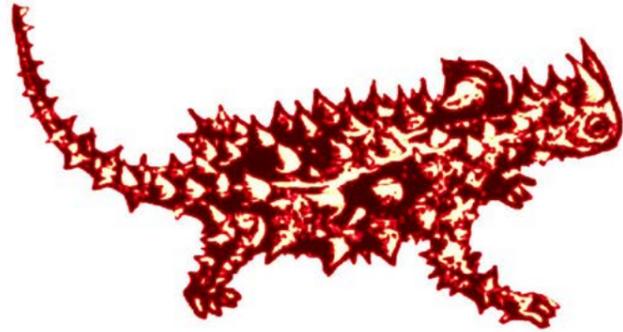


# ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



*Healthy futures for arid lands and people*  
**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**  
[www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)



# Arid Lands Environment Centre

'Healthy futures for arid lands and people'



ALEC Staff member Rachael Smith hosting an ALEC informational stall at the Alice Springs Town Council Sunday markets.

The Arid Lands Environment Centre acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners past, present and future of this region.

## Contents:

ALEC's Strategic Aims	2
ALEC Chairmans Report	3
ALEC Directors Report	4
ALEC Business	6
ALEC Highlights	9

### ALEC Strategic Aim 1:

<b>Work to create more sustainable and resilient communities in Central Australia</b>	
Arid Edge Environmental Services	11
Alice Springs Community Garden	13
Food For Alice	15
Sustainable Science Trail	16
Desert Science Network	16
ALEC Event Highlights	16
desertSMART EcoFair	17

### ALEC Strategic Aim 2:

<b>Promote protection of ecosystems and sustainable use of natural resources in Central Australia</b>	
Representation	18
Ten Deserts	19
Ninu Knowledge Festival	20
Biodiversity Matters	21
Education for Sustainability Central Australia (EFSCAN)	21
Central Australian Frack Free Alliance	22
Beyond Nuclear Initiative	24

### ALEC Strategic Aim 3:

<b>Strengthen ALEC as an organisation</b>	
Financial Resilience	26
Communications and Campaigns Manager Report	27
Business Operations Manager Report	28
ALEC Treasurers Report	29
ALEC Financial Report	30
ALEC Board, Staff, Funding Partners and Sponsors	41

Office Location: 90 Gap Road, Alice Springs NT 0870  
 Postal address: PO Box 2796 Alice Springs 0871  
 Phone: 08 89522497 Fax: 08 89532988  
 Email: [info@alec.org.au](mailto:info@alec.org.au)  
 Website: <http://www.alec.org.au>  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Arid-Lands-Environment-Centre/447072910579>  
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AridLandsEC>

# ALEC's Strategic Aims

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) is a community-based organisation, developing and delivering environmental and sustainability programs in Central Australia.

For more than 36 years, ALEC has advocated for the conservation and responsible management of land, water and natural resources in the arid lands.

ALEC's vision is 'healthy futures for arid lands and people' and ALEC has three broad strategic aims:

## Work to create more sustainable and resilient communities in Central Australia

From the ground up, ALEC is making impact across the region through developing and supporting projects related to the desertSMART Roadmap: energy, water, waste, transport, food and the built environment.

ALEC actively works to influence policy



ALEC staff and family members at the Alice Springs Town Council Clean Up Australia Day event

by engaging all tiers of government on sustainable development and building local resilience.

## Promote protection of ecosystems and sustainable use of natural resources in Central Australia

ALEC advocates for the rights of the land, plants and animals of Central Australia. The wise-use of the region's natural resources is a priority, with the importance of groundwater and the health of country in regards to radioactivity and pollution impacts being of highest concern.

## Strengthen ALEC as an organisation

ALEC is committed to maintaining strong governance and management principles. ALEC strives to be a leading example and source of inspiration for other organisations in the region and environment groups nationally.



Ross Park School Students at desertSMART EcoFair with Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis

# ALEC Chairmans Report



It is my particular pleasure to introduce the Arid Land Environment Centre's 2015/16 annual report. We're here despite concerted efforts to stifle us. Our staff, volunteers, donors and board demonstrate the power of people working together in a just cause.

The community has embraced the value of ALEC and stepped up with essential support. As a result the many beneficial programmes and campaigns described in this report exist. The product of strategic thinking, actual innovation (not slogans), hard work and spectacular fiscal restraint. In 2016 ALEC is vibrant, viable and hitting hard for the environment.

Let's be blunt. It's been a tough twelve months of repeated ideological attacks on the environment, climate science, community organisations and the democratic process by both Federal and Territory Governments at the behest of their political donors.

This is not what the Australian people voted for nor expect. There is a sense of desperation about the extractivist sector as public acceptance of their apocalyptic greed and devastation wanes. The spin has lost it's potency and their political backers are being named to face the wrath of the people.

This is utterly necessary and overdue. We stand at the threshold of spiralling climate change and a dramatic change of priorities must triumph. There can be no new fossil fuel projects anywhere ever with all the monumental disruption to business-as-usual that entails. This is not ideology. It is that most unpopular of things: the self-evident conclusion of evidence.

Read through the annual report and feel empowered by great things happening here in Central Australia. Nationally, we punch above our weight. Always have. It's part of the magic of living here: our community spirit. Several of

my favourite outcomes for 2016 are travelling about Alice Springs to a sea of yellow triangles on gates. The anti-fracking campaign is changing Territory politics.

Similarly, channelling the spontaneous community outrage at the inept allocation of \$80 million to gas turbines into the formation of our local RePower Alice Springs. This town's destiny is a solar city.

Yet again, it was great to attend the EcoFair. The presentation from Dr Mark Diesendorf was informing and inspiring.

Arid Edge, ALEC's environmental services arm, has become a powerhouse of projects. This year Arid Edge moved into profit. An incredible effort in three years.

Finally, ALEC's ability to engage with our membership and stakeholders has been turbo boosted by a migration to the NationBuilder online platform. Early days yet, though. They'll be much more to say on this in next year's annual report.

Once again, the necessary refrain. ALEC is absolutely reliant on our engaged membership. Complacency is not an option.

I want to thank our members for supporting the work of ALEC and encourage everyone to become deeply involved in our many campaigns and programmes both directly through volunteering and indirectly through regular donation.

This is how we create the future we so desperately need.

*Stewart Baillie*  
**ALEC Chair**

# ALEC Directors Report



It is with great pleasure and a sense of pride that I present the 2015-16 Annual Report for the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) to you. This is my ninth Annual Report for ALEC, my first as a father and my fifth heading up the stellar team with Nicole Pietsch, Carmel Vandermolen and Alex McClean. I have been working at ALEC for a quarter of my life now, and I still feel we're only just hitting our straps as far as community engagement, regional influence and organisational sustainability goes.

It's been a year of solidifying gains made through changing and growing our business model, widening the pool of Desert Defenders (regular donors) and embracing community organising as a means to increase our impact.

2015-2016 has been a very busy year with ALEC engaging the local community on global issues like climate change and nuclear waste disposal. ALEC has also been advocating strongly on fracking, water licensing, land clearing, environmental regulations, dingo baiting, buffel busting, heritage listing, renewable energy, local food and collaborative approaches to achieve local sustainability.

In a nutshell in 2015-16 we:

- Fought off a proposed national nuclear waste dump at Hale as part of the Central Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
- Helped make fracking, water licensing, renewable energy and environmental regulation an election issue in the NT
- Got a commitment from NT Labor to provide \$100K of operational funding per year for ALEC to employ a policy officer
- Organised Alice Springs' participation in the Global Climate March
- Hosted a Places You Love community event
- Spoke out about fracking directly with pastoralists at the NTCA conference
- Provided advice and support to our

- colleagues in the Environment Centre NT
- Provided advice and support as a Management Committee member of the Environment Defenders Office NT
- Grew Arid Edge to have up to 4 projects running concurrently including Merne Murde (Good Food) Program in Utopia, Green Army in the Todd River, Work for the Dole at the Community garden and landscaping and design contracts
- Provided advice in developing the Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Report
- Made a submission to an inappropriate development in the rural area and central business areas
- Rebooted the campaign for renewable energy, supporting the establishment of RePower Alice Springs
- Grew Food for Alice into a weekly stall
- Participated in the Pew Charitable Trusts national meeting and supported the staff field trip Palm Valley
- Moved over to Nationbuilder and growing our organising capacity
- Contracted to help facilitate the Telstra Pay It Forward program for Central Desert Native Title Services in Kiwirrkurra, Western Australia
- Challenged the NT Government on many issues including energy and water policy (or lack thereof), environmental regulation, regional planning and general approach to economic development
- Participated in the Australian Conservation Foundation Federal election campaign
- Participated in EIS processes through making submissions and comments on proposals
- Requested a Ministerial Review of a water allocation increase for Rocky Hill to protect Alice Springs' future water supply
- Made submissions to the Heritage Council in relation to important water sites in the desert and National Heritage Listing for

- the West MacDonnell (Tjoritja) National Park
- Grew the diversity of our Desert Defender program
- Organised and produced another successful desertSMART EcoFair as part of National Science Week
- Made submissions on government policies and development decisions
- Ran numerous successful events including Big Hot Ball.
- Supported the delivery of the inaugural Ninu (Bilby) Festival in Kiwirrkurra
- Attended the Indigenous Desert Network meeting in Perth as Coordinator of the Ten Deserts Initiative
- Continued to build the collaborative potential of land managers across the vast desert country of the NT, WA and SA through the Ten Deserts Initiative
- Minimised the environmental damage of the Giles Country Liberals government in central Australia.

None of this would be possible without all of the ALEC team and project staff being committed to getting the job done to support ALEC's vision. Thank you. On behalf of ALEC, I thank everyone else who has contributed to our vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people' through volunteering at events, helping write submissions, attending regular meetings on fracking, renewable energy, nuclear issues and/or community garden, showing up to demonstrations and community gatherings, adding your name to our petitions or helping us out around the Centre. I also want to acknowledge the ALEC Board for their commitment, support and trust of myself to manage this increasingly complex organisation.

ALEC has a long view of sustainable desert living and as such, we will be critically involved in policy development for climate adaptation, community resilience, emission reductions and the environmental regulatory system under a new NT Government. ALEC will continue to innovate to stay ahead of the curve and maintain its organisational viability and vitality. At the core of ALEC is a

strong, active and engaged community who care deeply about this place and its people. This community support for ALEC is what has enabled it to survive and thrive in Alice Springs. Protecting the environment and helping the community to organise itself for a more resilient and sustainable future is ALEC's purpose.

In 2016-17 we will step up the campaign against the proposed fracking pipeline and stay abreast of the assessment and approval processes for mines to our north, south, east and west. We will continue to advocate for ambitious carbon reduction and renewable energy targets. We will stand up to protect our water. We will continue to lead through building collaborative partnerships across government, business and community sectors, knowing that we cannot do this on our own.

Your support and participation is critical. Please consider how you might get involved in ALEC by becoming a regular Desert Defender and/or member, volunteering or joining an action group or the community garden. Whatever you choose, know that we will never give up in our efforts to protect our desert landscapes and the life that depends on them. It has again been an honour to serve this organisation and its growing movement. I look forward to working with you next year and beyond.

*Jimmy Cocking*  
ALEC Director



ALEC Director Jimmy Cocking and Business Manager Carmel Vandermolen in front of the new ALEC Office at 90 Gap Road

# ALEC Business

## Partnerships

- Alice Springs Landcare - Buffel busting workshop
- Alice Springs Town Council - community garden and EcoFair sponsorship
- Australian Conservation Foundation - support for Beyond Nuclear Initiative
- Central Desert Native Title Services - Ten Deserts and Telstra Pay It Forward Program
- Environment Centre NT - on-going strategic partnership, regular communications, shared media
- Environment Defenders Office NT - active management committee member
- Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust
- Greening Australia NT - Ten Deserts
- Kanyirnipa Jukurrpa - Ten Deserts Working Group
- Land for Wildlife Central Australia - cross-promotion of events, activities and participation in the EcoFair
- Lock the Gate - Shale gas fracking campaign
- My Pathway - Arid Edge projects
- Natural Resources – Alinytjara Wilurara - Ten Deserts, Buffel free GVD
- NT Parks and Wildlife - Biodiversity Matters field trip
- Olive Pink Botanic Gardens - EcoFair and fundraising event
- Pew Charitable Trusts - Ten Deserts Working Group
- Pila Nguru - Spinifex Land Management - Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert
- Power Water Corporation - promoting water conservation through Leak week
- Rangelands NRM (WA)- Ten Deserts Working Group
- Territory NRM - promotion of NRM Plan and Ten Deserts Working Group
- The Nature Conservancy - Ten Deserts Working group
- Employment Plus - Work for the Dole
- Coact - Green Army
- Live and Learn

## ALEC Grants, sponsorship and contracts

### Grants

#### Commonwealth

- National Science Week - EcoFair 2015 \$20 000

#### NT Government

- Community Benefit Fund - funding for bus for Green Army \$28 000

#### NT EPA - EnvironmeNT Grants

- School Excursion Guide for Alice Springs Regional Waste Management Facility \$19250

#### Outstanding NTEPA grants at June 30 2016

- Waste Smart Announcement - community announcements on composting and recycling TV ads made and radio ads currently being translated into local languages \$12 768
- Solar Pergola - connecting solar to the community garden - structure and solar to be installed in late 2016 - \$10 000
- Commercial Composting Business Plan - \$12500 - pending variation of agreement
- Home Water Efficiency Consultations - \$10 000 - project completed in 2015/16 pending acquittal

#### Outstanding ASTC Community Development Grant

- Access path at Community Garden \$2000

#### Ten Deserts

- Pew Charitable Trusts - \$60 000 pa committed over 2 years
- The Nature Conservancy for Workshop in 2016/17- \$30 000

## Sponsorship - Cash and inkind

### EcoFair

- Power and Water Corporation \$2000
- Alice Springs Town Council \$1800
- Doubletree Hilton \$2000
- Coleman's Printing \$2000

### Desert Defending businesses

- Oak Valley Veterinary Clinic
- The Bakery
- Duyu Coffee

# ALEC Business

## Donations

- Wide Open Space Festival \$5447.40
- Thanks to the ALEC 100 members and Desert Defenders who have again provided much needed support to keep ALEC going.

## Contracts

### ALEC

- Central Desert Native Title Services - support for the Telstra Pay It Forward program in Kiwirrkurra \$5134
- Pew Charitable Trusts - Field Trip \$4400

### Arid Edge

- MyPathway - Utopia
- Employment Plus - Work For the Dole
- Coact - Green Army
- MPH - Larapinta Childcare
- Live & Learn - NAILSMA CO2 Abatement

## Representation

- Alice Springs Community Garden Management Committee
- Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee
- Alice Springs Regional Economic Development Committee
- Alice Springs Regional Weeds Reference Group
- Alice Springs Town Council Environment Advisory Committee
- Australian Water Association Conference - Darwin - Presentation
- Buffel Free GVD Coordinator
- Environment Defenders Office NT - Board
- National Environment Groups Meeting
- National Science Week Committee (NT)
- NGO Sector Representatives to Chief Minister's Department
- NT Cattlemen's Association Conference- Alice Springs - Forum on Fracking
- Places You Love Coalition
- Ten Deserts Working Group Coordinator

## Submissions

- Our Water Future NT Water Policy (NTG) - July 2015
- Planning Baldissera application (DLPE) -

## October 2015

- Ministerial request re: Rocky Hill water allocation increase - November 2015
- Terms of Reference Jemena Pipeline (NTEPA) - December 2015
- Alice Springs Regional Land Use Plan (Planning Commission) - December 2015
- Environmental Impact Statement TNG Ltd - March 2016
- National Radioactive Waste Management - March 2016
- Draft NT Petroleum (Environment) Regulations - April 2016
- Environmental Impact Statement Nolans Bore (NTEPA) - May 2016

## Organisational Membership

- Boomerang Alliance
- Environmental Defenders Office NT
- Lock the Gate
- NT Council of Social Services
- Our Community
- Red Hot Arts
- Tourism Central Australia
- Volunteering SA and NT

## Organisational Support and Hosting

- Alice Springs Community Garden
- Beyond Nuclear Initiative
- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
- Central Australian Frack Free Alliance



Costa Georgiadis (Gardenign Australia) addresses students at desertSMART EcoFair 2015

# ALEC Business

- RePower Alice Springs
- Education for Sustainability - Central Australia Network
- Ten Deserts
- Buffel Free GVD
- Lock the Gate
- Food for Alice

## Community Events and Engagement

### July 2016

- Alice Springs Show Information Stall
- Frackman Film Screening
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### August

- Biodiversity Matters Buffel Busting Field Trip
- desertSMART EcoFair
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### September

- Biodiversity Matters Flora and Fauna Trapping Field Trip
- Our Land is Our Life Community Gathering
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### October

- Climate Working Group Meeting
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### November

- Big Hot Ball Fundraiser
- This Changes Everything Film Screening
- People's Climate March
- ALEC AGM
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### December

- Frack Free NT Fundraiser
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee
- Santa Teresa Nuclear Waste Dump Community Meeting

### January 2017

- Biodiversity Matters Nocturnal Walk
- Titjikala Waste Dump Community Meeting
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### February

- National Radioactive Waste Management Meeting
- Containment Film Screening
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### March

- Sustainable Science Trail Launch
- Alice Springs Climate Working Group Meeting
- Earth Hour Picnic at the Alice Springs Community Garden
- AGES Conference Community Action
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### April

- Places You Love Nature Laws Workshops
- Solar Discussion Evening
- RePower Alice Springs Council Deputation
- RePower Alice Springs Meeting
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### May

- RePower Alice Springs Community Information Night
- Fundraising coffee stall at Wide Open Space Festival
- Day of action against fossil fuels
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

### June

- One World Fundraiser
- Lingiari Election Organising Meeting
- ASTC Town Markets Stall
- Water4Life Highway Action
- Food for Alice Markets
- ASCG Working Bee

# ALEC Highlights

## Arid Edge turns a profit

The growth of Arid Edge into a viable social enterprise has seen a turnover of more than \$500K and the employment of staff to concurrently run landscaping projects in Alice Springs and remote communities; a Green Army team protecting sacred red gums in the Todd River from Buffel grass fire; Community Development Program activities in the Utopia homelands focused on food gardening and nutrition; while also developing a Work for the Dole program at the Community Garden.

The growth and diversity of Arid Edge activities will continue in 2016-17 with a range of quotes and a large multi-year grant application submitted for the Green Army. Program Manager, Alex McClean has done a fantastic job at building the business model as part of ALEC's strategy to continue to deliver sustainable outcomes for desert communities and we look forward to another year with him at the helm of a growing and dedicated team.

## Ten Deserts secured support

The Ten Deserts Initiative secured 2 years of funding from Pew Charitable Trusts to support the Coordinating role (\$60K per year, 0.5FTE), dependent on leveraging of equivalent funds. The Nature Conservancy pledged \$30K to support the delivery of the planning workshop in August 2016.

The Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert Project has emerged as a key area for the Ten Deserts to support collaboration across the borders of WA and SA to map and manage buffel along the roadsides into this largely natural landscape.

The Ten Deserts is also focusing on the nexus of fire carbon and climate through building better understanding of climate change impacts on desert communities and supporting the development of carbon

abatement activities related to the proper burning of country. Ten Deserts is working alongside the Indigenous Desert Alliance to maximise the momentum and collaboration across borders and tenure in the region.

## Building the ALEC Nation

In 2016 ALEC has moved its database and website to the Nationbuilder platform. In doing so, ALEC has joined the majority of other environmental organisations which will enable greater interoperability between web-based campaigns and our community organising capability.

The move to Nationbuilder integrates ALEC websites and social media platforms to enable better engagement and understanding of our supporters. It also means we don't have to work across different mailing servers, website platforms and campaign databases. The migration of our content and the entire process has been overseen by ALEC Communications and Campaigns Manager, Nicole Pietsch.

This is the second time Nicole has done this for ALEC and will (hopefully) be the last. It is anticipated that the changeover will enable ALEC to better engage supporters to take action on issues that matter to them through online petitions and enable us to more efficiently organise events and campaigns.

ALEC is moving into the 'community



organising' space where rather than doing the work all by ourselves, ALEC staff will be supporting the mobilisation and organisation of volunteers. This means we will require regular volunteers to assist in data entry to allow us to better manage this new capability and also to help to engage current and lapsed supporters through semi-regular phone drives and door knocking campaigns.

### 'Hello, this is ALEC calling'

Fundraising from events increased this year with the Big Hot Ball Extravaganza and the One World - Environment Day fundraiser. But the game changer this year was the end of financial year phone banking. Driven by the transition to Nationbuilder and the fact that less than half of our 'members' receiving fortnightly Thorny News updates were financial - ALEC staff and Board members embarked on a phone banking exercise to contact lapsed members to update details, survey them on ALEC's performance and issues of concern, renew memberships and build our donor base.

This was the first time that this activity had been undertaken in a coordinated way and despite many learnings for future improvement and need to reduce administrative burdens, it was a success.

Almost 300 phone calls were made. More than 50 lapsed members renewed their memberships and thousands of dollars was raised in pledged Desert Defender donations and one-off gifts. With more preparation and support to integrate the data straight into the database rather than on paper and ensuring the right questions are asked to ensure adequate information is received to process transactions without follow-up phone calls - we'll be well on our way to ensuring the gap between our financial and non-financial members is closed.

### Defeating the Hale Nuclear Waste Dump nomination

In October 2015, 6 sites were nominated for

being a potential National Radioactive Waste facility. One of the nominations included the Arid Gold date farm, 75km south of Alice Springs on the South Rd, near Titjikala and Oak Valley communities. ALEC was quick off the mark with media comments reaching national audiences almost immediately.

The local campaign against the nomination of the site activated the Central Australian Nuclear Free Alliance. The campaign engaged with Traditional Owners in Titjikala and Lytentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) and provided support to the Oak Valley mob to get their voice heard on the issue. Information sessions were packed out with a strong sense of opposition to the Hale nomination. ALEC distributed hundreds of community information brochures, CANFA volunteers developed a website [www.dontdumpontheterritory.com](http://www.dontdumpontheterritory.com) and letter-boxed thousands of households in Alice Springs. ALEC staff and campaigners met with Traditional Owners to discuss the proposal and attended Government consultations at the request of the affected communities.

After 120 days of consultation, hundreds of submissions opposing the Hale nomination were lodged by residents of Alice Springs and surrounding communities. The strong local opposition no doubt played a role in the Hale nomination not succeeding. However, now the people of South Australia fight against the proposed site near the Flinders Ranges. ALEC maintains a strong opposition to the flawed process of site nomination that has divided communities across Australia.



Titjikala community members say no to the Hale nuclear waste dump site proposal

## Strategic Aim 1: Work to create more sustainable and resilient communities in Central Australia

### Arid Edge Environmental Services

Arid Edge Environment Services (AEES) is one of the unique success stories of ALEC.

It seems like a long time ago when we first started discussion looking at the diverse services ALEC was offering via Alice Water Smart, desertSMART COOLmob and ALEC in general and asked the question "do any of these services have a market"? Well the answer was yes and Arid Edge Environmental Services is the proof.

Almost three years on and AEES has grown from a 1 person social service area of ALEC to employing 3 full time staff and 4 casual staff and generating a return for ALEC's investment into the market. In 2015/16 we have built on the reputation of our hard work, strengthening our current partnerships and creating new ones that will build further work in the future.

This year we have continued the work we have been doing with My Pathways in Utopia on the Merne Murde ('Good Food') homelands gardens project. The project has gone from strength to strength with AEES being funded to place a full time horticulturalist in Utopia from September 2016. Vege crops are being harvested across the homelands as well as new fruit trees being put in in Rocket Range.

New gardens have been established at Boundary Bore and interest is growing in other home lands as well. Next steps will be to secure funding to employ a nutritionist in the new financial year to ensure the gardens are genuinely contributing to increased access to fresh fruit and vegetables in peoples diets in

the homelands.

This year also saw AEES complete its first Work for the Dole (WFD) Program in partnership with the Alice Springs Community Garden Committee and Employment Plus. The WFD participants lead by long term ALEC and AEES stalwart Ben Wall, constructed new rendered earth wall garden bed, water features, and shade potting sheds and compost areas.

This also allowed the participants to add more colour and atmosphere to the gardens with amazing artwork and creativity being actively encouraged throughout the project. We look forward to seeing what the second WFD team come up with when the project starts again in late 2016.

In April we started our Green Army project with a joint partnership between AEES, Alice Springs Town Council (ASTC) and CoAct.



Planting seedlings at Soapy Bore, Utopia Homelands Gardens

The team have been focusing on clearing out invasive grass species (buffel and couch grasses) on the west bank, north and south of Tuncks Rd Crossing and the east bank in front of the Casino. The aim being to remove the grasses around the significant trees and allow native grasses the chance to repopulate the areas cleared. Thus protecting the trees in case of fire and supporting the growth of native vegetation.

Even though we knew the job would be tough work (a heck of a lot of buffel and couch removal) we very quickly had enough people sign up to get cracking under the very supportive and motivating supervision of Jake Eden.

Upskilling and training of the Green Army Volunteers is a big aim of the project with real links to potential employment. So far the program is exceeding expectations, with some team members having to be replaced due to finding paid employment.

The work with MPH Carpentry and Construction is gearing up as we start the landscaping work at the new Larapinta Childcare Centre. Sunil Dhanji brings his years of local experience and from Alice WaterSmart. This is a fantastic project to be involved in working with some beautiful designs from LA3 Architects.

We look forward to seeing the finished project and young families enjoying the outdoor areas



of the childcare centre. This project is also requiring AEES to expand its casual staff to enable us to complete the work required.

Our landscaping and garden work is increasing under the steady hand of Simon Hopper. We are finding that the local community are very happy to pay for garden check-ups and health checks, leak checks and anything from small quick jobs to the more complicated design and develop landscaping jobs. Winter provides a good time to save on watering costs and start to get ready for the hotter summer months.

We have also completed our work with Live and Learn (an international environmental education NGO) and developed a toolkit for NAILSMA to assist them in empowering their local Aboriginal partners. The toolkit assists NAILSMA to assess how well the savannah burning CO2 abatement projects to meet their desired outcomes based on traditional values as opposed to market values.

These are just some of the highlights of 2015/16 that have helped AEES achieve a profitable return for ALEC for the first time ever. We look forward to seeing what opportunities lie ahead as AEES grows into the new year.

*Alex McClean*  
**AAES Manager**

[www.aridedge.com.au](http://www.aridedge.com.au)



## Alice Springs Community Garden



### ASCG Committee

Governance Pod : Bruce Simmons (Convenor), Jimmy Cocking (Deputy Convenor), Fran Liepa (Secretary) and Wendy Mann (Treasurer)  
Plot Membership Pod Rep: Philippe Freidel  
Communication/Media Pod Rep: Margaret Carew  
Fundraising Pod Rep: Britt Puschak  
Maintenance and Infrastructure Pod Rep: Allan O'Keefe  
Bodhi Tree/Meditation Group Pod Rep: Kay Smith  
Healthy Gardens Pod Rep: Bruce Simmons  
General Members: Jenny Taylor, Sue Fielding, Deb Frowd

### Governance Report

The Committee met regularly and through a concerted team effort in collaboration with ALEC staff ensured both the Garden and its governance continued to prosper.

### Financial Report

In summary the Garden commenced the year with Cash at Bank of \$5,342 and ended it with \$5,387, a small profit of \$45 after a loss of \$1,211 in 2014/15.

- Total Annual Income was \$9,257 and Total Expenditure \$9,212.
- The annual water bill was \$6,692 and Plot registration income was \$5,464.
- Produce from the Garden and Bruce's home garden was sold at the Food for Alice stall, raising \$2,692 in income. This income was critical for balancing the budget as costs for garden equipment and garden materials rose to \$2,259.
- ALEC continued to hold \$1,250 for the wheelchair access path and \$14,718 for the solar pergola.
- Thanks to our Treasurer Wendy Mann and to Business Manager Carmel at ALEC for keeping us on track.

### Plots Report

All 36 individual plots were leased throughout

the year and the community plots were expanded with the addition of the exciting Work for the Dole's earth wall demonstration plot at the front gate. Thanks to Philippe Freidel for a brilliant public relations effort in keeping things running smoothly and to Carmel at ALEC for once again managing the money side.

### Healthy Gardens Report

The extended grasshopper plague throughout summer and autumn and the incredible hailstorm in June made gardening difficult at times. A few communal fruit trees died but the garden stood up very well overall.

Plot holders continued to have access to compost, manure and mulching materials thanks to Allan O'Keefe in particular. As reported last year, it is critical that plot holders work together to keep the garden healthy overall. Each plot is potentially a site for wonderfully productive and healthy growth or a dark corner where weeds and pests can proliferate and spread throughout the garden.

More education is needed to increase awareness of the opportunities and risks of community gardening and how they can be best managed including the critical concept of mutual responsibility.



ASCG volunteers Shrike and Kay

### Media/Communications Report

We had a quieter year as POD Rep Margaret Carew took leave from the position. Fran and Philippe stepped up and maintained communications with Garden members. Healthy Garden newsletters and ALEC Thorny Newsletters continued to provide Garden updates and advice.

### Fundraising Report

Once again our Fundraising was pretty limited, raising \$513, and the Committee, led by POD Rep Britt Puschak, has agreed to do more in the coming year.

### Infrastructure and Maintenance Report

Considerable earthworks were undertaken in the Garden to improve water harvesting. The diseased iron wood tree was removed and work started on the solar pergola. Irrigation system repairs and routine maintenance continued to be a critical task for the Infrastructure POD led by Allan O'Keefe.

Thanks to everyone who has noticed a problem and reported it. We do need to provide more awareness and training sessions for plot holders.

### Bodhi Tree/Meditation Group Report

The Bodhi tree remains the Garden's spiritual centre for Kay Smith and a small meditation group that meets most Sunday mornings and welcomes new members.



### Projects Report

The Committee made considerable progress in planning and contracting work on both the 'wheelchair access paving' and the 'solar pergola' projects. Both are expected to be completed now by the end of 2016. Particular thanks go to Allan O'Keefe for his commitment to these projects.

### Work for the Dole Program

W4D supervisor Ben Wall and a small team completed a composting complex, the demonstration bed, beautifully decorated bench seating with Indigenous motifs and a small pond among many wonderful additions to the Garden.

### From the Convenor

My warm thanks to all the Committee and members and friends of the Garden who have contributed so much to its growth and development over the past year. We have a growing community of enthusiastic gardeners whose passion, knowledge and skills have been reflected in the growing productivity and beauty of the Garden. Our monthly last Friday social get together and twice monthly working bees have added to the camaraderie and well being of many and I hope both will grow in the years ahead.

*Bruce Simmons*  
**ASCG Convenor**

[www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au](http://www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au)



## Food for Alice

What an amazing year for Food For Alice (FFA) with some quite big changes and upgrades along the way.

The first big change was moving from a fortnightly market to every Saturday with the big question of whether we will we have enough produce to sell weekly? The answer – yes.

The second big move was at the end of December with the closure of East Side Pilates Cafe for the holiday break. With ALEC now located at 90 Gap Rd we thought why not give it a go and sell from the ALEC Community Centre. At least we can see how it goes while the café is closed and move back if it does not work.

What we found was that it worked really well, it was less work for us to set up the market and easier for our customers to get to us. East Side Pilates will forever be ingrained into the FFA story for without them we would not have built up a big enough customer base to be able to stand on our own.

And of course our third big change was an official logo that links local food production with the kitchen table. There were a number of concept ideas that Jeska showed us, however as soon as I saw the garden fork and the table fork together in one simple logo I know that



was it. And now we have an amazing logo that really shows what we are all about.

From all these changes both our supplier and customer base is growing. It is not uncommon for a typical weekend to purchase over \$500 worth of fresh local fruit and veg from our local suppliers each week. With about 95% of our produce (and sometimes more) being purchased by our fantastic customers.

In just 2 hours every Saturday we have an average of 28 customers. That is 1 customer every 4 minutes, no wonder we feel like we are continually working every market. In times gone past we would get a 10 or 15 min break between customers, not any more.

So a big thank you to all our suppliers and customers, and to Racheal and Fina who have helped me run the market every Saturday. From the look of things we will only keep getting bigger, bit by bit, so who knows what amazing thing we will be writing about next year.

*Carmel Vandermolen*  
**FFA Coordinator**



## Sustainable Science Trail

The Sustainable Science Trail was launched on April 1 2016 at Adelaide House. Attended by the Mayor Damien Ryan and representatives from partner organisations - the ribbon was cut.

The Sustainable Science Trail combines existing tourism sites with signage to explain the technological, innovative and sustainability features of the site and a central part of the Sites and Trails NT app. The Sustainable Science Trail was an Inspiring Australia Initiative funded by the Australian Government.

It is hoped that school groups and visitors to central Australia will engage with the Trail and more sites will come online in time. Current sites include Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs Desert Park, Alice Springs Community Garden, Desert Knowledge

## Desert Science Network

The launch of the Desert Science Network in Alice Springs in April 2015 did not get the requisite momentum and attention needed to keep the ball rolling. Unfortunately competing priorities within ALEC meant this project did not achieve the outcomes that it hoped to.

ALEC is negotiating with the Commonwealth to vary the grant to focus on engaging indigenous rangers on science communication

## ALEC Event Highlights

More than 300 people attended the National Day of Climate Action in November 2015, which re-invigorated a climate action group.

The ALEC Red Hot Ball also in November 2015 managed to fundraise \$7000 for the organisation.

The This Changes Everything Film Screening in April 2016 was a sold out success.



Solar Centre, Adelaide House and the Museum of Central Australia. The Site and Trails NT app is available from the Google Play store and iTunes. The website is [www.sustainablesciencetrail.com.au](http://www.sustainablesciencetrail.com.au)



ASTC Mayor Damien Ryan and Steve Bevis launch the Sustainable Science Trail at Adelaide House

activities in their communities rather than developing a strategic plan for the DSN and science engagement in the deserts. It is a shame that we couldn't make this happen but with the rise of Ten Deserts and the defunding of partner organisations that were providing in-kind support to the project we could only do so much. It is hoped that science engagement activities of rangers will be a success we can report on in future years.



## desertSMART EcoFair



The desertSMART EcoFair has been another resounding success, with more than 2000 people participating in science and sustainability focused events between 7-9th August 2015 in Alice Springs.

desertSMART EcoFair was organised by the Arid Lands Environment Centre, as part of National Science Week, and was sponsored by the Australian Government's Inspiring Australia Initiative, as well as a range of local community sponsors. The event is a focal point for scientific research and sustainability initiatives that exist in Central Australia, and encourages discussion on how we manage and connect to country, how we build community resilience and live together sustainably in the desert.

The EcoFair was hosted by Olive Pink Botanic Garden. It continued to build on the strengths of previous years by again featuring the Eco-Science Schools Day, the live 783 ABC Outside Broadcast, The Alice Springs Bicycle Film Festival, the Science of Soil Workshop with Costa Georgiadis, and the Sunday Eco-Markets and Sustainable Living Festival.

The Eco-Science Schools Day on Friday 7th February saw 200 local school students participate in hands on workshops on the issues of energy, water, land management, climate, health, science and technology.



Dr Kirsti Abbott (School of Ants) with students examining ants under a microscope

The 783 ABC Outside Live Broadcast from the BeanTree Café provided a focus on the activities of EcoFair and the Alice Springs Bicycle Film Festival was again a very popular feature of the EcoFair with more than 300 people attending and enjoying a night of bicycle-focused films, food and fires under a clear starry sky.

The Science of Soil Workshop with Eco-Fair Ambassador Costa Georgiadis reflected an event focus to coincide with the International Years of Soil and Light, and more than 1200 people attended the Sunday Eco-Markets and Sustainable Living Festival on Sunday 9th August. The feature presentation by Dr Mark Diesendorf on the exciting possibilities of renewable energy technology to completely provide for our energy needs.

desertSMART EcoFair provides the community with the chance to engage with science and sustainability, and the forces that shape our world. Feedback from the 2015 EcoFair event has been resoundingly positive. The Arid Lands Environment Centre, despite funding cuts and reduced capacity, hopes the event can continue in 2016.

*Nicole Pietsch*  
**EcoFair Coordinator**  
[www.ecofair.org.au](http://www.ecofair.org.au)



Feature speak Dr Mark Diesendorf with his presentation on renewable energy technology

## Strategic Aim 2: Promote protection of ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources in Central Australia

### Representation

ALEC's influence has grown in 2015-16. Despite receiving no funding from government to do so, ALEC maintained its presence on a number of government committees and reference groups including:

- Alice Springs Regional Weeds Reference Group (NT)
- Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee (although no meetings in period) (NT)
- Alice Springs Environment Advisory Committee (Alice Springs Town Council)

ALEC has played an active role in these committees advocating for community approaches to weed management and review of the regional weed management plan; climate action on the local government level and ensuring the ASTC is engaged and acting on a range of environmental and sustainability issues. ALEC consistently advocated for clarity on water policy and made submissions to that effect.

ALEC's Director was also invited to represent ALEC on the:

- Alice Springs Regional Economic Development Committee - Deputy Chair (NT)
- Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee (NT)

ALEC played an active role in these committees to ensure climate change, renewable energy, disaster preparedness and resilience was on the agenda.

The ALEC Director represents ALEC on:

- Environment Defenders Office NT Management Committee
- Alice Springs Community Garden Management Committee

- Central Australian Frack Free Alliance (CAFFA)

The EDONT is Darwin based and has also managed to survive under tough circumstances. CAFFA made fracking an election issue and has driven the community awareness of the issue to an all time high.

ALEC is represented by the Communications and Campaigns Manager, Nicole Pietsch on:  
- Repower Alice Springs

RePower Alice Springs has put renewable energy back in the spotlight - driving key policy decisions by Labor heading into the election and set the agenda for a solar future.

The ALEC Director Jimmy Cocking was appointed onto the Board of Desert Knowledge Australia; continues to represent the NT as a Councillor for the Australian Conservation Foundation and was re-elected onto the ACF Board in 2015/16 for another 3 year term.

ALEC was also represented on a forum on fracking at the NT Cattlemen's Association conference in March 2016. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-21/northern-territory-cattle-industry-discusses-mining-activity/7262600>

ALEC was also represented through backbone support of the Ten Deserts Initiative, which attended the Indigenous Desert Alliance workshop in Perth and is supporting collaboration across 2.85 million square kilometres of desert country.

*Jimmy Cocking*  
**ALEC Director**

## Ten Deserts

In June 2014, around 20 people gathered at Ross River Resort and committed to building a successful collaboration based on a strong vision for looking after Australia's desert country. The Ten Deserts was formed to support land management outcomes across the vast landscapes of WA, SA and NT. The collaboration formed around this vision:

Australia's desert country is the healthiest and most ecologically intact arid landscapes remaining on Earth. The Ten Deserts Initiative will work to build collaborative partnerships across state and territory borders to support the protection of the natural and cultural values of Australia's outback. A vibrant future for the arid lands will recognise the interdependence of people and nature with social and economic development being built on healthy and sustainably managed landscapes.

Two years on, the collaboration is growing stronger and increasing the profile of collaborative land management activities. ALEC supports the collaboration through providing coordination activities funded by Pew Charitable Trusts. The first face to face workshop for Ten Deserts was held in Alice Springs in April 2015. The concept for a Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert emerged from this meeting, as did a focus on fire as a management tool and climate change.

Below is a snapshot of Ten Deserts for 2015/16.

### Funding

- \$60K pa Pew Charitable Trusts for 2 years - Coordinator
- \$30K The Nature Conservancy - for workshop in August

### Ten Deserts Working Group 2016/17

- Arid Lands Environment Centre - Coordinator
- Department of Land Resource Management (NT)



- Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust
- Greening Australia
- Kanyirnipa Jukurrpa
- Land for Wildlife Central Australia
- Natural Resources – Alinytjara Wilurara
- Ngaanyatjarra Council
- Rangelands NRM (WA)
- Territory NRM
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Pew Charitable Trusts

### Partner organisations

- Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara
- Arid Recovery
- Central Desert Native Title Services
- Central Land Council
- Natural Resources – SA Arid Lands

### Activities

- Developed Buffel Free GVD project
- Developed Workplan 2016/17
- Hosted 3 x Ten Deserts Phone Link Ups (PLU)
- Hosted 3 x Buffel Free GVD meetings (PLU)
- Developed Buffel grass narrative
- Developed Desert Fire Forum proposal
- Communications plan for Ten Deserts and the Buffel Free GVD project
- Presented to the Territory NRM Regional Forum July 2015
- Presented at the Indigenous Desert Network meeting in Perth November 2015
- Attended the Ninu (Bilby Festival in Kiwirrkurra) June 2016



- Preparation for face to face workshop in August 2016

#### What are we learning:

- Momentum building is working better through leveraging and providing support for the Indigenous Desert Alliance
- Need more capacity to deliver on the goals
- Group work, facilitated sessions with some reporting back - getting to know each other is important
- Trust is critical and growing as Ten Deserts Coordinator is able to attend, participate

## Ninu Knowledge Festival

### Kiwirrkurra June 21-23

In June 2016, ALEC Director Jimmy Cocking represented both the Arid Lands Environment Centre and the Ten Deserts Initiative at the first ever Ninu Knowledge Festival, held at Kiwirrkurra 800km west of Alice Springs. Ninu is the Pintupi name for Bilby.

The Festival had more than 150 people attend including the Threatened Species Commissioner Gregory Andrews, 20 different indigenous ranger groups from as far as the Kimberley, Kalgoorlie and from across the deserts in South Australia and the NT, scientists, Save the Bilby Fund and a host of other people engaged in conservation work to support the threatened *Macrotis lagotis*, the Greater Bilby.

ALEC was a supporter of the event through providing in-kind technical expertise for the many and varied presentations. This provided a great opportunity to be more engaged in the event and to meet a wide range of people. It was fascinating to hear people's accounts and dreaming stories associated with the ninu.

The talks were focused on sharing knowledge and data of ninu sites, learning skills for monitoring and better understanding the key threats to bilbies and field trips that included John Read's cat grooming traps <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-20/feral-cat-control-robot-trialled-qld/7338848>, drones for

in and support more events eg. IDA, Ninu Fest etc

- Collaboration is long hard and slow work - there are no short cuts
- Need to get out on country (especially GVD) to get more passionate about it
- Being a champion for desert conservation action and land management is making a difference

*Jimmy Cocking*  
Ten Deserts Coordinator  
[www.tendeserts.org](http://www.tendeserts.org)

conservation and monitoring, cat hunting, tracking and trapping.

It was a fantastic trip and ALEC was very proud to support the world's first Ninu Knowledge Festival organised by the Indigenous Desert Alliance. Everyone who attended were excited by the potential of working together in a coordinated way.

#### Read more here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/series/first-dog-on-the-moon-at-the-bilby-summit>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-24/bilby-protection-festival-in-australias-most-remote-community/7539836>

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/the-indigenous-rangers-saving-bilbies-in-wa/7532076>



*Jimmy Cocking with the Threatened Species Commissioner at the Ninu Festival*

## Biodiversity Matters



The Biodiversity Matters program saw 4 field trip events over the course of the year which included a visit to the Intertexta Eucalyptus Forest hosted by the Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club, Buffel and Cactus Busting with Alice Springs Landcare, Flora and Fauna Trapping with Land for Wildlife and a nocturnal wildlife walk at Simpsons Gap.

All field trips averaged between 15-30 participants, and offered community members a chance to learn about and contribute to local conservation projects.

Highlights from the activities included about 60 kgs of cactus being removed from Spencer Valley, and witnessing the abundant wildlife after summer rains at Simpsons Gap.

There are some great photos from the field trip events uploaded on the Biodiversity Matters Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/biodiversitymattersaridlands/> This page also shares information about local conservation news and activities.

## EFSCAN

With the reduced capacity of ALEC over the financial year we had fewer hours to be able to support local education providers. However education is a key to future sustainability, and having the resources available for an ever-stretched education system helps build awareness and good decision making into the future of Central Australian sustainability.

We grab every opportunity we can to support environmental education, so when we were contacted by Dr Kirsti Abbott who was traveling Australia doing ant research with school students, we jumped at the chance to facilitate her being at the desertSMART EcoFair Eco-Science Schools Day.

With the increasing popularity of the Community Garden Excursion Guide, EFSCAN

As a result of funding cuts to ALEC, who coordinate the Biodiversity Matters program, it is unsure at this stage whether it will continue into the next financial year.

*Nicole Pietsch*

**Biodiversity Matters Coordinator**  
[www.biodiversitymatters.org.au](http://www.biodiversitymatters.org.au)



*Buffel busting volunteers Shrike and Jenny*

(Education For Sustainability Central Australian Network) also had the opportunity to get some resources from the EPA Grants for another excursion guide, this time focusing on the Alice Springs Regional Waste Facility. This facility has some amazing attributes and learning opportunities for our young people to explore. The guide is getting close to being finished and we are hoping to launch it early in 2017.

In the next financial year we are excited to continue to be a support for the education providers and our up and coming future leaders of tomorrow.

*Carmel Vandermolen*  
**EFSCAN Coordinator**

# Central Australian Frack Free Alliance

## Overview

ALEC has hosted the Frack Free Coordinator position since October 2014. The position is currently filled by Tanya Hall and funded until January 2017. The position is funded for 3 days a week by the Lock the Gate Alliance and is one of three positions funded in the NT to build a community based campaign against the development of the unconventional gas industry in the NT.

ALEC supports the role by providing a workspace including a laptop, access to equipment, accounting support and staff support at key events.

The key objectives of the role are as follows:

- Undertake research and develop resources for community education
- Support the local campaign group - the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance to run awareness raising activities
- Outreach to key stakeholders in Central Australia including Aboriginal communities and pastoralists to inform them of the risks of Hydraulic Fracturing or 'fracking'.
- Advocate on the issue to Government
- Keep a strong media presence on the issue.

## Central Australian Frack Free Alliance

The Frack Free Coordinator role has been instrumental in building a strong visible campaign presence in Alice Springs through supporting the growth of the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance ("CAFFA").

The CAFFA group consists of 10 – 12 highly active members who meet fortnightly to plan campaign activities. In addition to the 'core' group there is a campaign supporter email contact list of over 500 people who participate in activities as their time permits.

CAFFA has worked throughout the year to

continue to widen its community support base. Key strategies here have included fortnightly market stalls at the Todd Mall Markets and 'Gasfield Free' Community Surveying.

The community survey approach was used in the suburb of Old Eastside during March, April and May. Over 500 households were surveyed in total with 89% of respondents saying they did not support the use of fracking for unconventional gas in Central Australia. Only 2% supported the development of the unconventional gas industry, with the remaining 9% unsure.

The group has also held a number of events to raise awareness about the issue over the past year.

### Main Events for 2015-16:

- 17 November 2015 - Community Action to oppose the announcement of the successful proponent for the Northern Gas Pipeline.
- 15 March 2016 - Community Action outside the AGES Conference to show community opposition to exploration for shale gas in Central Australia.
- 17 May – Community Action as part of the Lock the Gate Federal Election campaign "Water4Life".
- 29 May – Launch of the results of the Old Eastside Community survey. Attended by over 100 people.
- 19 June – Community BBQ and Fracking information session in Larapinta
- 24 June – Roadside Action as part of the Lock the Gate Federal Election campaign "Water4Life".

### Key Stakeholder Engagement

Key stakeholders for the project are Aboriginal Traditional Owners as well as pastoralists and tourism operators whose business will be adversely affected by the development of the



unconventional gas industry.

Raising awareness of the risks of fracking with Aboriginal communities is a key focus of the Frack Free Coordinator role. In 2015-2016 the Frack Free coordinator has continued to develop and strengthen relationships with key representatives from Aboriginal communities and organisations to discuss approaches and opportunities to engage with Traditional Owners on the issue.

Engagement with Traditional Owners along the route of the Northern Gas Pipeline has been a major focus for the role with numerous visits over the year to inform people about the link between the gas pipeline and the prospect of fracking in the NT, and to provide support to Traditional Owners in exploring options to oppose the pipeline.

### Key Stakeholder Outreach Activities:

- Regular meetings with Central Land Council executive member regarding keeping fracking as a key issue within the CLC.
- Ongoing engagement with the President of the Central Land Management Association about engaging local pastoralists around the campaign.
- Presentation to Tourism Central Australia Board meeting in April.
- Community visit in May and presentation to Wurla Ninta – Reference Group for Traditional Owners of Ntaria community in August.
- Stall at the 50th celebration festival of the Wave Hill walk off in Kalkarindji in August.

### Advocacy on the Issue

The Frack Free Coordinator has advocated



strongly around the issue through a variety of mechanisms including directly lobbying elected representatives of state and local government, and candidates for the NT election in August, as well as making submissions to various consultation processes.

Advocacy efforts included lobbying Alice Springs Town Council to call on the NT Government to protect the town's water supply from the risks of fracking. A delegation was made to Alice Springs Town Council on 30 May and CAFFA lobbied Council's Environmental Advisory Committee.

### Submissions include:

- NT EPA consultation around the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Northern Gas Pipeline – December 2015
- NT Government 'Onshore Gas Development Strategy' - December 2015.
- Draft Petroleum (Environment) Regulation – April 2016.
- Consultation on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Northern Gas Pipeline – October 2016.
- Terms of Reference for the NT Government Scientific Inquiry into Fracking – October 2016.

The Coordinator position has also maintained an ongoing presence in the local and social media on the issue of fracking.

*Tanya Hall*  
**Frack Free Coordinator**

<https://www.facebook.com/Central-Australian-Frack-Free-Alliance-306595772848043/>



# Beyond Nuclear Initiative (BNI)



## Overview

Beyond Nuclear Initiative (BNI) is a joint project of the Australian Conservation Foundation and Friends of the Earth Australia and has been hosted by the Arid Lands Environment Centre since early 2006. Convener Natalie Wasley is currently based in Sydney.

BNI tracks the status of nuclear projects across the country, with a focus on NT proposals, radioactive waste management and the disproportionate impact on remote and Indigenous communities.

## Radioactive Waste Management

For decades spent fuel rods from the Lucas Heights nuclear reactors in southern Sydney have been sent overseas for reprocessing. During the campaign to stop a nuclear waste dump being built at Muckaty, the federal government had been adamant that reprocessing waste could never return to Lucas Heights. When it became evident a remote dump could not be constructed in time for the first returning shipment, a purpose built shed was constructed.

In late 2015 the materials came through Port Kembla near Wollongong for transport back to Lucas Heights. BNI coordinated with the South Coast Trades and Labour Council to organise a community rally when the shipment arrived. Local Traditional Owners and residents, trade union members and campaign group Uranium Free NSW attended.

Maritime Union of Australia's Southern NSW Branch Secretary Garry Keane said at the time, "Our members do not support the nuclear industry. There is no totally safe way to transport or store waste which remains a danger and threatens communities for thousands of years."

BNI also briefed Greenpeace Australia on the Muckaty campaign and assisted to develop

messaging for their action witnessing the shipment's arrival to the Port.

## Linking Up Affected Communities

After the NT waste plan was abandoned, the Federal Government called for site nominations from across the country. From twenty-eight nominations received and accepted, a shortlist of six was announced in November 2015. These included Hale in the Northern Territory, along with Oman Ama (Queensland), Hill End (NSW), Kimba (2 sites) and Flinders Ranges (SA).

BNI assisted representatives from each community to link up and develop a coordinated response. A joint lobbying trip to Canberra was undertaken, which generated significant media and political attention and solidified friendships across the affected areas.

In April 2016, former Minister Josh Frydenberg announced that only one site was to be further pursued for the national radioactive waste facility- Barndioota in the Flinders Ranges (SA). People from each of the other areas released a statement of support and solidarity.

BNI has continued to build on the lessons of the NT/Muckaty campaign in working



Six sites delegation to Parliament

with Adnyamathanha people and the broader community near the Barndioota site. Knowledge of previous campaign asks and achievements has helped inform actions taken by stakeholders and supporters. Networks have also been reactivated with key allies- such as the Maritime Union of Australia- quickly stepping up to support the campaign.

## South Australia's Nuclear Royal Commission - Darwin the First Port of Call?

The SA Royal Commission into the nuclear fuel cycle has recommended South Australia import one third of the world's high-level nuclear waste and place it in above ground storage for at least 17 years while a deep underground repository is built. This could be followed by transport of high-level radioactive materials for many subsequent decades to an underground repository.

Former Chief Minister Adam Giles met with the SA Premier to discuss Darwin Port being used to receive the international waste shipments, calling it an 'economic opportunity'. This plan could see many decades of radioactive transports through the Territory, where truck accidents and train derailments happen all too often.

Transport and storage of this category of materials is currently illegal in the Territory under the Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act 2004. BNI will continue to monitor the proposal to ensure any attempt to change this legislation allows for public input.

## Maurice Blackburn 'Being Heard' Campaign

Maurice Blackburn Social Justice Practice represented Muckaty Traditional Owners in their Federal Court Challenge against the Northern Land Council and Federal Government. Earlier this year the firm compiled a series of multimedia pieces profiling key cases they have run. Muckaty featured heavily. The content for these pieces was sourced with assistance from the BNI

convener, who accompanied two film crews to Tennant Creek and arranged a series of interviews and filming opportunities.

## National Campaign Coordination

BNI coordinates key national initiatives for the nuclear free movement, including monthly phone link ups and an annual national nuclear free strategy meeting.

Beyond Nuclear Initiative has held a committee position on the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance since 2008. Work with the Alliance includes administrative support, drafting media responses and helping coordinate the annual national meeting. See [www.anfa.org.au](http://www.anfa.org.au)

## BNI Into The Future

Since the major philanthropic donor to BNI closed for restructuring a few years ago, funding for the project has unfortunately been incremental. Accordingly, the hosting arrangement with the Arid Lands Environment Centre has been critical for maintaining operational capacity and allowing national nuclear free campaign work to continue. BNI's steering committee is seeking new funding options and looks forward to maintaining the relationship with ALEC into the future.

*Natalie Wasley*  
BNI Campaigner

[www.beyondnuclearinitiative.com](http://www.beyondnuclearinitiative.com)



Australian Nuclear Free Alliance 2016 Meeting, Kalgoorlie

## Strategic Aim 3: Strengthen ALEC as an organisation

### Financial Resilience

Resilience is the ability to 'bounce back' after a significant and traumatic event. Adaptation is the combination of long-term changes that enable organisms to increase their chances of survival into the future.

In 2015-16, ALEC shifted from building financial resilience, in response to the withdrawal of government funding, into adaptation. In a year where the NT and Federal Governments increased hostilities towards the environment and its protectors - ALEC managed to increase its income by more than 37% (2016: \$683 587, 2015: \$498 618) and reduce its deficit as a percentage of total expenditure to 4.05% in 2016 compared to 13.77% in 2015 (Expenditure 2016: \$712 467, 2015: \$578 218). Obviously we would prefer that no deficit would be accrued in a financial year, but given that no operational funding and very limited project funding was available, this is a commendable result.

The increase in income is solely due to growth of Arid Edge Environmental Services, both in number and scale of the contracts it has won. The Utopia Merne Murde (Good Food) project through MyPathway, Green Army with CoAct and the Alice Springs Town Council and the landscaping and design areas all contributed to this growth. As well as the financial skills of ALEC's Business Manager Carmel Vandermolen and improving quoting and efficiency of delivery.

Donation income decreased in 2015-16 by 33.74% (2016: \$83 138; 2015: \$125 475) while fundraising income increased by 153.64% (2016: \$24 631; 2015: \$9711). The decreased donations are largely due to a single \$50K donation in 2015, but in 2016 an increase in Desert Defenders reduced the impact on the bottom line. The

increased fundraising income is the result of regular fundraising events organised by Communications Manager Nicole Pietsch.

Offsetting costs to ALEC also played a role in reducing the deficit through the ALEC Director's time being shared between ALEC and coordinating the Ten Deserts Initiative funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Although this has enabled momentum to be developed and maintained in the area of cross-border collaboration for the sustainable management and conservation of the desert country - it is also a significant pressure on the already heavy load of the Director.

The NT Labor policy to provide organisational funding of \$100 000 to ALEC is welcomed and will enable ALEC to grow capacity in the policy space. It is hoped that this funding will be recurrent over the course of 5 years to ensure ALEC is firmly engaged and represented in all areas of environmental policy development and implementation relevant for our region.

ALEC's financial success this year is dependent solely on its organisational team structure and staff members. The commitment of the ALEC team has enabled ALEC to weather its first year in more than a decade without government operational funding.

2016-17 will require some planning and new directions to embed an innovative culture and entrepreneurial approach to achieving our vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people.' The team remains committed to the cause and as we adapt to using software to support our community organising - expect to see ALEC's impact increase in coming years.

*Jimmy Cocking*  
**ALEC Director**

## Communications and Campaigns Report

Communications from the Arid Lands Environment Centre have a number of integral roles – communicating with the ALEC membership, communicating with the general public, communicating with the media, delivering public education campaigns, and lobbying decision makers.

ALEC has maintained a strong public and communications presence despite the communications role only being 0.4FTE due to funding cuts.

A big focus for the 2015-2016 financial year has been transitioning the current ALEC website, which had a number of issues with its functionality and was starting to become dated, to the integrated platform Nationbuilder. Nationbuilder is being utilised by many environmental and political organisations due to its integrated approach with social media, and community organising capabilities.

This has been a huge undertaking for the small team of ALEC, however with assistance from web designers Code Nation the new site went live June 30th 2016. There is still work to be done in the next financial year to finalise and add more content to the site, and ALEC is looking to integrate more of our stand-alone websites into the Nationbuilder platform.

The regular fortnightly Thorny News E-newsletter continues to be an effective tool in sharing information with ALEC members and supporters, however with the new website the decision has been made to send the Thorny News to current members only. Receiving the fortnightly update is a defined ALEC membership benefit.

Three editions of the quarterly hardcopy Devils Advocate newsletter were published throughout the year, and ALEC's social media presence has remained strong. In the next financial year ALEC will be focusing on converting social media 'likes' to active

support to try and address 'clicktivism' – where people 'like' something online but then take no further action. ALEC has 1600 Facebook page likes – the challenge is how to convert these passive supporters to active supporters

With reduced staffing capacity there have been two fundraising events throughout the year including the Big Hot Ball in November 2015 which raised \$7000 and One World in June 2016 which raised \$4000.

ALEC's major yearly event, the desertSMART EcoFair continues to be a huge organisational task for the ALEC team and communications position.

Fracking, renewable energy, climate change and elections have been the main campaign focuses for ALEC, with the Communications position facilitating the RePower Alice Springs community group and the election campaigns. In the next financial year the 'No Fracking Pipeline' campaign will be a strong focus for ALEC, which looks at stopping the Northern Gas Pipeline from Tennant Creek to Mount Isa.

ALEC memberships have grown slightly with approximately 340 members, and recruiting members will continue to be a focus.

*Nicole Pietsch*

**Communications & Campaigns Manager**



## Business and Operations Manager Report

The 2015/16 financial year has been an exciting one. Full of challenges and hard work yes, however there have been many positives and shows just how amazing the people who work and support ALEC are.

This year has seen ALEC move from strength to strength, again proving that no matter what the external environment throws at you, if you stay focused, have good back of house systems that support the staff and the desired outcomes, the business will move forward.

Again ALEC performed well in its external audit, showing up a few data and other easily corrected errors. Most importantly nothing that has meant the financials have been incorrectly represented at any time. While we always have good faith in our financial policies and procedures it is good to have this continually backed up by a good audit performance.

At the same time the complexities of ALEC have been growing as we further diversify our funding streams. With the continual growth of Arid Edge Environment Services (AEES) and other fee for Service areas the importance of managing cash flows, payments and receivables has increased.

Reporting requirements have also increased to reduce risks as we manage the day-to-day as well as forward planning on an ongoing basis.

When you look at the complexity of the behind the scenes of ALEC (community development, fee for service, donations and policy work) we look like a smaller version of multi-national NGO with many different subsidiary's crossing different sectors of both market and non-market industries.

We have also seen growth in the amount of people we employ going from 6 - with 2 full time, 3 part time and 1 casual at the beginning of the year – to 11 by the end of the financial year with 4 full time, 3 part time and 4 casual

staff. The main employment growth sectors have been in AEES and Food for Alice.

On top of that ALEC has also seen an increase in its assets growing from having 1 electric bike, 1 ute and 1 trailer at the beginning of the year to 1 electric bike, 2 utes, one 12 seater bus and 2 trailers.

The new increased storage space at 90 Gap Rd compared to our previous office has also been put to good use enabling ALEC and AEES to increase its capacity.

Overall 2015/16 has been a fantastic year, and 2016/17 is already looking like ALEC will continue to grow and keep supporting its vision of health futures for arid Lands and People.

*Carmel Vandermolen*  
**Business Operations Manager**



## Treasurers Report

Throughout the last three years ALEC has focused on increasing it's long-term viability, in an uncertain funding environment.

A deliberate effort has been made by ALEC to:

- reduce operational spending
- increase the asset base
- increase focus on public donations and membership
- increase focus on private contracted works
- increase efficiency by partnering and sharing resources

During FY15/16 ALEC continued to rationalise operational funds but with a stronger focus on increasing the asset base and chasing commercial, government and private contracts. This, with the considerable support from members, staff and the public; has resulted in a stronger balance sheet and an increase, in real terms, in the cash reserve.

To the achievements of programs and staff: Arid Edge Environmental Services was a stand out this year with a strong pipeline of contracts which are building a solid reputation allowing them to continue to grow into the coming years.

Director Jimmy Cocking has had an outstanding year bringing everything together, maintaining the focus on the future and drawing in local, territory, national and international new programs under the ALEC umbrella.

Nicole Pietsch's time spent on rolling out Nationbuilder has set up ALEC for more efficient engagement with supporters, increasing the efficiency of operations and communications through our environmental portfolio. Once fully operational the website should also aid in attracting donations and financial support.

Carmel has worked tirelessly to make the success of Arid Edge, Food for Alice and

ALEC seem effortless. Carmel is single-handedly responsible for the contract governance that is currently keeping ALEC's head above water, and she is to be commended for her business management skills.

And to ALEC volunteers, members, sponsors and supporters - your continued efforts have greatly added to the environmental successes as outline above; in particular putting fracking on the election agenda, placing solar squarely on the agenda for the new territory government and the continued successes of the community garden.

Some mixed results welcome us into the new financial year: some funding has been promised by the government over the next three years and Territory Generation's engagement with RePower's 100% renewables for Alice Springs by 2030 target are fantastic starts to the year.

However we continue to endure the relentless pressures from the fracking and gas industry, and are yet to see how the new NT government will approach these challenges.

Let's leave this planet in great shape for our grandchildren!

*Tim Brand*  
**ALEC Treasurer**



**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

**INDEX**

Page 2	Income and Expenditure Statement
Page 4	Statement of Changes in Equity
Page 5	Assets and Liabilities Statement
Page 6	Statement of Cash Flows
Page 7	Notes to the Financial Statements
Page 10	Statement by Members of the Committee
Page 11	Independent Auditors' Report

**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016	2015
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grant - NT Environment Operation Grant	-	70,000
Project Grants & Consultancy Income	492,347	200,979
Donations received	83,138	125,475
Interest Received	11,060	10,495
Other Revenue	68,270	62,947
Rent Income	4,141	19,011
Fundraising	24,631	9,711
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>683,587</b>	<b>498,618</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Accounting Fees	2,352	-
Advertising	10,476	11,365
Audit Fees	6,987	7,708
Bank Charges	1,596	1,890
Bad Debts	1,499	4,504
Catering	5,560	12,890
Cleaning	2,452	3,965
Consultancy fees	28,844	43,184
Computer, IT & Internet Costs	9,736	6,965
Depreciation	10,919	8,589
Electricity	9,500	8,827
Fundraising	5,575	738
Hire of plant & equipment	12,174	7,321
Insurance	13,223	14,164
Loss on disposal of assets	-	2,353
Materials & Supplies	59,312	15,295
Minor Equipment	19,928	12,372
Motor Vehicle Expenses	29,433	8,355
Multi Media Productions	5,500	12,793
Office expenses	1,561	964
Postage	110	481
Printing and Stationery	4,820	3,716
Professional Development	1,988	1,852
Provision for Annual Leave	11,495	2,940
Provision for Long Service Leave	2,216	5,393
Rent, Rates & Taxes	11,660	35,119
Repairs & Maintenance	842	29

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016	2015
<b>EXPENDITURE (Contd)</b>		
Salaries & Wages	372,653	279,983
Subscriptions	2,540	2,567
Sundry Expenses	2,623	2,822
Superannuation Contributions	35,185	26,143
Telephone	4,058	3,389
Travel, Allowances & Fares	25,650	29,048
Workshop Expenses	-	494
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>712,467</u>	<u>578,218</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<u>\$ (28,880)</u>	<u>\$ (79,600)</u>

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Retained Surpluses
Opening Balance, 1 July 2014	435,826
Net Surplus (Deficit) attributable to members	<u>(79,600)</u>
Closing Balance, 30 June 2015	356,226
Net Surplus (Deficit) attributable to members	<u>(28,880)</u>
<b>RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 327,346</u>

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918  
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016	2015
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash equivalents	2	610,531	573,419
Accounts receivable & other debtors	3	51,730	29,743
Prepayments & Accrued Income		<u>11,991</u>	<u>13,555</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>674,252</u>	<u>616,717</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	4	97,122	45,661
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>31,706</u>	<u>22,918</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>65,416</u>	<u>22,743</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>739,668</u>	<u>639,460</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable & other payables		17,807	19,512
Accrued Expenses		8,387	7,000
Payroll Liabilities		30,526	9,236
GST Payable		17,906	2,114
Unexpended Grants	5	250,764	202,312
Income in Advance		30,159	-
Provision for Annual Leave		25,431	13,936
Provision for Long Service Leave		<u>31,342</u>	<u>29,124</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>412,322</u>	<u>283,234</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		-	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>412,322</u>	<u>283,234</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>\$ 327,346</u>	<u>\$ 356,226</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained Surpluses		<u>327,346</u>	<u>356,226</u>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u>\$ 327,346</u>	<u>\$ 356,226</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016	2015
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash Receipts		655,622	506,118
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(575,978)	(578,808)
Interest Received		11,060	10,495
<b>Net Cash provided by (used in) Operating Activities</b>	2	<b>90,704</b>	<b>(62,195)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for Property, Plant & Equipment		(53,592)	(1,750)
Proceeds from disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment		-	12,850
<b>Net Cash provided by (used in) Investing Activities</b>		<b>(53,592)</b>	<b>11,100</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Net Cash provided by (used in) Financing Activities</b>		-	-
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held		37,112	(51,095)
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year		573,419	624,514
<b>Cash at the End of the Financial Year</b>	2	<b>\$ 610,531</b>	<b>\$ 573,419</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 50 100 640 918**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Act. The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**(a) Income Tax**

Under Section 50.5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 the income of the Association is exempt from income tax.

**(b) Property, Plant & Equipment**

The depreciable amount of all other Property, Plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Profit and losses on disposal of property, plant & equipment are taken into account in determining the surplus for the year.

**(c) Impairment of assets**

At the end of each reporting period the committee reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

**(d) Employee Benefits**

Provision is made in respect of the Association's liability for annual leave at balance date. Long service leave is accrued in respect of employees with more than six years employment with the Association. Contributions are made by the Association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred. The Association has no legal obligation to provide benefits to employees on retirement.

**(e) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Grant income is recognised when the association obtains control over the funds, which is generally when the grant is acquitted. If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are met.

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (contd)

(f) Goods & Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

(g) Going Concern

The accounts of the Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc have been prepared on the basis that it is a going concern and that the Association will continue to operate. The Association's future as a going concern is dependant upon grants and subject to compliance attached to grants received.

On this basis the Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc will generate sufficient cash flow to be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2016	2015
Cash at Bank - Ops Account	1,058	1,748
Cash at Bank - Gift Account	42,417	63,404
Cash at Bank - Holding Account	195,878	82,298
Cash at Bank - Pay Pal Account	15,006	19,347
ALEC Debit card	3,657	774
Term Deposit	350,000	404,643
Cash on Hand	2,515	1,205
	<u>610,531</u>	<u>573,419</u>

NOTE 3: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE & OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade & Sundry Debtors	53,730	31,743
Less: Provisions for Doubtful Debts	2,000	2,000
	<u>51,730</u>	<u>29,743</u>

NOTE 4: PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Leasehold Improvements (at cost)	14,200	14,200
Less Accumulated Depreciation	6,625	5,205
	<u>7,575</u>	<u>8,995</u>
Office Furniture and Equipment (at cost)	20,488	15,711
Less Accumulated Depreciation	14,466	14,241
	<u>6,022</u>	<u>1,470</u>
Motor Vehicles (at cost)	62,434	15,750
Less Accumulated Depreciation	10,615	3,472
	<u>51,819</u>	<u>12,278</u>
Total Property Plant & Equipment at cost	97,122	45,661
Less Accumulated Depreciation	31,706	22,918
	<u>65,416</u>	<u>22,743</u>

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 5: UNEXPENDED GRANTS

At balance date the Association had not expended all of its grant funds. These unexpended funds have been carried over into the next financial year.

NOTE 6: CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A contingent liability exists in relation to the potential repayment of surplus funds to funding bodies. It is the board's view that any surplus represents unexpended funds and will not be repayable to the funding bodies.

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC  
ABN 50 100 640 918  
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report being the assets and liabilities statement, income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc will be able to pay its debts as when they fall due.

We confirm as follows:

- (a) The name of each committee member of the association during the financial year were:

Jodi Lennox	Stewart Baillie
Clement Bresson	Jocelyn Davies
Anjali Palmer	Tim Brand
Jason Quin	Barb Molanus
Rodney Angelo	Mikaila Thwaites
Rosalie Schultz	
- (b) The association is a community based environment organisation
- (c) The net deficit of the association for the year ended 30 June 2016 was \$28,880

This statement is made in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Act and by resolution of the committee:

  
Board Member

  
Board Member

Signed in Alice Springs this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc (the association), which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2016, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The committee of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Act and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Qualification**

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc to maintain an effective system of internal control over cash receipts from memberships, merchandise sales & other income such as fundraising until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to these activities was limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC



**Qualified Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitations in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc as of 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 the Associations Act.

**Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

Without modifying our opinion we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Trevor Basso - Partner  
Basso Newman & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
Adelaide  
11 November 2016

## ALEC Board as at June 30th 2016

Public Officer - Jason Quin  
Convenor - Stewart Baillie  
Deputy Convenor - Jodi Lennox  
Treasurer - Tim Brand  
Secretary - Anjali Palmer  
General Members - Rodney Angelo, Clemment Bresson, Mikaila Thwaites, Jocelyn Davies, Barb Molanus, Rosalie Schultz

## ALEC Staff as at June 30th 2016



Jimmy Cocking  
ALEC Director



Carmel Vandermolen  
Business and Operations  
Manager



Nicole Pietsch  
Communications and  
Campaigns Manager



Alex McClean  
Arid Edge Environmental  
Services Manager



Natalie Wasley  
Beyond Nuclear Initiative  
Campaigner



Tanya Hall  
Frack Free Coordinator

**Arid Edge Environmental Services Staff:** Hilton Chilvers, Sunil Dhanji, Jake Eden, Simon Hopper, Ben Wall **Food for Alice Staff:** Rachel Smith, Fina Po

### ALEC acknowledges the financial partners of Ten Deserts 2015-16:



### ALEC acknowledges the sponsors of desertSMART EcoFair 2015-16:





*Healthy futures for arid lands and people*  
**ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**  
[www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)