

BEDS ARE BURNING

Choral Lyrics (SATB) - Voices for Reconciliation 2026

Beds Are Burning: Written by Hirst/Moginie/Garrett © Sprint Music
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Arranged for Reconciliation Australia by Catherine Mundy & Jay Turner.

**Reconciliation Australia thanks Midnight Oil and Sony Music Publishing for their support of
Voices for Reconciliation 2026. We sing in honour of the memory of Rob Hirst.**

See ARRANGER'S NOTES below.

120bpm 4/4 ROCK!

INTRO 6 beats cow-bell

All: The time has come! The time has come!

VERSE 1 {Sop: Oo----- desert oak
{ATB: Out where the river broke, the bloodwood and the desert oak

All: Holden wrecks and boiling diesels steam in forty-five degrees

PRE-CH 1 All: The time has come to say fair's fair
to pay the rent to pay our share
The time has come a fact's a fact
It belongs to them Let's give it back---
[rest 2 beats] Give it back! [foot-stomps ///]

CHORUS 1 All: How can we dance when our earth is turning?
How do we sleep while our beds are burning?
How can we dance when our earth is turning?
How do we sleep while our beds are burning?

BRIDGE 1 All: The time has come to say fair's fair
to pay the rent now, to pay our share

INTERLUDE (like a road-train horn)

All: [rest 4 beats] bah-bah bah—bah— bah— — — —

VERSE 2 {Sop: the cock- a- toos-----
{ATB: Four wheels scare the cockatoos— from Kintore east to Yuendumu

All: The western desert lives and breathes

{Sop: forty-five degrees—
{ATB: in forty-five degrees— — — —

PRE-CH 2 ATB: The time has come

All: to say fair's fair to pay the rent to pay our share

{Sop: The time— has— — come— — — — a fact's— a— fact— — —
{ATB: The time has come a fact's a fact

{Sop: It belongs— to— — — them— — —
{ATB: It be-longs to them

All: Let's give it back— Give it back! [*foot-stomps ///* — rest // — *thigh-taps ///*]

CHORUS 2 All: How can we dance when our earth is turning?
How do we sleep while our beds are burning?

Sops only: How do we sleep? How do we sleep?

{ATB: How can we dance when our earth is turning?

S1/S2 option: Oh, how can we dance when our earth is turning?

ATB: How do we sleep [**Al!**] while our beds are burning?

All: How do we sleep? How do we sleep?

BRIDGE 2 {S1/S2 option: The time has come to say fair's fair, To pay the
{ATB: The time has come to say fair's fair, to pay the rent now,

{Sop: rent to pay our share, The time has come a fact's
{ATB: to pay our share, The time has come - a fact's a fact

{Sop: a fact
{ATB: It be-longs— to them

All: we're gonna give it back
give it back
give it back!

CODA All: [*stomp-stomp-tap*] The time has come!

ARRANGER'S NOTES:

If your group is not an SATB Choir, this arrangement works with just ALTO (MELODY), or any other configuration of voice parts, as long as the MELODY (scored in ALTO part) is represented, of course.

SING IT like a rock-star - go for energy & emotional intensity rather than sounding "perfect"!

Tell the STORY, paint the picture, take your listeners on a journey.

BODY PERCUSSION is optional.

ALTO holds the MELODY throughout, generally doubled octave lower by BARITONE.

TENOR is suitable for both female & male tenors, with octave-unison on the verses, as modelled on the Tenor Demo MP3.

*SOPRANO part has **OPTIONAL** Sop 1 / Sop 2 divisi in Chorus 2 and Bridge 2, as marked/scored.*

PIANO part is a basic accompanist's score to support the choir in rehearsal.