



ANNUAL REPORT

2010-11

Acknowledgement of country

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners both past and present of this region.

ALEC is part of a network of Australian and international organisations with a focus on environmental and social justice.

ALEC works within the Alice Springs community to investigate, inform, empower and take action on issues and ideas that align with our vision.

ALEC continues to build strong linkages with the local community and continues to advocate and work towards a more resilient and thus nuclear-free future.

ALEC works towards strengthening existing relationships and seeks to develop relationships with the community through education, open and respectful dialogue, the arts and science.

ALEC's Vision

Healthy futures for arid lands and people

Strategic Aims

- *Keep arid lands and people safe*
 - *Work to create resilient communities in central Australia*
- *Maintain the viability of ALEC*



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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Stewart Baillie



Welcome to this 2010-11 Arid Lands Environment Centre annual report. ALEC has passed another dynamic and successful year as you'll appreciate in reading on. The Warburton Street building feels a real hub of environmental and community activity. There is so much happening it is hard to keep abreast. The energy and commitment of so many good people is inspiring. The Coordinator's Report provides an overview of this year's activities and the various programme reports provide further specifics. One development close my heart, as an information professional, is the development of our new website. A key platform in our communication strategy. We are currently deploying a leading-edge not-for-profit technology civiCRM to assist us manage and communicate with our membership. Times and styles of engagement are changing and a strong online presence is vital to successful membership-based organisations. Just look at GetUp! So pre-

pare to see change on the web soon.

Behind all the activity the Management Committee has been focusing on the strategic planning that informs it and the governance and financial processes that keep track of it. This growing size of ALEC requires increased management and demands stricter accountability. To this end, the MC have clarified roles and expanded the organisational structure to include a part-time business and operations manager and a full-time administration officer. Their jobs are to keep the daily wheels turning and so allow the coordinator and the program managers to focus more on the main game of working for a healthy future for us and our environment.

The Treasurer's Report outlines our financial position and discusses the improved accounting processes being put in place. The good news is that the overall financial prognosis is healthy. We are currently enjoying a period of unprecedented capacity. Yet, this situation is the direct result of past innovation and effort. Significant programs such as Alice Water Smart take years to incubate. So while we deliver today's programmes with gusto we must also work to manifest what comes next. For these don't just happen. The MC and staff are investing imagination and energy towards this future. For example, the momentous passing of the Clean Energy Future legislation open new possibilities to us. What might they be?

We are fortunate to have a healthy and vibrant ALEC because the environmental challenges ahead are daunting. The somber reality is that climate change poses an imminent and dreadful threat to the ecology of the arid lands and to our own well-being. We have entered the final decade in which to avert catastrophic climate change. Ten short transformative years lie ahead. It is through community organisations like ALEC that we will organise and act. Governments alone cannot and will not succeed. They need our support, provocation and energy. In this, your membership and active participation in ALEC has never been more crucial. By acting now and acting decisively we can bequeath a recognisable world to future generations. Be involved.

Stewart Baillie.

Convenor

Behind all the activity the Management Committee has been focusing on the strategic planning that informs it and the governance and financial processes that keep track of it.



COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Jimmy Cocking



2010-11 has been another year of solid growth for ALEC. Capacity has increased, finances are healthy, staff numbers **have more than doubled and ALEC's influence on policy is** readily apparent. This growth is due to a number of factors including a relentless approach to grant applications that align **to ALEC's vision; the successful bid for Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses;** the growing interest in local food production; staff that daily go beyond the call of duty to ensure the success of their programs/projects; the willingness of ALEC to engage with the business community through joining the Chamber of Commerce NT and attending local business functions; the fearlessness of ALEC campaigners in staring down the threat of uranium mining at Angela Pamela...and the respect that **ALEC is gaining as a strong and representative voice for environmental protection and sustainability in the arid lands.**

In the beginning of this financial year, I was lucky enough to have three months travelling with my partner in Europe and

Indonesia. This was made possible because Ruth Apelt stepped down from ALEC Convenor to take on the Coordinator role in my absence. It was a busy time of year but Ruth managed to not only keep ALEC afloat but thriving. Supporting the campaign against the Angela Pamela uranium project to victory; supporting the development of the Gardens for Food workshops; guiding the publication of the *Alice Springs Veggie Garden Companion*; maintaining a community voice for sustainable planning decisions in Alice Springs; while also co-facilitating the Climate Action Group *Living Smart workshops*; organising the second desertSMART EcoFair; and being an active mother at the Steiner school.

The last nine months have been incredibly busy for ALEC. The desertSMART EcoFair was a success with the partnership between ALEC and Olive Pink Botanic Gardens strengthening. Maggie Turnbull was recruited to manage desertSMART COOLmob. The lease between ALEC and the Alice Springs Town Council to establish a community garden at Frances Smith was signed in December 2010. A partnership developed with Desert Knowledge Australia to organise *Clean Energy and Climate Futures* week in March 2010, which saw the Beyond Zero Emissions team launch their national stationary energy plan and consolidating support for a zero carbon Alice Spring plan. ALEC was also successful in attracting funding from Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) to facilitate the *'Learning by doing'* soil conservation workshops at Ilparpa claypans with Batchelor Institute stu-

dents. All of these activities happened in the background of ALEC taking on the biggest program of its life, *Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses*. The successful recruitment of Les Seddon to Program Manager and the office fit-out would not have happened without Ruth stepping up to fill the capacity gap between general ALEC activity and future program development. Thanks Ruth!

ALEC is more than the sum of its parts. As a local organisation, ALEC is strongly working towards community resilience which is focused on the desertSMART principles of renewable energy, sensible water use, local food production, sustainable building controls, better waste management and **social inclusion. ALEC's strength is its ability to advocate on** issues of regional and national importance, while supporting the professional development and delivery of urban sustainability initiatives.

ALEC has come a long way over its three decades of existence. The passion for environmental and social justice is as strong now as it was in the 1980s. We are now entering the era of carbon pricing which presents both challenges and opportunities for Central Australia. As we enter 2011-2012, ALEC is a healthy organisation – with greater administrative support and a broadening of the campaign agenda – **ALEC and its vision for 'healthy futures for arid lands and people'** is becoming more relevant than ever.

So, get involved and get active.

ALEC's strength is its ability to advocate on issues of regional and national importance, while supporting the professional development and delivery of urban sustainability initiatives.



ALEC Management Committee 2010-11

Public Officer - Tom Clemens

Convenor - Stewart Baillie (May 2010-January 2011) - current

Ruth Apelt* (January 2011– June 2011)

Deputy Convenor - Glenn Marshall (January 2011-June 2011)

Treasurer - Mark Keyworth

Secretary - Edan Baxter

General Member - Robbie Henderson

General Member - Jenny Pender

General Member - Emily Webster

General Member - Emma Chessell

Ex Officio - Jimmy Cocking

* Acting Coordinator July– late September 2010 and acting Business and Operations Manager from late June– late October 2011—at which points - Ruth temporarily stood down from the Management Committee and Stewart Baillie stepped up to be Convenor.



ALEC Structure

2010-11	Nuclear Free Coalition—volunteer	Programs
ALEC	-----	desertSMART COOLmob - 1.0FTE, 0.2FTE
Coordinator – 0.8FTE	10.2 FTE positions at ALEC	Alice Water Smart – 5 x 1.0FTE
Business and Operations Manager – 0.6FTE		Projects
Programs		BNI 0.6FTE and 0.4FTE
desertSMART COOLmob - 1.0FTE, 0.2FTE		Community Garden 2 x 0.8FTE
Alice Water Smart – 5 x 1.0FTE		Climate Change 2 x 0.6FTE
Projects		
BNI 0.6FTE and 0.4FTE	2011-12	
Uranium Info Kit 0.2FTE	ALEC	
Community Garden 2 x 0.4FTE	Coordinator—1.0FTE	
Networks/Groups	Business and Operations Manager—0.6FTE	
EFSCAN 0.6FTE for 19 weeks	Administration Assistant—1.0FTE	
Climate Action Group—volunteer	ALEC Campaigns Manager	



ALEC BUSINESS

REPRESENTATION

Local

- Alice Solar City Consortium
- Alice Springs Town Council Environment Advisory Committee
- Alice Water Smart Consortium
- Alice Springs Community Garden Steering Committee
- desertSMART COOLmob Reference Group

Regional

- Education for Sustainability - Central Australia Network
- Central Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
- NT Southern Regional Weeds Reference Group
- Alice Springs Region - NRM Council

Northern Territory

- Environmental Defenders Office NT - Board
- National Science Week Committee NT
- Territory EcoLink - Stakeholder Reference Group

National

- Future Forum Steering Committee

- National Environmental Roundtable

SUBMISSIONS

- NT Parks and Wildlife *Draft Joint Management Plan for East MacDonnell Ranges*
- Northern Territory Government *Native Vegetation Management Act and Pastoral Lands Amendment Act*—with ECNT and ACF.
- Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport *Alice Springs Water Resource Strategy Review*

ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Australian Environment Network
- Future Forum Steering Committee and General Member
- NT Chamber of Commerce
- Lock the Gate Alliance
- Boomerang Alliance
- National Sustainable Events Network
- Australian Association for Environmental Educators
- Right to A Home Coalition
- Remote Indigenous Gardens Network

ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT AND HOSTING

ALEC continues to provide organisational support to a range of local community groups and hosted projects

including:

- desertSMART COOLmob
- desertSMART Homes and Business
- Beyond Nuclear Initiative (national)
- Climate Action Group
- Alice Springs Community Garden Network
- Education for Sustainability - Central Australia Network
- Food not Bombs (Soup Kitchen)
- Families for a Nuclear-Free Future
- Central Australian Nuclear Free Alliance

EVENTS

- desertSMART EcoFair - October 2010
 - 32 stalls participated
 - 18 presentations
 - 1050 people attended
- Clean Energy and Climate Week - late March 2011
- Participation in Alice Desert Festival September 2010
 - Catering with camel burger stall, information and night markets.
- Participation in Wide Open Space Festival May 2011
 - Catering with camel burger stall

*"We know there are many great examples of people and organisations working everyday to achieve better protection for our environment and heritage. And we know that to achieve a more sustainable Australia a community by community approach is needed." Environment Minister Tony Burke**

* Media Release from <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/2011/mr20110701.html> on announcing \$25K increase to Operational Funding for ALEC, Environment Centre NT, Nature Conservation Council NSW and the Total Environment Centre



PARTNERSHIPS

Environment Centre NT

BNi position

Desert Knowledge Australia

Olive Pink Botanic Gardens

Alice Springs Town Council

Batchelor Institute

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport

Power and Water Corporation—COOLmob vulnerable households, community garden,

Environment Centre NT - on-going, strategic partnership, regular communications, shared media releases, submissions and coordinated approaches to environmental issues and sustainable development in the Territory.

Desert Knowledge Australia - Clean Energy and Climate Week

Olive Pink Botanic Gardens - desertSMART EcoFair and member events

Watch This Space - creative input into Community Garden

Centralian Middle School - Community Garden Network

Batchelor Institute - 'Learning by Doing' Soil Rehabilitation and Conservation Workshop series

Centralian Land Management Association - 'Learning by Doing' Soil Rehabilitation and Conservation Workshop series

NRETAS - 'Learning by Doing' Soil Rehabilitation and Conservation Workshop series

EFSCAN partnership

Live and Learn Environmental Education

\$5000 Olive Pink Botanic Gardens

\$5000 ALEC

\$10 000 Alice Solar City

ALEC GRANTS 2010-11

Operational Funding

\$77 000 NT Government—Natural Resources Environment, The Arts and Sport

\$30 000 GVEHO Dept Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

\$25 000 GVEHO Dept Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities—bonus

Project Grants

\$7700 Territory NRM **'Learning by Doing' Soil Conservation Workshops**

\$11 000 *EnvironmeNT grant* Community Garden Development Officer

\$7700 *EnvironmeNT grant* desertSMART EcoFair

\$7700 *Fouress Foundation* Uranium Education Kit

desertSMART COOLmob

Operational funding

\$82 500 NT Government—Natural Resources Environment, The Arts and Sport

\$45 000 Power Water Corporation Sponsorship

\$11 000 *EnvironmeNT grant* Education for Sustainability Media Campaign

SPONSORSHIP

\$5000 desertSMART EcoFair - Power and Water Corporation

\$5000 Olive Pink Botanic Gardens



HIGHLIGHTS 2010-2011

Araluen By-election

September 28 2010

As a result of widespread opposition to the prospect of an Angela Pamela uranium mine, the NT Government announced support for the campaign.

This has been supported by a motion in the Regional Parliamentary Sitzings in Alice Springs in March. The CLP joined the chorus against the mine at the Araluen by-election. However, email leaks and back-pedaling suggest it was most likely momentary.



Bonus GVESHO \$25 000

ALEC was one of eight environmental organisations to receive a bonus operational grant as part of the Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO) program. The extra \$25K will enable ALEC to increase its capacity and reach by employing administrative staff to support the wide range of ALEC programs, campaigns and activities set for 2012.

'Learning by Doing' Workshops

ALEC received a grant to develop the 'Learning by Doing' workshop series with Batchelor Institute., NRETAS and Centralian Land Management Association (CLMA). The workshop program was focused on soil conservation at the Ilparpa Claypans. Soil testing and site assessments were carried out in May 2011.

The earthmoving and soil rehabilitation aspect of the workshop could not proceed due to tenure and sacred sites considerations. The second workshop was held at Old Man Plains, Dept. Primary Industries research farm in September 2011. More than 20 indigenous students participated in the workshops.



'Closing the Door'

on climate change

desertSMART COOLmob closed out the competition to win the 2011 Melaleuca Awards for its innovative behaviour change

project Todd Mall 'Closing the Door on Climate Change', which encouraged shop-owners to close their doors to reduce air-conditioned air leaking out the door. This project may become an Alice Solar City project in 2011-12..



desertSMART EcoFair

The second desertSMART EcoFair was held at Olive Pink Botanic Gardens on October 2, 2010. It was postponed due to the wet and cold weather in mid-September. Approximately 1050 people attended, 32 stalls and 18 presentations. The EcoFair continues to build momentum within the community. Peter Latz (left) was a highlight as with the camel rides, circus skills and solar oven bake-off. The EcoFair is a partnership between Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, ALEC and desertSMART COOLmob and can only get bigger



HIGHLIGHTS cont'd

Alice Springs to become water smart

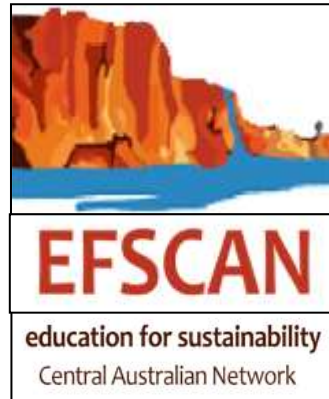
In 2010-11, ALEC became a consortium member of Alice Water Smart. It is a two year project that will help Alice Springs residents to reduce water use by 1600 million litres per year. Alice Water Smart will drive more efficient use of water in homes, businesses, parks and gardens; and Alice Springs will become a role model for others to follow. ALEC is contracted to deliver the Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses program from 2011-13.



Vegie Garden

Companion

In August 2010, ALEC published the Gardens for Food, Alice Springs Vegie Garden Companion. It is the most comprehensive food growing guide for Central Australia. 2000 copies were printed and are now sold at all nurseries and good bookstores in Alice Springs.



In 2010-11, the Education for Sustainability—Central Australian Network (EFSCAN), in partnership with Alice Solar City, Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and Live and Learn Environmental Education to employ Emily Findlay at 0.6 FTE for 19 weeks to produce excursion kits for ASC and interpretative signage for OPBG. ALEC is one of the founding members of EFSCAN, a multi-stakeholder partnership which continues to organise and lobby “To enhance the opportunities for young people to engage in learning that enables and empowers them to participate in and drive **the changes needed for a sustainable future.**” EFSCAN continues to lobby for more resources to be allocated to education for sustainability—while developing a professional development network for teachers and interested organisations. 2012 will see EFSCAN become involved in

New website being developed

Negotiations began in late-June 2011 with Energetica to develop a new ALEC website and in-built civiCRM—to manage membership, donations and events in-house...stay tuned.

EFSCAN takes off

In 2010-11, the Education for Sustainability—Central Australian Network (EFSCAN), in partnership with Alice Solar City, Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and Live and Learn Environmental Education to employ Emily Findlay at 0.6 FTE for

Community Garden Network Takes Root in Alice Springs

In 2010-11, the Alice Springs Community Garden grew into a Network. This was only possible through the employment of Kim Hopper and Eleven Greenstones as the Community Garden Project Officers.



The Network grew by establishing a partnership agreement between ALEC and Centralian Middle School. The Frances Smith site had progressed slowly and energy was

growing towards planting fruit trees and making vegie gardens. The Gardens for Food Workshop program was the medium for planting up to 15 fruit trees and building 3 raised garden beds within the fenced site. The building and mulching of swales at Frances Smith occupied the second half of 2010-11. A fence and water connection will increase activity at that site considerably in 2011-12.



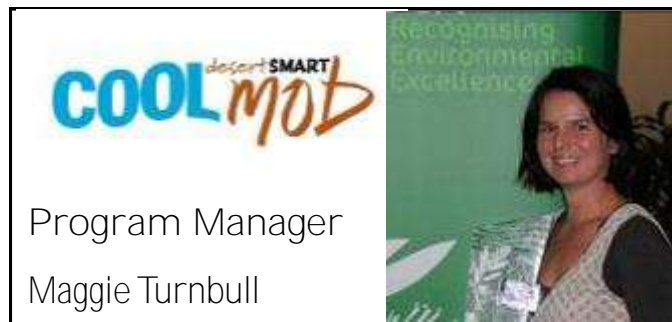
BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

from the ground up...

ALEC write up about Community Garden; EFSCAN; Gardens for Food; desertSMART COOLmob; Alice Water Smart; Climate Action Group and Living Smart Workshops; EcoFair; Chamber of Commerce; Right to a Home Coalition;







Program Manager
Maggie Turnbull

Annual Report 2010-11

Summary

desertSMART COOLmob (DSCM) program has been successfully delivering environmental education programs to Alice Springs residents since its inception in 2001.

DSCM was established under the Australian Greenhouse Office's (AGO) "Cool Communities" program. The recognized success of the program in Alice Springs (and Darwin) ensured it continued locally with the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and Power and Water Corporation (PWC) providing core funding. Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) was also pivotal in providing governance and organizational support and the program was until June 2010, known as DKACoolmob.

DSCM has been the launch platform for a number of projects including the development of the Alice Solar City Project, and more recently a role in the successful funding bid by PWC for The National Water Security Plan for Towns and Cities. Both these programs are due to finish in 2013 and DSCM is well-placed to support any ongoing ventures.

2010-11 was a year of change for the desertSMART COOLmob program. Whilst still continuing to deliver household water audits and other activities on ground such as workshops, media engagements and connection with desertSMART COOLmob members through the quarterly StayCOOL newsletter, the program also developed a Staged Strategic Planning Process to ensure accountability and longevity of the program for the future.

Highlights of the year included engagement of the new Program Manager in October 2010, engaging a part-time water auditor from October 2010 to March 2011, participation in the Climate Change and Energy Futures Forum, delivery of the Garden TuneUP paper to the AWA conference in March 2011, compost toilet building workshop in May 2011, delivery of the Todd Mall "Closed Doors" Campaign and the development of the "Sustainable Living in Alice Springs" media campaign. desertSMART COOLmob also signed a two-year business agreement with Power and Water Corporation to deliver a "Climate Change Resilience Program for Vulnerable

Households."

desertSMART COOLmob played an important role in the initial planning of the Arid Lands Environment Centre component of the PWC Alice WaterSmart Plan which will be the deliverer of household water audits from July 2011.

For the future, DSCM will focus on climate change resilience including an innovative hardship program to deliver a water and energy conservation program to vulnerable households.

Strategic Vision for the Future *Strategic Planning*

A 5-year strategic plan was developed in December 2010 collaboratively with a range of desertSMART COOLmob Stakeholders including representatives from the Northern Territory Government, Desert Knowledge Australia, Alice Springs Town Council, the NRM Board, Arid Lands Environment Centre, previous DSCM staff came together for a facilitated two-day workshop which ran concurrently with Top end Cool mob's facilitated sessions.

A vision, mission statement and a set of guiding principles were collaboratively created with stakeholders and structure of the program clearly mapped. This was approved in April

"Sustainable Resilient Communities"

Mission: To inspire and empower community-led change for a sustainable future.

Vision and Mission of desertSMART COOLmob



2011.

A vision for DSCM is for Central Australia to be made up of **“Sustainable Resilient Communities”**

DSCM's mission is to inspire and empower community-led change for a sustainable future.

Making it happen

Household Water Audits

68 Household water audits were conducted for 2010-2011 by casual and part-time staff were engaged to conduct audits.

The Household Water Audit program was phased out and reinvented as a Home Water Consultation through the Alice Water Smart Program.

Garden TuneUPs

DSCM in partnership with NRETAS further developed the household water audit program to pilot the 3-phase outdoor water efficiency Garden TuneUP program since November 2009.

The pilot program forms part of an adaptive management cycle and has progressed through to the third stage of development, incorporating client surveys with contractor feedback and basic statistical analysis of water use.

Professional garden consultants have been contracted to de-

liver the audits and almost 50 Garden TuneUPs have been completed.

Two phases have been completed and evaluated with the third phase expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Education for Sustainability Media Grant

The Education for Sustainability Media Grant is funded by EnvironmeNT grant. This project has worked collaboratively with the Alice Springs Youth Environment Network (ASYEN), Climate Action Group (CAG) and the wider Alice Springs Community to develop key messages for sustainable living for the Bellete Media Agency to create a series of TV Community Service Announcements. This project should be completed by November 2011.

Todd Mall Campaign

In 2009, desertSMART COOLmob (DSCM) received funding **from the Northern Territory Government's EnvironmeNT** grants to deliver a community-based social marketing campaign as a pilot project.

An Australian first, the DSCM Todd Mall Energy Efficiency campaign encouraged businesses to keep their doors closed for improved energy efficiency of their air-conditioners during summer 2010-11.

During the 2-week pilot campaign almost half of the businesses participated. Of the businesses not participating, 2/3 would have required structural changes to their building before they could shut their doors whilst the air-conditioner was running.

Air-conditioner use accounts for 50-60% of commercial energy bills so an energy efficiency campaign makes economical and environmental sense. DSCM has sought additional funding for 2001/12 and intends to work with Alice Solar City in the future to expand the program.

This project won a Melaleuca Environment Award in June 2011..

Sustainable

Living House

Since September 2009, this partnership project between Alice Solar City and desertSMART COOLmob, has enable Alice Springs residents to see first hand sustainable living in action.

The Sustainable Living House was born from a competition in **2009 and transformed a “typical” ex-government house** in Alice Springs to showcase sustainable living.



There are over 20 energy and water savings initiatives in the home including solar hot water, PV array, solar air heater, efficient fridge, water saving toilet, rainwater tank, grey-water **reuse system, white roof, ceiling insulation, “second” skin,** external shading and more.

Five open days were held at the Sustainable Living House with a total of 329 residents attending. A group of year 6 students (63 in total) from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart visited the house in May.

Each student wrote a thankyou letter after the event with one of the more memorable quotes being **‘I was a bit grossed out by the greywater system because it looked like poo and there were slugs everywhere.’**

Compost Toilets

A compost toilet workshop was held on Saturday 21st May with approximately 20 people learning the basic concepts of compost toilets, the different models available off-the-shelf and DIY and also a better understanding of the legislation.

Communicating the message

Website

A contract was negotiated in May 2011 to re-develop the

desertSMART COOLmob website www.desertsmartcoolmob.org. Using wordpress, the new site enables the program manager to update the website more easily and is also interactive. The website should be completed by November 2011.

Social Media

As part of the new website a desertSMART COOLmob twitter account has been open as well as a desertSMART COOLmob Facebook page.

StayCOOL newsletter

The quarterly StayCOOL newsletter is emailed to approximately 500 desertSMART COOLmob members. In the year 2010-11 four newsletters were distributed (Spring 2010, Summer 2010, Autumn 2011 and Winter 2011). The Summer 2010 edition saw desertSMART COOLmob develop the newsletter resource online using MailChimp. The average readership for the newsletter is just over 20%.

Living Sustainably with COOLmob Column

The Living Sustainably with COOLmob is a weekly column in the Centralian Advocate that has been running since April 2010. Guest writers are often called in and topics have ranged from air-conditioner maintenance to volunteer with a local landcare group, turn off your sprinklers to information

about mining.

Media engagements

The desertSMART COOLmob Program Manager has been interviewed on ABC radio 7 times including National Water Week October 2010 and for the Todd Mall Campaign (this story was picked up in Darwin and also ABC online news) and other stories. Market stalls were also shared with NTG (Sunday markets – Water Week) and ALEC for the night markets (3 in total).

Conferences and events

Alice Springs Show July 2010 – DSCM attracted sign ups for water audits and displayed information about water conservation and the household water audit program.

Ecofair October 2010 - DSCM contributed both cash and in-kind support including running the Solar Oven Competition. 1100 people attended the event.

AWA Conference Melbourne March 2011 - Program Manager presented the paper **“Addressing Unrestricted Water Use in Alice Springs: A Garden TuneUP Program”**.

Climate Change and Energy Futures Events (March/April 2011) – participant, panellist and speaker.



ALICE WATER SMART HOMES AND BUSINESSES Program Manager Les Seddon



*Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport
Alice Springs Town Council
Arid Lands Environment Centre
Tourism NT*

It is a two-year project that will help Alice Springs residents to reduce water use by 1600 million litres per year, equivalent to two months average water supply. Led by a consortium of government and community organisations, Alice Water Smart will help to drive smarter and more efficient use of water in homes, businesses, parks and gardens; and Alice Springs will become a role model for others to follow.

Alice Water Smart is a comprehensive plan delivered through several integrated projects to help the whole Alice Springs community become involved in reducing their water use:

*Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses
Alice Water Smart Accommodation
Alice Water Smart Parks and Ovals
Alice Water Smart Reuse and Reticulation
Alice Water Smart – Smart Metering*

The Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses project is **managed and delivered by ALEC's DesertSMART Water program**. The project is delivered as a fee for service to Power and Water Corporation.

The Alice Water Smart Homes project aims to reduce resi-

dential water consumption by 15%, saving approximately 860ML per year. Specific components of the Homes project and their objectives include:

Reduce indoor water use through targeted education and facilitating uptake of water efficient measures and practices including hardware rebates and retrofits;

Reduce outdoor water use through rebates and installation of water efficient garden products, undertaking of activities reducing the need for irrigation and the provision of services to assist the reduction of garden irrigation, focussing assistance on the highest residential water users;

Increase the capacity of residents to manage their water-use behaviours, particularly control of irrigation systems; and

Adjust the socially acceptable norms for residential water use in Alice Springs on a community wide scale, such as the adoption of voluntary community water rules.

Alice Water Smart Businesses aims to reduce the Alice **Springs commercial sectors' water use by 15%. The Business project is designed to engage the commercial sector in Alice Springs to reduce water consumption by promoting water conservation and providing water efficiency audits and tailored Water Management Reports for the 50 businesses with the highest water use in Alice Springs. Each property will be extensively surveyed to determine current water use and**

The Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses project is **managed and delivered by ALEC's DesertSMART Water program**. The project is delivered as a fee for service to Power and Water Corporation.

The Alice Water Smart Homes and Businesses projects aim to reduce residential and commercial water consumption by 15%.

Project Overview

Alice Water Smart is a \$15 million project jointly funded **through the Australian Government's Water for the Future** initiative through the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns program and the Alice Water Smart Consortium, which includes the following organisations:

Power and Water Corporation

Alice Water Smart is a comprehensive plan delivered through several integrated projects to help the whole Alice Springs community become involved in reducing their water use.



opportunities to reduce consumption through measures that represent best practice water efficiency standards.

A key component of the Business project is to promote water efficiency to commercial PWC customers and assist businesses in Alice Springs, through water efficiency audits, understanding how they currently use water, the opportunities for reducing current water consumption and the costs and benefits associated with implementing water efficiency recommendations.

Information will be provided to property owners and/or property managers in the form of an evidence-based business case that supports businesses to take action to reduce water consumption. Waterwise rebates are also available and eligibility for rebates will be promoted where appropriate.

DSW Team

Program Manager – Les Seddon

Commercial Water Efficiency Officer – Hayley Michener

Community Engagement and Change Campaign Coordinator – Neylan Aykut

Water Efficiency Consultants – Richard Bentley and Jethro Laidlaw

Finances

The total operating budget for the AWS Homes and Business projects is \$2,700,000.

The total operating budget for the AWS Homes project is \$2,025,000.

The total operating budget for the AWS Business project is \$675,000.

Key Activities

- Establishment of administration systems and premises
- Development of productive partnerships and relationships with PWC and NRETAS
- Promotion and general public engagement
- Alice Water Smart launch
- Old Timers Fete Stall
- desertSMART Ecofair stall and water smart workshops
- ASTC Night markets stall
- National Water Week Alice Water Smart Homes and Business stall
- Radio interviews
- Sustainable Living House info session and presentation
- Community of Practice presentation

Community Engagement and Change Campaign Development CECC Strategy workshop to:

- Identify target high water use behaviours

- Review behavioural change theory and lessons learnt from community campaigns in Alice Springs
- Identify desirable water use behaviours
- Identify potential activities to enable desirable water use behaviours
- Enabling Change professional development workshop attendance
- Evaluation of activities and compilation of effective activities into CECC strategy
- Trial Water Efficiency Consultations and development of high water users assistance process and resources

Successes

- Recruitment of project team
- Development of WEC procedures and resources

Challenges Ahead

- Completing 1000 WECS and Garden Water Consultations
- Completing 50 business water audits and water management reports
- Engaging the Alice Springs Community and changing the social norm of water use





Project Officers:
Kim Hopper and
Eleven Greenstones

Project Report, October 2011

After some background work into the opportunities for establishing a community garden in Alice Springs the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) and the community garden committee successfully secured a 5 year lease with the Alice Springs Town Council for a section of land at Frances Smith Park, Eastside. With money from an NRETAS grant the garden was able to employ a project officer for 20hrs a week to progress the establishment of the garden. This paid position expanded the capacity of the community garden to

source additional funding and partnerships, and to establish a robust community of support for the garden.

The Advocate came on board early in the project to sponsor a weekly 'Garden Box' article that has helped to spread news of workshops and working bees.

Some significant tree planting events took place earlier this year that brought a diversity of community members and visitors to the site as well as establishing our first two fruit trees (a Black Mulberry tree and a Bodhi Tree).

During the hunt for community garden sites a fantastic partnership was established with Centralian Middle School where the principal offered the old Ag. plot as a community garden site. A series of Gardens For Food workshops were hosted at the school garden to set up garden beds and a fruit orchard. The school has now employed a gardener that will maintain the area over summer and work closely with the school and community garden to develop the activities of the school garden.

Exciting news came in recent weeks with 4 grants being awarded to the community garden. This has enabled the pro-

ject to grow and expand its activity in the Alice community. The most significant of these grants, from the Ian Potter Foundation, will see the Frances Smith Park garden become a 'living classroom' of educational garden beds demonstrating best practice Arid Zone techniques.

An ArtsNT grant (in partnership with Watch This Space gallery) will support public art to feature at the Frances Smith Park garden. This work will tell Indigenous and colonial stories of the area as well as some of the food history in Alice Springs.

Another grant winner was our composting initiative. With **workshops due to begin next year we're excited about the opportunity to turn local 'waste' into rich healthy compost.** We will be setting up a variety of tests to find the best method for local production.

With a donation of funds from ALEC and the hard earned **fundraising money that volunteers raised during BBQ's, coffee making (thank you Isabel), film nights and music shows,** the Frances Smith Park site now has a boundary fence installed and some exciting projects coming up. The fence al-

The Frances Smith Park garden will become a 'living classroom' of educational garden beds demonstrating best practice Arid Zone techniques.



lows for planting to begin this November (the first 200 trees have been donated by Tangentyere Nursery). Irrigation will be installed along with other necessary infrastructure to support a thriving, educational, sustainable, community garden.. look out for the solar PV and Pizza Oven!

We have composting toilets, disability access gardens, a **'Harmony' garden bed, bushfoods garden and shady seating** areas on our horizon.

The membership model for the community gardens is currently a joint membership with ALEC. The model will be refined in the coming year to suit the expanded activity of the gardens and the establishment of a community gardens *Network* in Alice Springs.

We look forward to the great opportunities that will develop in the coming year and beyond. The Alice Springs Community Garden Network promotes gardens for community by community.. where does your food come from?





Muckaty women's welcome ceremony for trade union delegation, July 2011.

In the 2010 – 2011 financial year the Beyond Nuclear Initiative (BNI) continued to undertake research and campaign work central to building local and national awareness of nuclear issues and synthesise six years of successful opposition to a federal radioactive waste dump proposed for the Northern Territory.

Outline of the BNI project:

The Beyond Nuclear Initiative (BNI) seeks to highlight the adverse impact of the uranium and wider nuclear industry in Australia and to promote a nuclear free future. The project has a focus on the interface between the nuclear industry and Indigenous people.

In relation to radioactive waste management the project seeks to collate the experience and knowledge gained from a decade of effective community resistance to federal government waste dump proposals in both South Australia and the Northern Territory. BNI will document and celebrate these campaigns and help ensure the federal ALP develops a responsible approach to radioactive waste issues.

BNI further seeks to track the status of uranium and nuclear developments in Australia and effectively counter the growing uranium industry push targeting Indigenous communities. This push is underway via initiatives from the Australian Ura-

nium Association and individual uranium mining companies and has been identified as a priority by the federal Uranium Industry Framework process.

There is increasing attempt by uranium mining advocates and government lobbyists to promote nuclear power as a low carbon emission energy source, and the BNI project worker is in a unique position to communicate and counter this dialogue to communities being targeted for uranium exploration and mining based on the false premise.

BNI works to support, educate and empower Indigenous communities on the consequences of nuclear projects. The project seeks to work directly with Indigenous groups and networks including the Top End Aboriginal Conservation Alliance, the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance, Aboriginal Land Councils and other Indigenous groups, communities and stakeholders.

BNI initiatives also increase the ability of non-indigenous **environment NGO's to more effectively engage and actively** cooperate with Aboriginal communities and representatives on a range of nuclear and related land use issues.

The project hopes to leverage international resources and

BNI works to support, educate and empower Indigenous communities on the consequences of nuclear projects.

*BNI initiatives also increase the ability of non-indigenous **environment NGO's to more effectively engage and actively** cooperate with Aboriginal communities and representatives on a range of nuclear and related land use issues.*



political support by presenting the impacts and reality of the Indigenous experience with the uranium/nuclear industry in Australia to international groups and fora.

Since 2006 the BNI uranium project has been a dedicated initiative operating from the office of the Arid Lands Environment Centre in Alice Springs. The project reference group includes Cam Walker, Friends of the Earth Australia and Dave Sweeney, Australian Conservation Foundation.

At the end of 2010 BNI coordinator Natalie Wasley took six months maternity leave. During this period Lauren Mellor was employed two days per week as a project worker and this position remains in place. BNI also made a contribution to the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory to employ a worker one day per week during the maternity leave period.

The BNI coordinator has been based in Sydney since March 2011 to organise events and nationalise awareness and support for the campaign opposing the NT radioactive waste dump.

More information on the Beyond Nuclear Initiative: www.beyondnuclearinitiative.com

Project Funding:

From 2006-2011, BNI's core funding of \$100 000 per annum was received from the Poola Foundation (Tom Kantor Fund). At the start of 2011 Poola reduced its contribution to \$40 000, with another \$40 000 contributed by the Dara Foundation.

The 2010-11 contribution included a three day wage for the coordinator and a two day wage for the project officer, a modest budget for campaign expenses and a hosting/administration fee to the Arid Lands Environment Centre (10%).

Additional fundraising was undertaken during this period to support specific initiatives, with contributions received from a broad range of supporters and stakeholders, including:

Australian Conservation Foundation; Unions NT; Australian Nurses Federation (Victoria); Australian Student Environment Network; Friends of the Earth Melbourne; Maritime Union of Australia (Illawarra Branch); Medical Association for the Prevention of War (Australian and NT branches); National Tertiary Education Union (NSW Branch); SEARCH Foundation and Senator Scott Ludlam (Australian Greens).

There is funding committed for the BNI project to operate until March 2012.

Project costs:

BNI work involves regular 'bush trips' to meet directly with affected communities and discuss campaign ideas and developments. This often involves a roundtrip of between 500-1000km (starting from Alice Springs) and provisions for the community meetings.

BNI also coordinates frequent interstate trips for Traditional Owners and community members targeted for uranium projects to meet with supporters, engage with national media and lobby State, Territory and Federal decision makers.

There is also significant expenditure on resource production and postage of materials to remote communities.

Project Goals:

- Regular communication and strengthened networks with communities targeted for uranium exploration/ mining and nuclear waste dump
- National awareness of issues facing remote and indigenous communities struggling to resist nuclear projects
- Production and effective distribution of contemporary, high quality and culturally appropriate communication and campaign tools
- A two way learning and development process that brings a



The Beyond Nuclear Initiative project has facilitated campaign work and network building that would not have otherwise occurred.



Tennant Creek Public Meeting with Senator Scott Ludlam, 2010

greater understanding and appreciation of Indigenous decision making

2010-11 Project initiatives

- Continued pressure on Minister Martin Ferguson to carry out unconditional repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA), the law allowing the federal radioactive dump to be forced on the NT.
- Continued work with people at all of the affected areas to ensure their opposition receives national attention and that **an 'open, transparent process' of radioactive waste management 'allowing access to appeal mechanisms' (as per ALP promises)** is initiated.
- Continued lobbying of local, state/Territory and federal representatives to support campaign demands and initiatives
- Organised major rallies in Canberra and Tennant Creek, with involvement from the Tennant Creek community, NT and national politicians, health organisations and trade unions.
- Maintaining a committee position on the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance and helping coordinate ANFA initiatives
- Liaising with interstate campaign groups to organise events and public meetings focusing on BNI campaign issues
- Strengthening communication with Trade Unions and en-

couraging motions of support to be passed for campaign initiatives, including hosting a fringe event on the waste dump proposal at the 2011 ALP national conference

- Speaking at relevant public meetings and conferences in the NT or interstate or sending campaign materials to be distributed to delegates
- Submitting comments to government inquiries on nuclear related topics and encouraging/facilitating community members to do the same
- Establishing a collaborative partnership with Winanjikari Music in Tennant Creek and the United Struggle project to produce a campaign benefit CD as a funds and awareness raising tool
- **Launching the photographic exhibition 'Manuwangku – Under the Nuclear Cloud' documenting the campaign work and lives of Muckaty Traditional Owners for national circulation**
- Continued updating and maintenance of the Beyond Nuclear Initiative website, including archiving of audio and video interviews with nuclear-impacted communities
- Writing updates and articles for Environment Centre of the NT (ECNT) newsletters, Friends of the Earth (FoE) online updates, Chain Reaction magazine and trade union bulletins and journals.

More information on BNI's 2010 – 11 campaign work can be accessed at : www.beyondnuclearinitiative.com

KEY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NRWMA still not passed

The National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010 passed the House of Representatives in February 2010. Despite being listed for debate in almost every Senate sitting since, and having support from both major parties it has not passed in the Senate. BNI has arranged for Traditional Owners to travel to Canberra for many of these Senate sessions to speak to media and be present to hear the Bill being debated.

The Bill maintains many draconian provisions of current laws, including targeting the highly contested site at Muckaty and suspension of key environmental and Aboriginal heritage laws at site selection phase. It is strongly condemned by the NTG, Traditional Owners, national health and environment organisations.

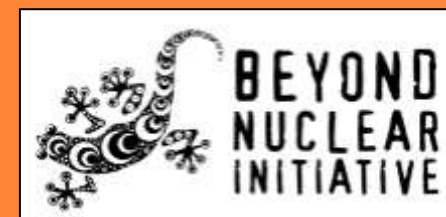
Court case initiated

A federal court case has been initiated by Muckaty Traditional Owners against the federal government and the Northern Land Council. The BNI coordinator operates as an agent for the legal team, communicating developments to the Appli-



Kylie Sambo and Dianne Stokes speaking outside Parliament House,

It is unlikely these remote communities would have had national or even Territory wide exposure for their current campaigns without working with the Beyond Nuclear Initiative



cants and obtaining information when required.

Trade Union delegation to Tennant Creek

In August 2011 a delegation of Trade Union officials from the Electrical Trade Union, Maritime Union and Rail, Tram and Bus Union travelled to Tennant Creek to meet with Traditional Owners and other community members. They pledged to raise awareness of the Muckaty issue to their members around the country and to support the campaign opposing the waste dump.

Summary

The Beyond Nuclear Initiative project has facilitated campaign work and network building that would not have otherwise occurred. Feedback from communities targeted by uranium and nuclear waste developments is extremely positive about the project and people are increasingly ap-

proaching the project workers to visit communities and provide resources.

It is unlikely these remote communities would have had na-

tional or even Territory wide exposure for their current campaigns without working with the Beyond Nuclear Initiative and without the ongoing support of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

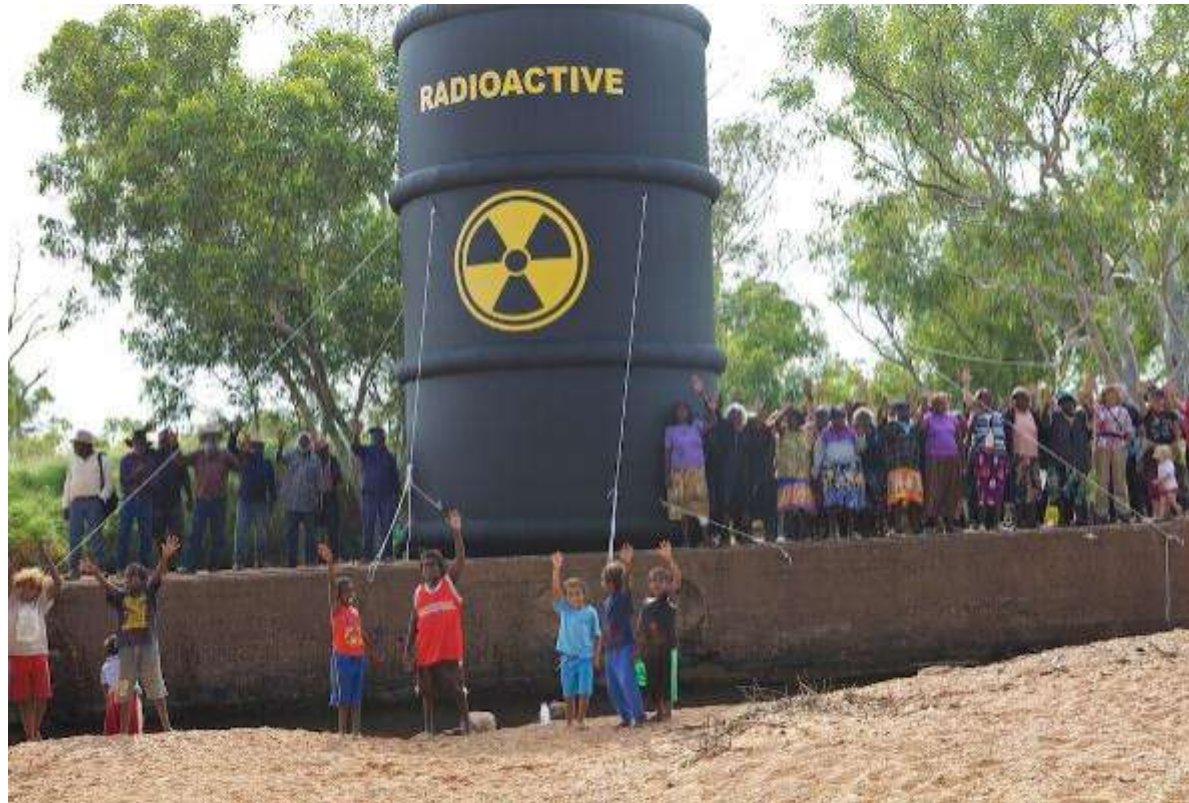
As we move in to Territory and federal election periods it is crucial for these campaigns and networks to strengthen and build a national profile and support base.

On behalf of Beyond Nuclear Initiative we would like to thank the Arid Lands Environment Management Committee and all ALEC members for providing ongoing support to this vital campaign work.

Lauren Mellor and Nat Wasley

Beyond Nuclear Initiative

November 2011.

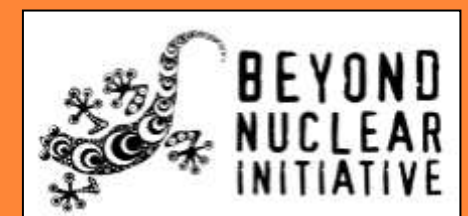


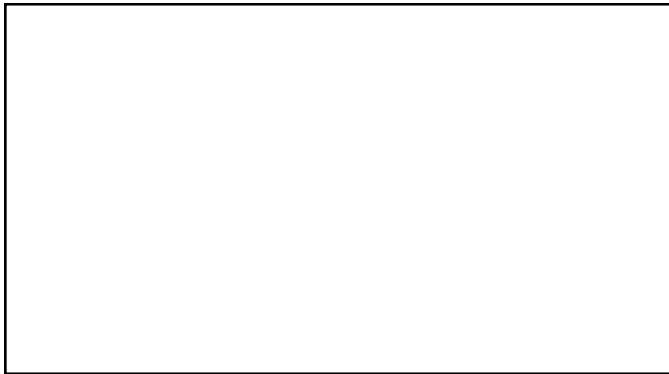
Symbolic 'No Waste' Bridge Block, Tennant Creek, May 2011



Australian Nuclear Free Alliance Meeting, September 2011

As we move in to Territory and federal election periods it is crucial for these campaigns and networks to strengthen and build a national profile and support base.





The uranium education project was funded by the Fouress Foundation in early 2011 to create educational tools to assist Aboriginal communities in understanding the health, environmental, economic and social impacts of uranium mining, and decision making processes for exploration and mining approval applications.

In recent years applications for uranium exploration and mining approvals have sharply increased across the region, and has placed increasing pressure on Aboriginal landholders and communities to grant exploration rights. The uranium education project undertaken by ALEC was a result of recognition of the lack of effective educational resources available about the impacts of uranium mining, and in response to requests by local Traditional Owners for better access to culturally relevant resources.

The aim of the project is to develop resources that meet the aspirations of Traditional Owners and local communities requesting accurate and detailed information on which to consider and evaluate mining proposals. Its aim is also to strengthen the relationship between local organisations working on uranium and nuclear campaigns such as ALEC, and communities affected by potential or existing uranium projects through the collaborative development of these educational tools and community engagement through schools, community meetings and recording the project in local languages.

FILLING THE INFORMATION GAPS

The uranium mining industry, with an abundance of resources, is actively promoting the benefits of its activities to both Indigenous and non-indigenous Central Australian residents. The advent of the Australian Uranium Industry's Indigenous Dialogue Group in 2009 has meant a much greater focus on targeting Aboriginal people with industry campaigns for uranium project approvals.

Much of the existing information fails to outline the heightened risks to communities, country and culture that are specific to uranium mining, and actively withhold information on significant industry failures on existing projects such as contaminated water leakages from Ranger uranium mine and the

industry's inability to rehabilitate sites like Rum Jungle post-operation.

Significant economic pressure already exists to agree to exploitative mining projects within remote communities which lack adequate provision of services and employment opportunities. Without a dedicated educational resource on uranium mining, available in languages and formats accessible to local Aboriginal audiences, ALEC lacks the resources to respond adequately to community requests for information on the issues associated with uranium mining, and means communities stand on a very uneven playing field when making decisions about mining approval with the uranium industry.

What is involved in the project:

The first initiative of the project will comprise of a community or individual use presentation using an innovative educational program called 'i-talk'. 'i-talk' is an interactive language program developed specifically to meet the challenges of information sharing in bi-lingual and low literacy formats. i-talk has a strong background producing materials from children's stories to an explanation of the bush court system in local Aboriginal languages. To view some of their work you can access the i-talk library online here: <http://www.italklibrary.com/>

In recent years applications for uranium exploration and mining approvals have sharply increased across the region, and has placed increasing pressure on Aboriginal landholders and communities to grant exploration rights.

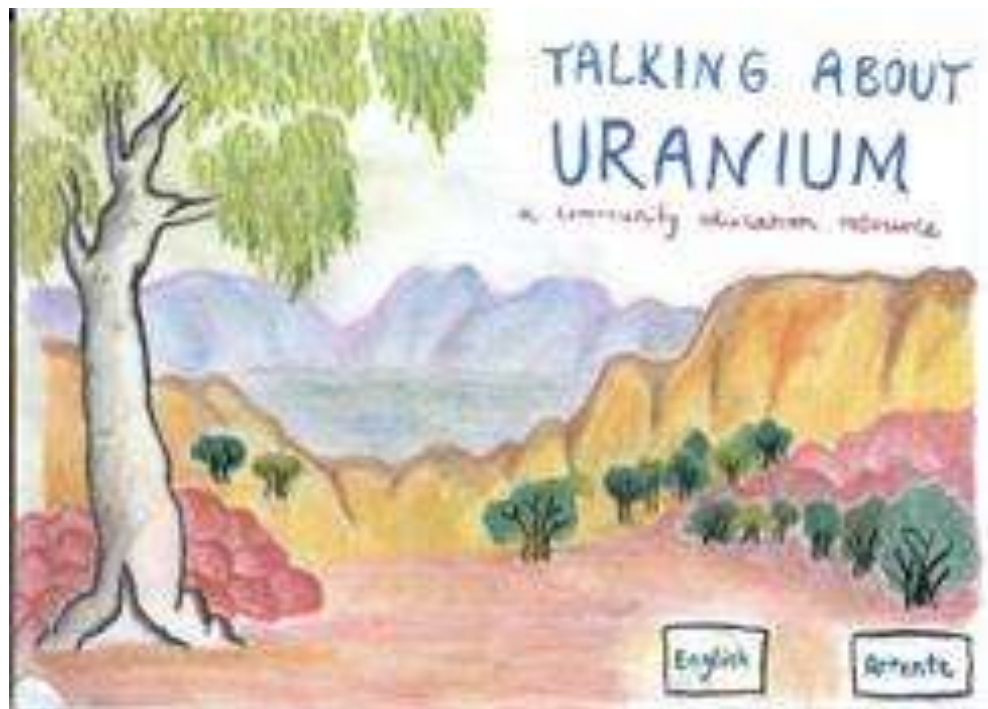


The presentation will be delivered through an audio narrative format featuring Arrernte storytellers active in campaigns against uranium mining, and an illustrated story depicting a community struggling to make a decision over uranium mining. The presentation has also been produced as an illustrated booklet appealing to many age groups. The presentation and booklet will become available as a class activity for teachers aimed at introducing 10 – 15 year olds to uranium mining and nuclear issues.

The booklet, presentation DVD and online presentation will be available in Arrernte and English in December 2011. i-talk allows for easy editing of recorded language, laying the groundwork for other Central Australian languages to be added or changed as the project expands. The strength of the i-talk format is that it can be easily accessed by individuals or utilised as part of a presentation at community meetings. The final version of our project will then feature in the **'i-talk' library database currently being rolled out to public and school libraries across the NT.**

What has been achieved so far:

-The project is guided by a reference committee comprising



An example of a typical screen from the project storyboard where the user can choose to listen to each screen in either English or Arrernte.

of representatives from affected Traditional Owner groups in the Alice Springs region, Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC), Beyond Nuclear Initiative, Public Health Association

NT, Medical Association for the Prevention of War and other interested local stakeholder groups. This group worked to develop the initial project scope, identifying where the information gaps about uranium, and obstacles to informed decision making lay, and work-shopping how to respond to each challenge.

-Adopted the i-talk presentation format and developed a script and storyboard outlining the experiences of an Aboriginal community evaluating a uranium mining approval application, interspersed with information about the health, environmental and social impacts of uranium mining and narratives on the experiences of Aboriginal people dealing with existing uranium projects.

-Held many translating and voice recording workshops to produce an Arrernte and English version of the project.

-Development of a draft class activity plan including a presentation, booklet and class activities exploring the nuclear chain.

-Launched the project at the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance annual conference in Alice Springs in September. The conference brings together representatives from uranium and nuclear affected regions across Australia, including supportive

The project is guided by a reference committee comprising of representatives from affected Traditional Owner groups in the Alice Springs region, Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC), Beyond Nuclear Initiative, Public Health Association NT, Medical Association for the Prevention of War and other interested local stakeholder groups.



health, environmental and human rights organisations. It was a great opportunity to gauge its effectiveness as a community education tool and look for opportunities to adapt and expand the project into other languages and regions. We received invitations to hold community presentations outside of Central Australia, and an enthusiastic reception from other organisations keen to incorporate the project into their own work.

-Once completed the i-talk program team will feature the presentation in their library database, available to school and public libraries throughout the NT.

The booklet, DVD and online presentation are due for production in December 2011.

The project received a grant of \$5000 from the Fouress Foundation, and an additional \$2000 local campaign funding to cover a one day a week wage for the Uranium Education Project Officer, printing and distribution of the booklet, translating and voice recording workshops, sound editing and artwork. We will seek ongoing funding in 2012 to continue the project.

Where do we hope to take 'Talking About Uranium'?

-Identifying and targeting uranium affected communities to organise community presentations of 'Talking about Ura-

nium', including the potential to record and distribute the project in local languages.

-Working with schools in regions affected by uranium mining to incorporate the 'Talking About Uranium' class plan and activities into school curriculum.

-Introducing the project to key health and environment organisations and Aboriginal Native Title and Land Council bodies across the NT, SA and WA for distribution to members.

-Working with the i-talk program team to take up opportunities to expand the project as the program software evolves ie the presentation will be available to access and share on mobile phones in early 2012.

As the first stage of the project nears completion in December 2011 we hope that it will reflect the dedication to working in cooperation with affected communities and that these resources reflect existing knowledge, are responsive to community concerns and build capacity for local communities to make informed decisions about uranium projects.

I would like to acknowledge the project reference committee, ALEC, Beyond Nuclear Initiative, the Public Health Association, Medical Association for the Prevention of War, the i-talk program team, the Fouress Foun-

dation and Mitch, Christobel Swan, Simon Dixon, Margaret and Amelia Turner, Marie Ellis, Barb Shaw, Margie Lynch and Marilyn Cavanagh, for your invaluable assistance in bringing the project to this exciting stage.

Lauren Mellor

Uranium Education Project Officer, Arid Lands Environment Centre

lauren.a.mellor@gmail.com

Ph: 08 8952 2011 or Mob: 0413 534 125



Lauren and Nat care for a joey near Muckaty Station

We hope that it will reflect the dedication to working in cooperation with affected communities and that these resources reflect existing knowledge, are responsive to community concerns and build capacity for local communities to make informed decisions about uranium projects.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark Keyworth



This is my first year as Treasurer of ALEC; there has been plenty to do!

Current financial position

The financial statements for the year to 30 June 2011 were audited by Basso Newman & Co; they have audited the **previous few years' financial statements**.

The Balance Sheet reports that at 30 June 2011:

ALEC is in a healthy financial position. Total members funds increased by over \$150,000 during the year to be \$348,434 at 30 June 2011 compared with \$194,863 at 30 June 2010

The majority of assets are current assets – either cash

at bank, term deposit or receivables

Fixed assets increased from \$4,439 at 30 June 2010 to \$14,937 at 30 June 2011. Further assets were purchased after 30 June 2011 for the Desert Smart Water Homes Project

Current liabilities totalled \$272,588. Unexpended grants, most of which was not due to be spent by 30 June 2011, totalling \$222,494 are included in current liabilities which is a conservative approach to dealing with these monies as it is not expected that any monies will have to be returned to grant funding agencies (no 2010 unexpended grants were returned)

Financial performance

The Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2011 reports:

Income increased from \$489,741 last year to \$611,683 this year. Government grants increased by over \$150,000 to total \$428,684 and donations increased by \$22,000 to total \$91,428. Income from rent increased by \$23,000 to total \$26,603 though income from fundraising nearly halved to total \$16,334

Expenditure totalled \$458,112. As usual employee expenses and consultancy fees was the largest item. Including superannuation these expenditures totalled \$260,840. Other major expenditure items were advertising (\$15,153), motor vehicle expenses (\$15,901) and rent (\$35,782)

The net operating profit was \$153,571 compared with \$96,666 last year

Financial activities during the year

The finance sub committee consisted of Ruth Apelt, Jimmy Cocking, Jenny Pender and I. Ruth was primarily involved in recruiting AAA and establishing terms of reference, and also had a large involvement in many of the other tasks listed below. The Desert Smart Water Homes Project is significantly larger than all other ALEC projects from a financial perspective and some of the tasks and decisions made during the year relate to the significant increase in income and expenditure that will occur in 2012 and 2013.

Lisa Chin continued to act as bookkeeper for a while after resigning as Treasurer. Nova Caddy then took up the position and after she left ALEC, AAA was appointed as external bookkeepers (AAA had been providing some assistance to the in house

ALEC is in a healthy financial position.



bookkeepers prior to this).

The accounting file was “cleaned up”. A number of none active projects with small surpluses were removed and the number of expense codes was almost halved to allow more uniform reporting between projects

For the first time ALEC is to prepare and install project budgets into the MYOB accounting package. Project Managers prepared budgets which, at the time of writing, are still to be approved by the Management Committee. Monthly financial statements are prepared and given to Project Managers, and the installation of budgets into MYOB will allow them to compare actual income and expenditure to projected income and expenditure, and to take decisions based on the comparison

There is still much to do in the next 12 months. The 2011/12 budgets are still to be finalised and may need updating before year end, the working relationship with AAA needs to continue to evolve, and financial management policies may need reviewing due to the increase in the size of ALEC.



ALEC Coordinator Jimmy Cocking at the opening of the Alice Springs Airport Solar Farm in November 2010

Financial management policies may need reviewing due to the increase in the size of ALEC.



FINANCE REPORT

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT

AS AT 30 JUNE 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	483,957	386,792
Trade and other receivables	3	122,128	12,751
Other assets	4	-	2,727
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		606,085	402,270
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	14,937	4,439
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		14,937	4,439
TOTAL ASSETS		621,022	406,709
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	43,058	13,972
Short-term provisions	7	7,036	8,298
Other	8	222,494	189,576
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		272,588	211,846
TOTAL LIABILITIES		272,588	211,846
NET ASSETS		348,434	194,863
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained profits		348,434	194,863
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		348,434	194,863



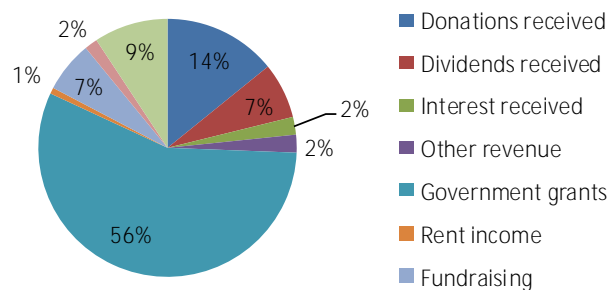
FINANCE REPORT cont...

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
INCOME			
Donations received		91,428	69,340
Dividends received	9	-	34,214
Interest received	10	15,680	10,877
Other revenue	11	23,415	10,935
Government Grants	12	428,684	275,859
Rent income		26,603	3,747
Fundraising		16,334	31,313
Recoveries	13	4,439	8,001
Consultancy Wages		5,100	45,455
		<u>611,683</u>	<u>489,741</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Accountancy fees		9,029	10,551
Advertising		15,153	9,394
Artwork & Photography		1,082	31
Bad debts written off		7,000	706
Bank charges		543	370
Building Upgrades		6,024	-
Campaigns		2,156	6,692
Cleaning		1,350	312
Consultancy fees		28,953	5,083
Computer expenses		3,164	2,526
Conference fees		1,368	32
Depreciation - leasehold land		2,590	-
Depreciation - office furniture and equipment		-	815
Donations		284	711
DSW Program Management		1,330	-
DSW Premises		2,206	-
Electricity		1,477	1,732
Energy audit fees		-	1,029
Employees entitlement	14	(1,262)	3,919
Event Expenses		4,456	-
Fundraising		4,889	18,723
Food and drinks		5,278	2,661
Hire of plant and equipment		2,015	4,065
Insurance		6,233	4,308

ALEC INCOME 2010

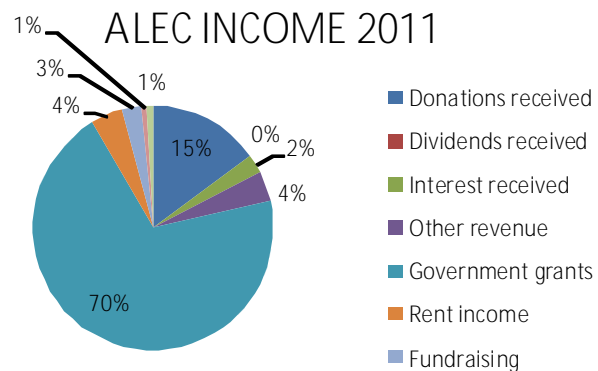


FINANCE REPORT cont...

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
LLEE - Contract Wages	6,887	54,086
Materials for Garden Challenge	-	1,000
Merchandise	-	2,396
Magazines, journals and periodicals	777	96
Minor Equipment	2,083	2,182
Motor vehicle expenses	15,901	14,893
Office expenses	1,132	391
Postage	815	1,321
Printing and stationery	13,786	6,135
Program Expenses	1,803	13,178
Project Contribution	6,194	-
Rates and taxes	3,103	-
Recruitment	470	240
Rent	35,782	30,165
Repairs and maintenance	1,216	529
Salaries and wages	213,074	145,446
Sponsorship	1,000	-
Staff training and welfare	465	-
Staff Recruitment	8,629	-
Subscriptions	590	401
Sundry expenses	415	1,344
Superannuation contributions	18,813	12,570
Telephone	4,511	6,908
Travelling expenses	13,978	24,675
Water and Sewerage	559	-
Workshop expenses	851	1,459
	458,112	393,075
NET OPERATING PROFIT	153,571	96,666
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	194,863	98,197
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	348,434	194,863
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	348,434	194,863



A big ALEC thank you...

To the individuals, families and local businesses who continue to support the activities of ALEC.

To the volunteers who keep the fundraising camel barbecues cooking.

To the keen community gardeners who have given many weekends to get it started.

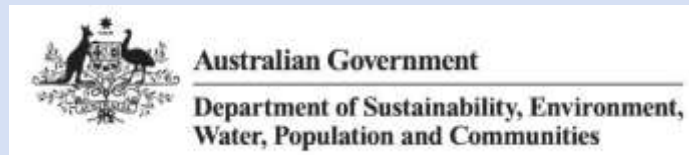
To the staff and management of ALEC; the brains, the body and soul of the organisation.

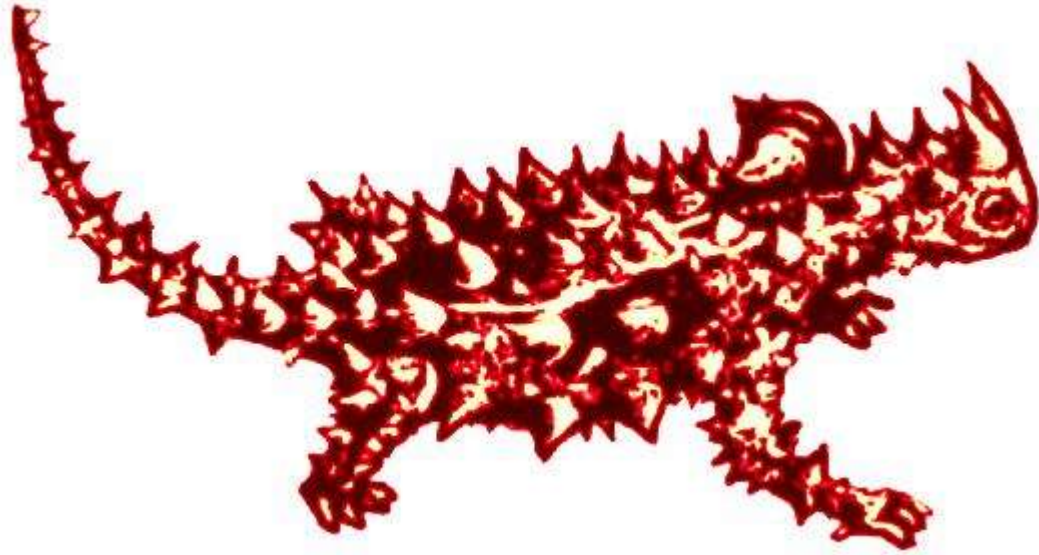
To those who stand up for the rights of all species to enjoy clean water, air and country both now and into future.

To all who recognise the importance of community institutions and organisations and become members, donors, active supporters and institutional partners.

We salute you!

ALEC acknowledges our major funding partners:





Arid Lands Environment Centre

Arid Lands Environment Centre

Haaren House

Enter Lindsay Avenue
(cnr Warburton St)

Tel: 08 8952 2497

Fax: 08 8953 2988

PO Box 2796 Alice Springs
NT 0871 Australia

info@alec.org.au

www.alec.org.au