



## CONCERNED CATHOLICS CANBERRA GOULBURN MEDIA RELEASE

### **Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn urge bishops to release essential document**

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Leading church renewal group, Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn, has called on Australian Catholic bishops to release an essential document for consultation with the broader Catholic community before the bishops finalise it.

The strategic Working Document, which is central to the Plenary Council process is due to be sent to Rome at the end of the year.

The Plenary Council announced this week that work recently began on the development of the *instrumentum laboris*, with the document drawing heavily on the first two preparatory phases of the Council journey: Listening and Dialogue and Listening and Discernment.

But Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn Chair, Professor John Warhurst AO, has written to Plenary Council Chair, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, critical of the absence of transparency in the drafting of the document.

‘Such secrecy is a breach of faith with the many thousands of Catholics who have invested heavily in time and effort, through discussion, meetings, submissions and prayerful discernment in the Plenary Council process so far,’ Professor Warhurst said.

‘It is essential for the integrity of the Plenary Council that a draft of the Working Document be published and made widely available prior to its consideration by the ACBC in November.

‘It should certainly be made widely available before it is sent in its final form to the Holy See.

‘Such transparency should be a hallmark of the Plenary Council, yet in many ways, including the failure to publish the 17,500 submissions and the secrecy surrounding the choice of diocesan delegates, it has not been.

‘Certainly, the publication of a draft Working Document, offering the opportunity for feedback, will build up much needed trust in the process within the Catholic community, many of whom are yet to be convinced,’ Professor Warhurst said.

**Contact Mark Metherell 0417 603 697**