WOMEN, ENVIRONMENTS
AND
SPIRITUALITY:
A STUDY OF WOMEN IN THE AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT
MOVEMENT

by

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DEDICATION

To all those reweaving the web;

especially the hard working women of Earth.

I'm your
mother not your
maid! Pick up
your own
mess!

Mother Earth
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This study has explored the diversity that exists among women involved in the environment movement, their perceptions of environmental issues, their perceptions of women's role at this historic juncture, and their sources of inspiration and spirituality. It has explored to some degree the interconnection between these women's perceptions and those of ecofeminism.

Interviews were conducted with 30 women involved in a diversity of groups within the environment movement. A survey was then designed from statements women made in these interviews. This was sent to 215 women in the environment movement across Australia, to determine the diversity of perspectives, existing among women involved in the movement, concerning women, the environment and spirituality.

Results of interview, and analysis of the 142 surveys returned, revealed a diversity of feminist and ecofeminist perspectives, ranging from liberal feminist to radical separatist, a diversity of perspectives on causes of environmental problems, and divergent understandings and attitudes toward spirituality.

Ecofeminism advocates a politics of diversity. It is this perspective which is supported by the findings of this thesis. Ecofeminism as an emergent philosophy of women and the environment movement, needs to engage women in a process of dialogue so that the diversity of women's perspectives and analysis may be deepened and their contributions be actively inserted into the agenda for social and ecological change.
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that none of the material contained in this thesis has been accepted for the award of any other degree of diploma in any institution and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text of the thesis. I consent to this thesis being made available for photocopying and loan, if applicable, and if the thesis is accepted for the award of the degree.
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