The pledge helps in this task. HFE talks are designed to draw this conclusion, HFE talks are a great opportunity to take pledges. NVDA Talks reinforce these ideas and aim to activate the will to act, they are a great opportunity to take a pledge. Regen101 is another opportunity to make a pledge.

**In Extinction Rebellion we act in full public view and we take full responsibility for our actions – what does this mean?**

The implications of protesting vary across the world. We take the privacy and security of our rebels very seriously. Security of information gathered is paramount, and any disclosure of that information will be agreed to by the pledgee or it will remain private within the „need to know basis“ group of AMM. However, for too long denial of climate change has been allowed to continue because members of society have been intimidated, ostracised, demonised, ridiculed and suffered innumerable detrimental impacts by speaking out. Climate Change denial is the biggest mass delusion in human history, and we need to shatter it completely for meaningful action to occur. We need to stand up and be counted. And that is what the pledge does. We plan on implementing the design of the pledge to protect those who want to remain anonymous, whilst allowing and encouraging those who are ready to shatter this mass delusion to do just that, so what does this mean? When activists take the pledge they will be given the option of remaining anonymous (to the public) or to share their pledge with the public (encouraged, following legal clarification of what this means, and given that it is a legally responsible move). Research has shown that pledges are more likely (insert reference) to stay true to their pledge over time if they have shared, or dedicated that pledge to someone else. Part of the pledge campaign will involve the pledgees being asked to share their pledge on social media, and to dedicate their pledge to someone or something of significance to them. Another aspect of teh pledge involves asking them to record a short video of themsleves reading some pledge text (scripted, excerpt from declaration of rebellion likely) recorded in a location of their own choosing and stating why they chose to make the pledge, who they dedicated it to, and why they chose this particular location to record their pledgee video. This video pledge will be uploaded to teh web, shared on social medi, and used to promote teh actions to the public and amongst the pledgees. It is expected that this combination of actions will greatly increase the likelihood of that pledgee actually keeping their pledge. It will also form a bond between pledgees who will know in advance who some of their co-pledgees are. In addition this will generate a plethora of media for use on the XR social media channels, highlighting the diversity, dedication, committment of the consolidated group of pledgees that will be standing at that particular action on that particular day/s. In the modern age some of the most powerful tools we have are online, social networking tools, content has the ability to go viral and trends can materialise amongst our community very quickly. It is imperative that we position our movement to be able to use these tools to our advantage to facilitate the kind of Mass Participation Civil Disobedience campaigns that will truly have the numbers, the solidarity, the committment that will be needed to create change. If not Us, then who? If not now, then when? Let it be us, and let it be now, pledge to do it, together, because together we are unstoppable. Let it be so.