



# ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

---

Annual  
Report  
2018-2019

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

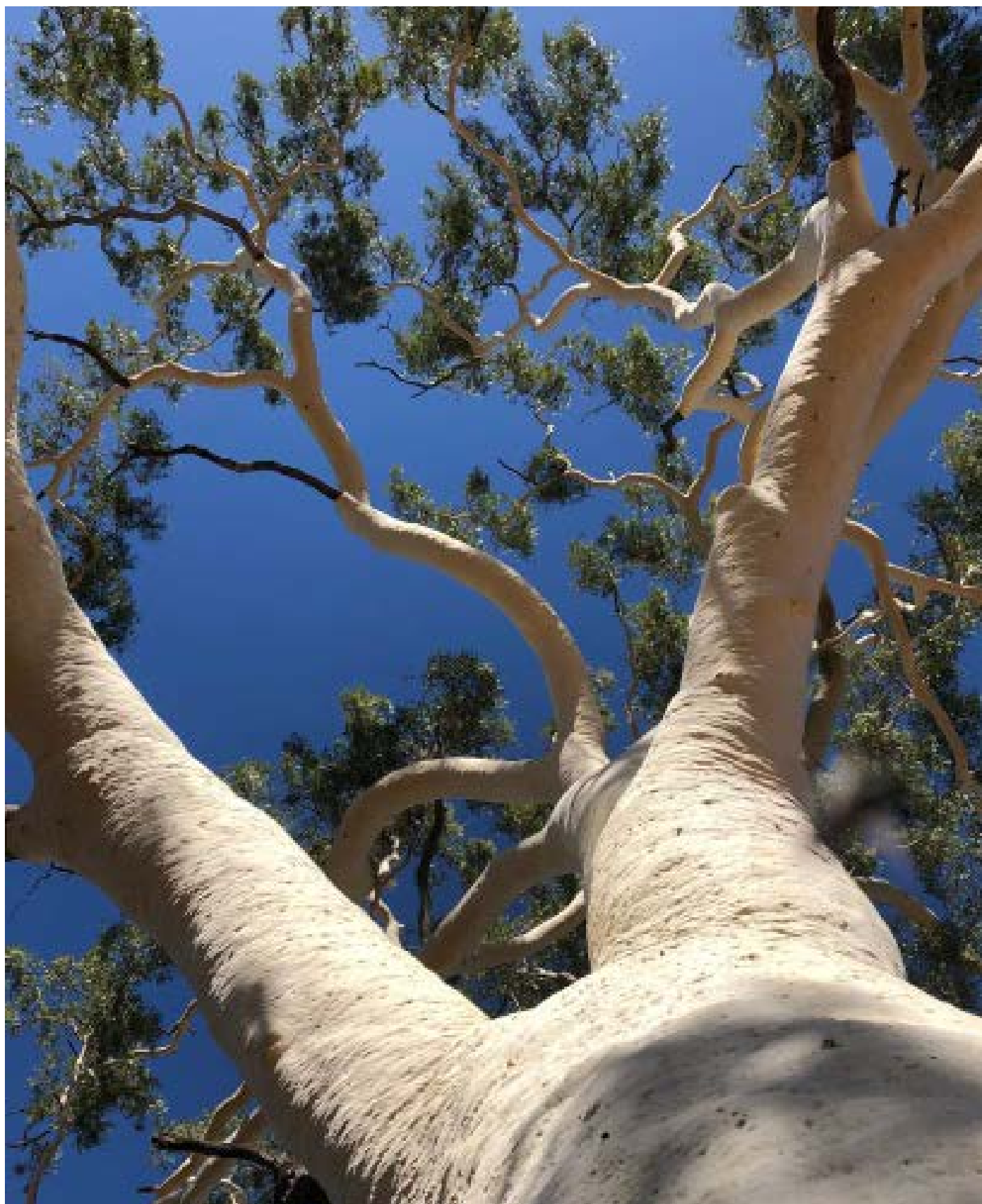


Front cover image: Wurre/Rainbow Valley - Emma Murray  
Inside cover image: Lizard - Hazel Volk

# CONTENT

---

WERTE/HELLO	5
CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME	6
CEO'S REPORT	8
YEAR IN REVIEW	10
STRATEGIC GOAL 1: Action on climate change in the arid lands	12
STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Ecosystems are protected, and natural resources used sustainably in Central Australia	17
The Fight Against Fracking - CAFFA	26
RePower to the People - RePower	29
STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Sustainable and resilient communities in Central Australia	31
To the Arid Edge - Arid Edge Environment Services	38
Growing Community - Alice Springs Community Garden	44
STRATEGIC GOAL 4: ALEC is an effective, influential and sustainable organisation	47
Words and Action - Communications Report	52
TREASURER'S REPORT	56
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	58
GRANTS ACQUITTED	76
THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS	77
THE TEAM	78



*Arid Lands Environment Centre acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands we work on and their vital role in caring for country for many thousands of years, now, and into the future. We acknowledge their Elders past, present and emerging and recognise that their sovereignty was never ceded.*



# WERTE/HELLO

---

Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) is central Australia's peak environmental organisation; defending Australia's iconic desert country for almost 40 years.

We are a strong and trusted voice for the protection of arid lands, creatures and communities.

We work in dynamic partnerships across vast landscapes. We lead courageously to drive positive change at all levels of government and industry.

We advocate for nature, support innovation in clean energy, build knowledge about sustainable living and resilience, and campaign for climate action.

We work tirelessly toward our vision: healthy futures for arid lands and people.

# CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

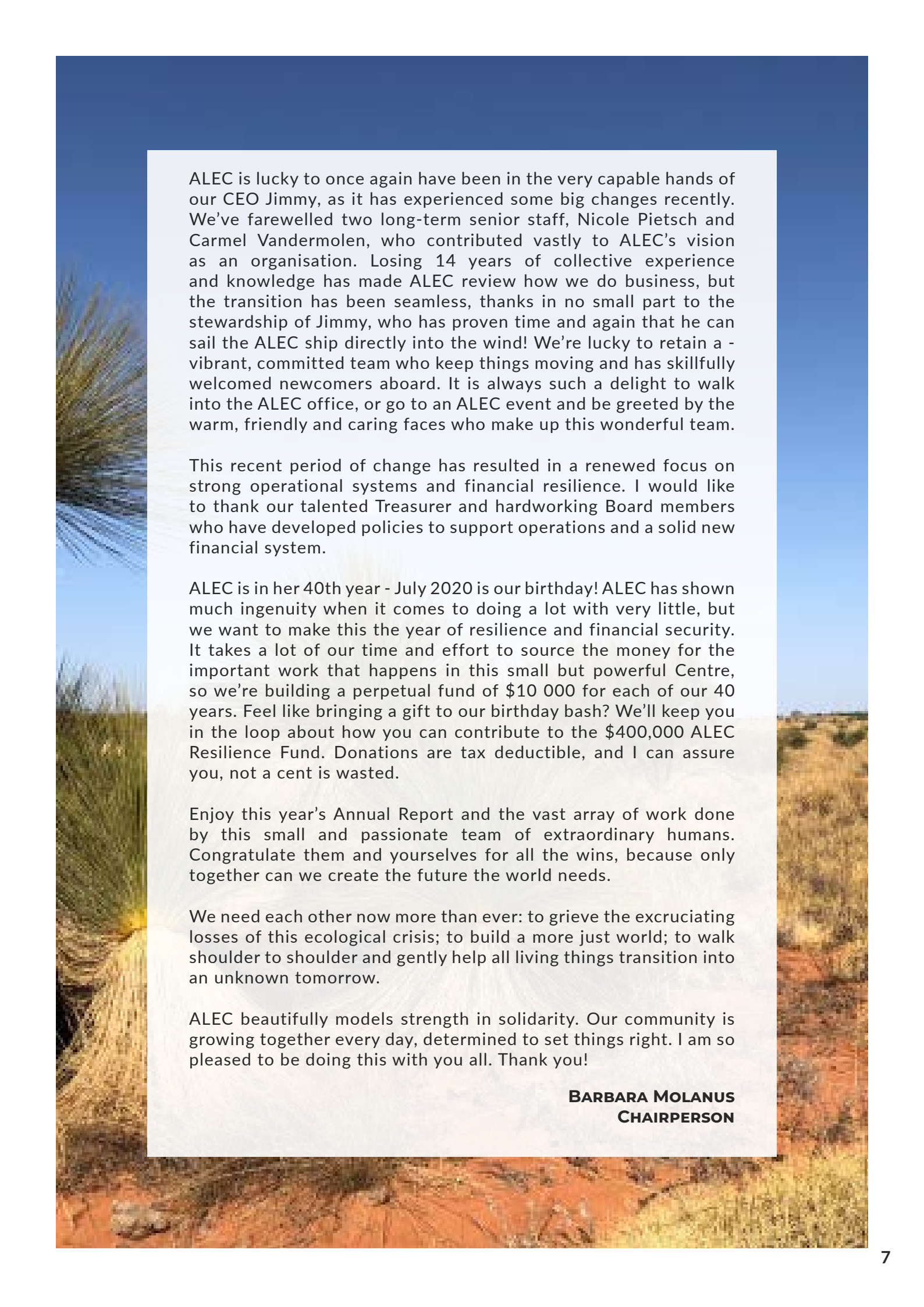
---



ALEC is proud to be a strong and trusted voice for arid lands, and we are always heartened to have other voices join ours. ALEC has long been at the forefront of the fight against the climate crisis in Central Australia, and in 2018-19 it's been fantastic to see a groundswell of other local groups joining in the action. Our organisation has a history of cultivating grassroots activism and we believe that united, we can build community resilience in the face of this global catastrophe and make our voices heard by those in power - together, we create a deafening roar.

This year, ALEC supported the young people of Mparntwe (Alice Springs) to take action on climate change at the November and March School Strikes. The number of attendees has grown every strike and ALEC is energised by the momentum of this movement. ALEC played no part in the organising of these events other than by supporting with resources and capacity, and this is testament to the work we have done to build strength and power in our community. This is the type of resilience required to achieve what needs to happen over the next decade.

It has been an honour to Chair the ALEC Board this year, and to work closely with a bunch of deeply committed people with diverse skills and broad networks. It has been great to spend evenings and weekends nutting out solutions and working together to provide support for the brilliant ALEC staff to do their jobs well.



ALEC is lucky to once again have been in the very capable hands of our CEO Jimmy, as it has experienced some big changes recently. We've farewelled two long-term senior staff, Nicole Pietsch and Carmel Vandermolen, who contributed vastly to ALEC's vision as an organisation. Losing 14 years of collective experience and knowledge has made ALEC review how we do business, but the transition has been seamless, thanks in no small part to the stewardship of Jimmy, who has proven time and again that he can sail the ALEC ship directly into the wind! We're lucky to retain a - vibrant, committed team who keep things moving and has skillfully welcomed newcomers aboard. It is always such a delight to walk into the ALEC office, or go to an ALEC event and be greeted by the warm, friendly and caring faces who make up this wonderful team.

This recent period of change has resulted in a renewed focus on strong operational systems and financial resilience. I would like to thank our talented Treasurer and hardworking Board members who have developed policies to support operations and a solid new financial system.

ALEC is in her 40th year - July 2020 is our birthday! ALEC has shown much ingenuity when it comes to doing a lot with very little, but we want to make this the year of resilience and financial security. It takes a lot of our time and effort to source the money for the important work that happens in this small but powerful Centre, so we're building a perpetual fund of \$10 000 for each of our 40 years. Feel like bringing a gift to our birthday bash? We'll keep you in the loop about how you can contribute to the \$400,000 ALEC Resilience Fund. Donations are tax deductible, and I can assure you, not a cent is wasted.

Enjoy this year's Annual Report and the vast array of work done by this small and passionate team of extraordinary humans. Congratulate them and yourselves for all the wins, because only together can we create the future the world needs.

We need each other now more than ever: to grieve the excruciating losses of this ecological crisis; to build a more just world; to walk shoulder to shoulder and gently help all living things transition into an unknown tomorrow.

ALEC beautifully models strength in solidarity. Our community is growing together every day, determined to set things right. I am so pleased to be doing this with you all. Thank you!

**BARBARA MOLANUS**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

# CEO'S REPORT

---



In the late 1970s a group of scientists, activists, land rights lawyers and conservationists came together to establish a group called the Environment Centre Central Australia (ECCA). The organisation was incorporated in 1980 as the Central Australian Conservation Council (CACC), and housed with the Alice Springs Peace Group at the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC). In 1992, just after the end of the Cold War, ALEC took on the incorporated status of CACC, and merged with the Peace Group. At the time, the big global issues were nuclear war, ozone depletion, deforestation and desertification. Global warming was widely accepted but the implications were not widely understood.

Fast forward to 2019, ALEC is in its 40th year since incorporation; climate change and water scarcity is threatening livelihoods in Central Australia and nuclear issues are being discussed in Australian parliaments again. Thankfully, renewable energy is now unstoppable, people are rising up en masse to compel urgent climate action, and fracking in the Northern Territory has become a national issue.

Within this context, ALEC has performed well, undergoing internal transitions leading to transformation. The departure of long-term staff has forced us to transform our financial systems and team-management processes. Donor income has increased as more people become aware of our mission to protect the heart of the country. Our supporter base has grown as more people choose to convert their hope into action. Our policy advocacy has hit new



heights in both volume and impact. Our environmental work is broadening from policy advocacy, community engagement and education to include on-ground projects on bushcare, community resilience and landscaping.

As the climate crisis escalates and Central Australians feel the worsening summer heatwaves and watch the desert burn in climate fires, ALEC has risen to engage with Aboriginal people and support environmental action in the Barkly and beyond. We've developed new relationships with philanthropists through the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network field trip to Alice Springs and Central Australia, creating financial opportunities for ALEC to achieve our vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people.'

Collaboration has been a key to success this year. ALEC has worked with a wide range of stakeholders from near and far to put desert country and people on the agenda. We've engaged in: climate action in Alice Springs; the establishment of the Barkly Environment Group; the campaign for strong environmental laws in the Territory; developing a cross-border buffel grass management plan for the Great Victoria Desert; and taking the fracking fight national.

ALEC's work is inspiring local people to step up and make the change, and we are now seeing broad community coalitions leading the way on climate, and ALEC in a support role. This is the transformation that is needed to combat the crises we face. The tightrope that ALEC walks as a community-based, regional environmental charity is to continually and consistently add value for the community and nature, while providing professional research and trusted policy engagement to government.

In this, ALEC's 40th year, we will be investing in building people power locally while exploring how best to engage the desert diaspora from across the nation. We need to stop fracking in the Territory and transform the economy to one that respects rather than exploits nature. We know that there are tens of thousands of people across the country who have red dirt in their veins. In 2019-20, we will be calling on all of our friends, supporters and colleagues to re-connect with the desert, with ALEC as a conduit.

Watch for the dust on the horizon - ALEC is on the move and you are on this journey with us. The last 40 years have changed the course of history, and now that we're warmed up - let's change the present and the future, together.

**JIMMY COCKING**  
**CEO**

# YEAR IN REVIEW

---

## JULY

Stall: Alice Springs Show  
Workshop: *Make Your Own Dishcloth*  
Event: Mataranka Protect Country Alliance gathering



## AUGUST

Event: desertSMART EcoFair  
Excursion: *Beetaloo Frack Free Roadshow* to Tennant Creek, Elliott and Marlinja  
Event: *Count Me In* with Australian Conservation Foundation  
Workshop: *Change the Story* with Australian Conservation Foundation

## SEPTEMBER

Event: *A Sunny Soiree - #Rise For Climate* at the Desert Festival  
Event: *Dates in the Desert* at Desert Knowledge Precinct  
Event: *Transition Design* with Cameron Tonkinwise

## OCTOBER

Excursion: Hermannsburg/Ntaria road trip on fracking  
Training: *Maths Through Movement* teacher training  
Representation: Jimmy is engaged with Community Business Reference Group (CBRG) on fracking  
Meeting: Jacobs Group (Australia) - consulting on environmental licensing and regulatory framework  
Event: ALEC AGM 2017-2018

## NOVEMBER

Hosting: Wiebe Wakker and his *Plug Me In* expedition  
Representation: Indigenous Desert Alliance Conference - Perth  
Workshop: Buffel free workshop - Perth  
Hosting: Environmental Defenders Office NT and public meeting  
Representation: Jimmy became Vice President Australian Conservation Foundation - Melbourne  
Meeting: AEGN briefing on NT - Melbourne  
Meeting: AEGN supported meetings with donors - Sydney  
Event: Global School Strike for Climate #1  
Event: *Environmental Law and Climate Policy* with EDO NT  
Meeting: *Community Strategy Meeting for a Frack Free Future* with CAFFA



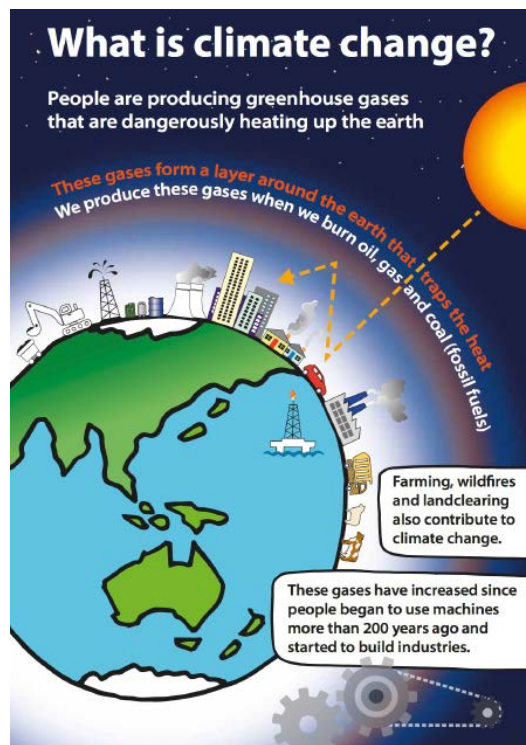
## JANUARY

Meeting: with Eva Lawler MLA  
Fundraising: Roll out of donation touch-points  
Meeting: with Dale Wakefield MLA

## FEBRUARY

Education: Development of *What is Climate Change?* brochure with Central Land Council (CLC)  
Education: *Climate Change in Central Australia* - Warlpiri film translation done with CLC

Strategy: Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert plan completed  
 Excursion: West MacDonnell Ranges to survey fire damage  
 Meeting: Skype with Ellin Lede on Climate  
 Meeting: with Environmental Protection Authority Chair  
 Event: *Undermined* film screening at Alice Springs Cinema  
 Meeting: with Environment Advisory Committee  
 Education: COOLmob Energy Efficiency Schools Program commences  
 Meeting: with Parks and Wildlife Commission NT



### MARCH

Event: Global School Strike for Climate #2  
 Event: *Clean up the Claypans* with Friends of Ilparpa Claypans - Clean Up Australia Day  
 Meeting: CBRG and ministerial meetings - Darwin  
 Event: *Accelerate Climate Action* film screening with 350.org  
 Representation: Annual Geoscience Exploration seminar  
 Event: COOLmob Live Energy Smart community forum

### APRIL

Meeting: Environment Advisory Committee  
 Workshop: *Fracking Submission Writing* workshop

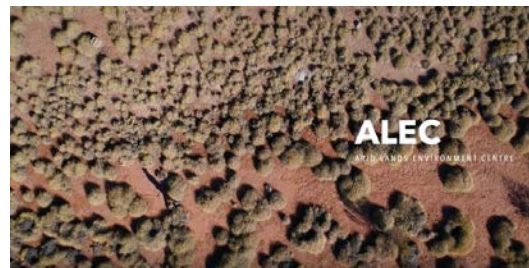


### MAY

Event: *The Climate Election* forum  
 Event: Volunteer onboarding session  
 Event: *Bad Laws and Broken Promises* community forum with Don't Frack The Territory and Environment Centre NT - Darwin  
 Excursion: COOLmob visit to Tennant Creek

### JUNE

Launch: *Protect the Outback* film released  
 Representation: CBRG - Darwin  
 Event: *Lhere Mparntwe River Walk* - Environment Day  
 Strategy: Progress Conference  
 Launch: *10Gigawatt Vision* for the Northern Territory - Darwin  
 Meeting: with Alice Springs Regional Weed Reference Group  
 Meeting: with Environment Advisory Committee  
 Event: COOLmob community presentation at the Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia  
 Event: *2040* film screening at Alice Springs Cinema





STRATEGIC GOAL 1:  
ACTION ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE IN  
THE ARID LANDS  
(PLANET)



# A STRONG VOICE ON CLIMATE ACTION

---

ALEC is a strong, consistent and trusted voice on the urgency for climate action in the Northern Territory and across the desert country.

In 2018-19 we:

- Continued our quest for information on coal-gas projects in the Pedirka Basin
- Advocated strongly for a ban on fracking and consistently raised climate issues at the Shale Gas Community Business Reference Group meetings
- Co-facilitated 35 organisations signing onto the NT Climate Statement, which called for legislated zero carbon emission targets, 100% renewable energy by 2030 and adaptation planning and implementation
- Met with NT Climate Change Minister Eva Lawler to compel urgent action
- Met with the Executive Director of Economic and Environmental Policy re. climate mitigation and adaptation
- Made a comprehensive submission to the NT Government's Discussion Paper
- Consistently referred to climate change in media, project submissions, meetings and discussions with government
- Continued to advocate for better support and representation of regions in national forums and as a member of the Climate Action Network Australia (CANA)
- Raised the spectre of climate fire in relation to the West MacDonnell fires that ravaged much of Tjoritja National Park in January 2019
- Advocated for stronger targets and adaptation action in the Alice Springs Town Council's Climate Action Plan

## LOCAL CLIMATE COALITIONS AND ADAPTATION

---

### **GROWING NUMBERS AND DIVERSITY**

In 2018-19 there has been an exponential increase in concern about the lack of climate action both at territory and federal level. In September 2018, ALEC organised the *Sunny Soiree* event as part of the Global Day of Climate Action. We also joined with the Environment Centre NT and NT Council of Social Services (NTCOSS) to develop an NT Climate Statement that was signed by 36 different groups and organisations calling on the NT Government to set a net zero emissions target and provide support for regions and towns to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Notably the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and Tangentyere Council added their voice to the statement.

In October, members of the Ntaria (Hermannsburg) community requested that ALEC staff present on the risks and impacts of gas exploration in the context of climate change. ALEC staff showed the *Climate Change in Central Australia* Arrernte language film and discussed the issues with senior members of the community.

In November 2018, the NT Government released a Climate Discussion Paper. ALEC supported many people to make submissions calling for zero emission targets, legislated climate action and support for communities to adapt.

ALEC rallied behind the student-led climate strikes in November 2018 and March 2019. The resurgence of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition is building momentum. Local members of Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network have generated more action on climate and fracking. Repower Alice Springs has continued to advocate strongly for 100% renewable energy by 2030 for Alice Springs.

The emergence of Extinction Rebellion Alice Springs and Fridays For The Future is bringing a diverse range of voices and tactics to the campaign for a safe climate. ALEC continues to be a resource centre supporting community action on climate and the environment by offering practical assistance, networks, equipment and knowledge.



CLC rangers read *What is Climate Change?* - Hazel Volk for Central Land Council

## COMMUNICATING THE CRISIS

The heatwaves over January 2019 stimulated new conversations with health, social service and Aboriginal organisations. The extreme heat brought home the reality that climate change is here and we must act now.

ALEC worked with the Central Land Council to develop resources for their members to better understand the climate crisis and what they can do about it. The Central Land Council supported the development of a Warlpiri version of the adapted Live and Learn and NAILSMA produced film *Climate Change in Central (originally Northern) Australia*. This film added to the Arrernte version made in 2017-18.

[https://www.alec.org.au/climate\\_change\\_in\\_central\\_australia](https://www.alec.org.au/climate_change_in_central_australia)



*A Sunny Soiree #Rise for Climate - Oliver Eclipse*

“

The extreme heat brought home the reality that climate change is here and we must **act now.**

ALEC also used donor funds to develop *What is Climate Change?*, an illustrated brochure. Thanks to the fantastic work by Pauline Clack, 300 copies of the brochure were printed and distributed at the Central Land Council meeting in Mutitjulu in April 2019. A double-page lift out was part of the CLC's Land Rights News in May 2019.

[https://www.alec.org.au/what\\_is\\_climate\\_change](https://www.alec.org.au/what_is_climate_change)

<https://www.clc.org.au/land-rights-news/publication/land-rights-news-june-2019/>

ALEC will continue to build on these relationships in 2019-20 to ensure that we have a strong, diverse and united voice on urgent climate action in the arid lands.

## INVESTING IN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

---

In 2018-19, ALEC has made active efforts to increase awareness of renewable energy investment opportunities across Central Australia. In August 2018, the ALEC CEO made a well-received presentation to the Barkly Regional Council entitled *Central Australia: Climate change, renewable energy and sustainable development opportunities for the Barkly*.

ALEC's advocacy for climate action through the Environment Advisory Committee of the Alice Springs Town Council saw \$250 000 funding over four years allocated to the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, starting in the 2018-19 budget. The focus of this initially is a trial leading to the establishment of a food waste composting service.

<http://www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Climate%20Action%20Plan%20Final.pdf>

ALEC has also participated in the reference group for the \$5M Intyalheme Future Energy project administered through Desert Knowledge Australia. ALEC continues to ensure that the needs of the community are represented in this project, which is anticipated to continue beyond 2021 and contribute to the NTG's 50% renewable energy target.

<https://intyalheme.dka.com.au/>

ALEC provided some input into early drafts of the Environment Centre NT and Beyond Zero Emissions' *10 Gigawatt Vision* plan for renewable energy. This report maps more than \$20B of investment in renewable energy in the NT over the next ten years.

<https://bze.org.au/research/regional/repowering-nt/>





STRATEGIC GOAL 2:  
ECOSYSTEMS ARE  
PROTECTED,  
AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES USED  
SUSTAINABLY  
IN CENTRAL  
AUSTRALIA  
(PLACE)

# COLLABORATING TO PROTECT NATURE

---

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR CONSERVATION

ALEC works locally, regionally and nationally to deliver outcomes that protect nature. ALEC's leadership in this space is through developing partnerships with a wide range of organisations to strengthen the collective voice for nature and link across networks for greater effectiveness and broader reach.



250 people attended the Indigenous Desert Alliance Conference in Perth, Nov 2018

### ALEC is a member of:

- Territory Natural Resource Management
- Outback Alliance
- <https://outbackalliance.org.au/>
- Tourism Central Australia
- Climate Action Network Australia

### ALEC is represented on:

- Onshore Shale Gas Community Business Reference Group
- ASTC Environment Advisory Committee: bi-monthly meetings
- NT EDO Management Committee
- Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee
- Alice Springs Regional Weeds Reference Group
- ALEC representation at forums, workshops and conferences.
- Outback Alliance Steering Committee

- 10 Deserts Steering Committee
- Lhere Mpartnwe Working Group

### ALEC supports/promotes events and activities of:

- Central Aust. Frack Free Alliance
- Olive Pink Botanic Gardens
- Land for Wildlife Central Australia
- Alice Springs Landcare
- Alice Springs Desert Park
- Intyalheme: Desert Knowledge Australia
- Environment Centre NT
- Lock the Gate
- Protect Country Alliance
- Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network
- Alice Springs Zero Waste group

### ALEC auspices:

- Alice Springs Community Garden
- RePower Alice Springs

ALEC staff also met regularly with our other Territory counterparts to discuss the Environment Protection Bill and work to improve and strengthen the legislation. It is anticipated that this will be enacted in early 2019-20.

On World Environment Day, June 5 2019 - ALEC partnered with Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and Alice Springs Landcare to have a walk and talk in Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) with Peter Latz. The walk attracted more than 40 people and ended with a sunset buffel bust.



*Lhere Mparntwe/Todd River Walk and buffel bust*

## **INSIDE THE ONSHORE SHALE GAS REFERENCE GROUP**

In 2018 the ALEC CEO, Jimmy Cocking was appointed to the Onshore Shale Gas Community Business Reference Group (CBRG). ALEC's representation on the Reference Group is not an endorsement, rather ALEC is focused on protecting the environment and the community by ensuring the implementation of the 135 recommendations from the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing.

It is a challenging operating space where outcomes are often anticipated by government bureaucrats and concerns are not adequately recorded. However, ALEC maintains the right to continue to advocate for a fracking ban both inside and outside the meetings.



*ALEC CEO Jimmy Cocking and Mark Stafford Smith in the Parliamentary Courtyard in Canberra for the launch of the Outback Alliance.*



## ONWARDS AND UPWARDS: 10 DESERTS TAKES OFF

The 10 Deserts Project is an Indigenous-led partnership for healthy country and people. The project launched at Parliament House in March 2018.

[www.10deserts.org](http://www.10deserts.org)

ALEC's role within the project is twofold - one as a founding steering committee member and the other as coordinator of the Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert (GVD) project.

As a steering committee member, the ALEC CEO contributed strategic and ecological advice to the project leadership. As a non-indigenous member group, ALEC's role was transitioned to being an expert reference group member for the project. The terms of reference have been drafted and a reference group meeting is planned for the first half of 2019-20.

As coordinator of the Buffel Free GVD, ALEC facilitates the development and delivery of the Integrated Buffel Management Plan for the Great Victoria Desert. The Plan is the first cross-border, bio-region focused weed management plan. ALEC chairs working group meetings that involve people from Spinifex Land Management, Rangelands NRM (WA), Alinytjara Wilurara NRM, Oak Valley Rangers, APY Lands Management, GVD Biodiversity Trust, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (WA), Ngaanyatjarra Council, Charles Darwin University, Primary Industries and Resources SA and Biosecurity SA.

The working group is focusing on the identified priorities of the Plan and supporting capacity building and collaboration in the region

The ALEC CEO facilitated a buffel free workshop at the Indigenous Desert Alliance Conference in Perth in November 2018. Planning and support for the third Southern Desert Ranger Forum to be held in July 2019 at Matuwa near Wiluna, Western Australia.

For more information: <https://10deserts.org/project/buffel/>



Checking erosion control at SDRF 18, Credo Station



# STRONG REGULATORY SYSTEM

---

ALEC's strength is its ability to cut through the machinations of policy-making, working within government frameworks to impact and influence policy, legislation and regulation. ALEC supports its active and engaged community to get involved where possible. ALEC's Policy Officer Alex Read has worked with Communications Manager Nicole Pietsch to amplify ALEC's voice on a range of policy issues.

ALEC continues to have concerns about the NT Government's enthusiasm for the shale gas fracking industry. Despite a focus on the implementation of the 135 recommendations from the NT Government's Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing, shortcuts and shortcomings are increasingly becoming a concern, especially the lack of thinking around climate mitigation and the weakening of recommendations in regards to waste water disposal.

The introduction of the Environment Protection Bill in early 2019-20 will be a huge milestone for environmental regulation in the NT. But without strong regulation and compliance linked to director responsibilities - the risks of pollution and lack of accountability remain. ALEC will remain engaged on these issues especially as projects that involved Underground Coal Gasification and permanent underground hazardous waste storage advance with NT Government support and limited oversight.



*Kalgoorlie Superpit*

## **POLICIES FOR THE PLANET**

### ***Environmental law reform***

ALEC worked with the Environmental Defenders Office NT (EDO NT) and Environment Centre NT (ECNT) to develop a submission in response to the draft Environment Protection Bill and Regulations released in 2018. We outlined its strengths and weaknesses, pushed for key provisions, and supported the community to understand the law and make their own submissions. We advocated for change in every communication with decision makers. We met with consultants to voice our concerns on regulatory issues such as planning law, licensing and contamination and mining.

Our advocacy led to changes to the Environment Protection Bill including the removal of a section which would allow a proponent to be exempt from complying with the Act.

### ***Fracking: reforms and recommendations***

To implement recommendations from the Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing key pieces of legislation needed to be amended, and environmental and petroleum policy developed. ALEC wrote submissions on multiple reforms to the Petroleum Act and Water Act. We also engaged the public on submission writing and utilised the media to ensure that law reform was occurring as required by the Pepper Inquiry.

We met with Department of Natural Resources, Department of Primary Industries and Resources and Department of Chief Minister. We spoke out about weak implementation of the Report's recommendations and watered-down legal reform. ALEC believes that any fracking poses unacceptable risk, and we'll continue to engage with fracking regulation by analysing environmental management plans and facilitating public engagement.



EDONT Principal Lawyer Gillian Duggin presents at the Environmental Law and Climate Policy meeting

### ***Policy Priority: Climate Change***

Climate change is the highest priority issue for ALEC's policy advocacy and is referenced in all relevant written submissions, forums, meetings and committees. Our advocacy with the Department of Chief Minister and our work rallying public support has contributed to a government commitment to reduce total NT greenhouse emissions and develop a climate change policy to operate across all levels of government, civil society and business. Pressure from ALEC also prompted Jervois mine to commit to using more solar power.

### ***Strengthening Water Protections***

ALEC is actively engaged in water planning and policy reform. We've been involved in a demand-management workshop and advocating for sustainable water planning for the Alice Springs Water Control District including promoting the Water Advisory Committee's ongoing role in demand management issues. We've written multiple submissions calling for the equitable and sustainable use of water and the protection of groundwater-dependent ecosystems across the Lake Eyre Basin and two water control districts. Our contributions to water policy are widely recognised for their importance in protecting community environmental interests.

## Submissions

### AUGUST

- Draft Alice Springs Central Area Plan

### SEPTEMBER

- NT EPA Amendment Bill ECNT and ALEC
- Amendment to Nuclear Waste Transport Storage and Disposal Act ECNT and ALEC
- Water Amendment Bill ECNT and ALEC (inclusion of mining and petroleum)
- Senate Environment and Communications References Committee Inquiry into Australia's Faunal Extinction Crisis ALEC and ECNT (media coverage)

### OCTOBER

- EPA Draft Adaptive Management Guideline
- National Waste Policy
- NT Planning Reform Stage 2
- ASTC Strategic Plan

### NOVEMBER

- Great Artesian Basin Management Plan
- Climate Change Discussion Paper: Mitigation and Adaptation Opportunities in the Northern Territory

### DECEMBER

- Draft NT Environment Protection Bill and Regulations
- Part 23 Rule Change Request for the Northern Gas Pipeline
- ASTC Climate Change Action Plan

### JANUARY

- Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill (judicial review, fit and proper person, enforce Code of Practice)

### FEBRUARY

- EPA Draft Guidance for Proponents on Stakeholder Engagement

### MARCH

- Water Amendment Bill (fracking recommendations, prohibit reinjection, surface water use)
- ASTC Master Plan Briefing Document
- Form of the Reliability Standard for NT Electricity Supply

### APRIL

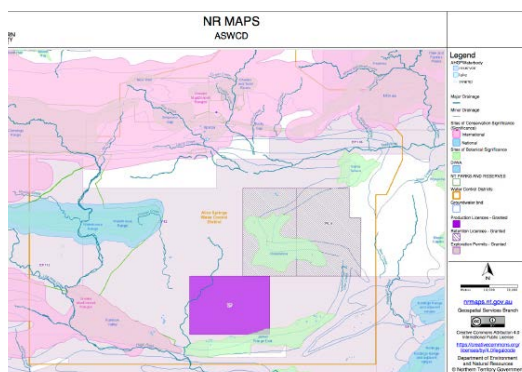
- Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee Priority Issues Paper
- NT Water Reform Directions Paper

### MAY

- NT Onshore Petroleum Code of Practice
- SANTOS McArthur Basin Drilling EMP
- Draft Ti Tree Water Allocation Plan

### JUNE

- Petroleum Reserved Blocks ASWAC Submission
- Petroleum Reserved Blocks ALEC Submission
- Social Policy Scrutiny Committee inquiry on the Environment Protection Bill



Map of Alice Springs Water Control District, under threat from fracking





# COMMUNITIES TAKING ACTION

---

Building people power is key to ALEC's work, and we actively support and enable community action to protect the environment. Through research and experience, ALEC has deep insight into environmental policy and the various stages and key intervention points of environmentally-damaging projects - and we have a duty to share this knowledge with the community. ALEC does this through utilising traditional and social media platforms, organising public meetings, film nights, demonstrations, events and campaigns.

ALEC supports community groups with meeting space, access to resources and fundraising capacity. ALEC also has the ability to host campaign staff to support community engagement and activation. This year, ALEC hosted the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance group and employed the Protect Country Alliance campaigner, Jesse Hancock. ALEC also supported Repower Alice Springs to access grants and establish a website [www.repoweralicesprings.org.au](http://www.repoweralicesprings.org.au) to enable greater public engagement on renewable energy. ALEC organised a number of sold-out events at short notice, including the films *Undermined* and *2040*, and the Climate Election Forum event, held in the week preceding the May 2019 federal election.



*RePower Alice Springs community group*

ALEC staff travelled to Tennant Creek and the Barkly on three occasions this financial year. ALEC staff presented to the Barkly Regional Council, met with a range of community members and attended the inaugural Protect Country Alliance meeting in Mataranka. In November, ALEC organised a crowdfunding campaign to support Traditional Owners to travel to communities and engage on the risks that fracking poses to country. ALEC also provided support to Tennant Creek locals to establish the Barkly Environment Group, which continues to meet regularly and grow support for environmental action locally and regionally.

In 2019-20, a range of issues will require sharp focus by ALEC and its supporters. The proposed Chandler project, a national hazardous waste dump in a salt deposit near Titjikala, will make some key steps forward. Fracking is anticipated to begin in the Beetaloo Basin and ALEC will continue to seek more information and engage the affected communities on proposed Underground Coal Gasification in the Perdika Basin.





Anti-fracking rally, November 2018

“

Building **people power** is key to ALEC's work, and we actively support and enable community action to protect the environment.

# THE FIGHT AGAINST FRACKING

---



The Central Australian Frack Free Alliance (CAFFA) has continued to work with the Alice Springs and Central Australian community to protect the NT from fracking. Recognising that campaign fatigue and resource limitations were taking their toll, we developed a more strategic campaign with CAFFA, focussing on three main areas:

- Campaigning to secure the Alice Springs water supply by having the water control district declared a no-go zone for shale gas fracking
- Broadening the Alliance to be more diverse and far reaching
- Corporate campaign against Origin Energy

## *Key moments/projects for CAFFA in 2018-19:*

- **Open Community Strategy Meeting November 17th**

To broaden the Alliance, CAFFA hosted an Alice Springs-community strategy meeting to create a path forward. From this five focus groups formed and have remained active to varying degrees: regulatory reform, community advocacy, political lobbying, corporate campaigning and creative action.

- **Story-Based Strategy Workshop series**

CAFFA worked alongside Kelly Lee Hickey to host a four-part series examining story-based strategy as a tool for effective, powerful and creative action.

- **Climate Emergency Action at Minister Wakefields Office:**

Story-Based Strategy led to a decision to target Minister Wakefield to act on climate change. Her office became an “emergency shelter” with over 100 people attending to show their concern and calling on the government to stop fracking plans and protect the Alice Springs water control district.

- **Origin Energy Campaign and action:**

CAFFA has encouraged people locally to call/email Origin Energy to ask them to not frack the NT. Many Origin customers have switched to alternate providers of gas. CAFFA has also pushed the ‘Dirty Origin Energy’ sentiment at market stalls and protest actions.

- **Political lobbying and relationship building:**

CAFFA has intentionally and carefully continued to build relationships with local MLA’s Dale Wakefield, Chansey Paech, Scott McConnell and Robyn Lambley. This has been challenging - with supportive MLA’s unable to deliver on many fronts, and those with decision-making power unwilling to act on behalf of CAFFA and their constituents.

- **Ongoing community advocacy:**

CAFFA has an ongoing presence at community events and markets. While this doesn’t always result in membership growth or increased group capacity, it’s important to be seen and available to chat to concerned residents.

## ***Protect Country Alliance***

In August 2018 groups and community members came together in Mataranka to map out a joint strategy for the campaign to stop shale gas fracking in the NT. This resulted in the creation of Protect Country Alliance NT (PCANT), which unites impacted landholders, regional and remote communities and civil society groups.

The Alliance is made up of:

### **Community representatives**

- Elliott
- Marlinja
- Minyerri,
- Borroloola
- Mataranka
- Jilkminggan
- Ntaria (Hermannsberg)

### **Organisations**

- ALEC
- Central Australian Frack Free Alliance
- Don’t Frack Katherine
- Environment Centre NT
- Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network
- Original Power
- Lock the Gate

With the formation of PCANT, two positions were created to facilitate and shape the Alliance - Jesse Hancock as the Network Coordinator in Alice Springs and Graeme Sawyer as the Alliance Coordinator in Darwin.



*Jesse Hancock presenting at Community Strategy Meeting for a Frack Free Future*

**Key joint initiatives this financial year:**

- **Darwin PCANT launch**

Over 100 concerned residents gathered to hear reports on the anti-fracking campaign and next steps.

- **November 2018 Fracking Fact-Finding Mission**

PCANT supported Traditional Owners from the Beetaloo Basin to travel to Canberra to lobby the federal government on fracking in the NT, passing through QLD communities that have experienced fracking and its impact on land and people.

- **Leading role in media engagement:**

The Alliance provides a consistent anti-fracking presence in NT and national media, and focuses on ensuring the voices of frontline communities are represented in the media.

- **Facilitated monthly delegate calls:**

Monthly calls from delegates in frontline communities about support requirements, and to get updates from the ground and input on strategic decisions. It's a challenge to maintain regular engagement due to the remote nature of many of the communities.

**JESSE HANCOCK**  
**FRACK FREE COORDINATOR**



# REPOWER TO THE PEOPLE

---



RePower Alice Springs was formed in 2016 with the overarching goal to source 100% of Alice Springs' electricity from solar by 2030, including Ntaria (Hermannsburg) and Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) which share the electricity grid. Early work included advocacy and engagement with government, business and community stakeholders; and a survey of community knowledge, priorities, and concerns around solar energy. We investigated starting a community solar project, which has the potential to decarbonise, decentralise and democratise our electricity system and demonstrate that renewable energy technologies work.

2018-19 has been a mixed year. At the start of the financial year we were busy with the Alice Springs Community Investment Survey. We surveyed people at markets stalls and Alice Springs Show. A total of 542 people were surveyed with 442 Alice Springs residents. 80% were keen to invest in community power with environmental and community development the main drivers. There were numerous media reports on the results and much community interest.

The Community Power Agency workshops in 2017-18 honed our strategy for a large scale community-owned solar plant with Territory Generation down to the legal details. We had received funding from the NT Environment Grant to develop the business case for a community-owned solar project. We progressed the legal



advice at a cost of \$9 800 to assist us in developing a legal entity to work with TGen. However, unbeknownst to Repower, TGen had been rendered unable to invest in renewables as a 'generator of last resort' under the *Roadmap to Renewables* reforms. This essentially ended the 12 months of work we had put into the relationship with TGen and disrupted our progress.

Despite this setback, Repower Alice Springs has maintained a strong presence in the community with our renewable energy advocacy. We made a submission to the *NT Climate Change Discussion Paper*, and participated in the reference group for Intyalheme Future Energy Centre. We've met with the Minister Dale Wakefield and advisors numerous times. As part of the desertSMART EcoFair we supported the *Future Energy Forum* which highlighted progress towards and barriers to a solar powered future. We've held regular market stalls, monthly meetings and strategic workshops.



Harshini Bartlett at the RePower Stall at Alice Springs Show

We're currently exploring opportunities to acquire the NT Environment Grant to maximise the benefit to a community energy project in Alice Springs. This could be a battery/storage project or high-level opportunities to assist in decarbonising the grid.

In 2019, we received a Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) grant to establish a website for Repower Alice Springs, which we did with the support of ALEC staff:

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

RePower Alice will continue to inform, educate and enthuse the people of Alice Springs about combating climate change, and to explain the related economic benefits - provided the government doesn't further legislate against success.

<b>HARSHINI BARTLETT</b>	<b>MALCOLM DUFFIELD</b>
<b>TIM BRAND</b>	<b>DAVID JAGGER</b>
<b>ROGER THOMPSON</b>	<b>HAYLEY MICHENER</b>
<b>ROSALIE SCHULTZ</b>	<b>LEONARDO ORTEGA</b>



STRATEGIC GOAL 3:  
SUSTAINABLE AND  
RESILIENT  
COMMUNITIES IN  
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA  
(PEOPLE)

# DRIVING SUSTAINABLE LIVING

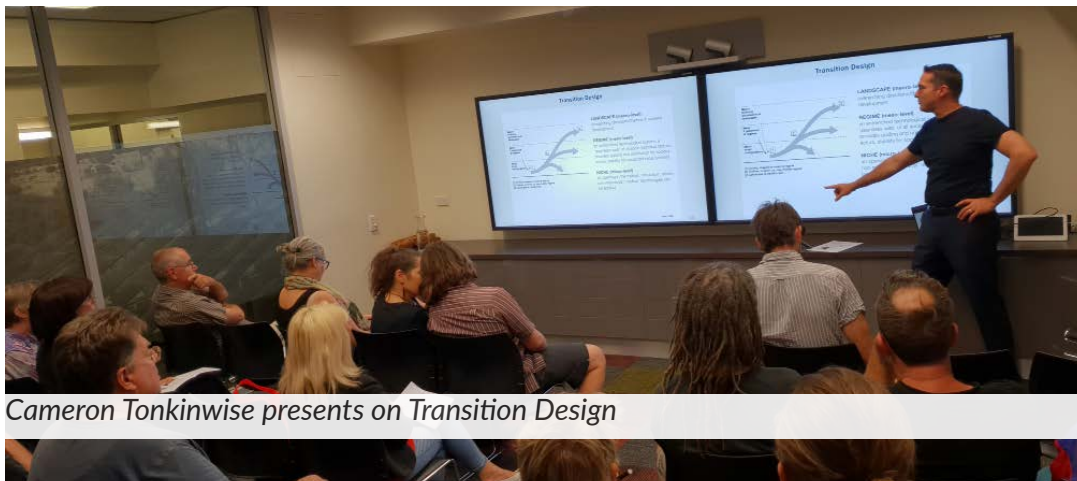
---

The desertSMART vision has been driving systemic change for sustainable living in Central Australia since the publication of *70 Actions to Make Alice Springs a DesertSMART Town* in 2005. The document had four focus areas: energy, water, waste and built environment. The vision has inspired the Alice Solar City and Alice Water Smart projects. Since 2006, Alice Springs Town Council has referred to itself as a 'Desert Smart town' in its strategic plans. *The DesertSMART Roadmap 2013-18* broadened the focus to include food and transport.

[https://www.alec.org.au/roadmap\\_to\\_a\\_desertsmart\\_town](https://www.alec.org.au/roadmap_to_a_desertsmart_town)

The desertSMART vision is embodied in the development and delivery of the desertSMART EcoFair and desertSMART COOLmob. The EcoFair has been Central Australia's own science and sustainability festival since 2009. desertSMART COOLmob operated from 2002-2014, focusing on a range of projects from household energy efficiency until the advent of Alice Solar City, then water efficiency until Alice Water Smart came about. From 2011 it has focused on food, waste and transport until the NTG cut funding in 2014. COOLmob has been revived for 12 months in Central Australia to deliver the NT Energy Smart project in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

In 2018, ALEC received an Environment Grant from the NT Government to review the DesertSMART Roadmap 2013-18. The review examines barriers to the Roadmap's implementation and identifies planning priorities, and will wrap up in early 2019-20 with findings published and a factsheet produced for public engagement.



Online public surveys and targeted stakeholder consultation provided vital data for the review. Interviews were conducted with experts, community organisations, researchers and government departments to evaluate the effectiveness of the Roadmap and identify opportunities for continued sustainability planning in the region.

This review was informed by the work of Cameron Tonkinwise following his presentation on Transition Design in Alice Springs. Transition design is an innovative and progressive planning process which utilises complex systems theory and public participation to combat wicked problems. It informs the theory of change behind the Roadmap's implementation.



## **CENTRAL AUSTRALIA'S SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL** *Thursday 9th– Sunday 12th August 2018*

In 2018 desertSMART EcoFair celebrated its tenth birthday. Over the last decade, thousands of people have enjoyed the event's engaging speakers, panels, workshops, and films. desertSMART EcoFair educates, inspires and activates the community around science and sustainability in Central Australia.

Over 1500 people attended this year's EcoFair, which featured special guests Amanda McKenzie (The Climate Council), Professor Jenny Davis (Charles Darwin University), Costa Georgiadis (Gardening Australia), Dr Karen Barry (University of Tasmania), Deepika Mathur (Charles Darwin University) and Sara Johnston (Intyalheme Centre For Future Energy).

In May 2019 Jasmine Story was hired as the event manager of the 2019 EcoFair to establish a foundation for ongoing success and support a desertSMART future in Central Australia.



*L to R: ALEC Chairperson Barb Molanus, Policy Officer Alex Read, Costa Georgiadis from Gardening Australia and Communications Manager Nicole Pietsch at the EcoHub*



## ***Eco-Science Schools Day***

Over 600 students participated in hands-on workshops on energy, water, land management, climate, health, science and technology. Presenters included: Engineers Without Borders Australia, Australian American Fulbright Commission, Ekistica, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Alice Springs Desert Park, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, NT Parks and Wildlife, Land for Wildlife, Olive Pink Botanic Garden and National Rural Health Students Network.

## ***783 ABC Outside Broadcast***

At the 783 ABC Outside Broadcast Community members were invited to test their science trivia skills in the Great Science Quiz.

## ***Transitions Film Festival***

Under a star-filled desert sky, over 100 people enjoyed a special screening of films from the Transitions Film Festival: *Living in the Future's Past* and *Operation Jeedara*.



L: Transitions Film Festival R: Amanda McKenzie at Women Changing the World

## ***Garden to Plate Event***

At Garden to Plate more than 100 people explored bush foods with Rayleen Brown (Kungka's Can Cook). Costa Georgiadis (Gardening Australia) provided a high-energy *Science of Gardening* workshop and Dr Karen Barry (University of Tasmania) ran the informative session *Growing Healthy & Disease Free Plants*.

## ***EcoHub***

This year, EcoHub stalls merged with the fortnightly Todd Mall Markets - hundreds of community members attended and feedback was positive. A special visit by Costa the Garden Gnome and Dirt Girl was a highlight.

## ***Future Energy Forum***

Around 70 people attended this forum, which was opened by Hon. Dale Wakefield MLA and featured inspiring presentations on the renewable energy transition by Sara Johnston (Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy), Sonya Williams (Cities Power Partnership - The Climate Council), Harshini Bartlett (RePower Alice Springs) and Alice Springs Mayor Damien Ryan.

## ***Women Changing the World***

Featuring Amanda McKenzie, science communicator and CEO of The Climate Council, the event explored women's experience of science and research careers. Over 80 attendees enjoyed presentations by Professor Jenny Davis (Charles Darwin University), Dr Karen Barry (University of Tasmania) and Deepika Mathur (Charles Darwin University).



Costa the Garden Gnome (ABC's Costa Georgiadis) entertains the kids at the EcoHub

“

EcoFair educates, inspires and activates the community around science and **sustainability** in Central Australia.





## COOLMOB ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

The COOLmob Energy Efficiency Program ran in Alice Springs from September 2018 to June 2019. The project included educating three different target audiences: primary school students, householders and the broader community.

### *Community engagement*

COOLmob offered household energy audit, with 20 conducted in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Useful educational resources were developed including *Save Energy Save Money* fridge magnets and stickers, and *COOLmob Energy Saving Tips* factsheet. These resources were distributed through community events, schools and to tenancy support officers within charitable and government organisations.



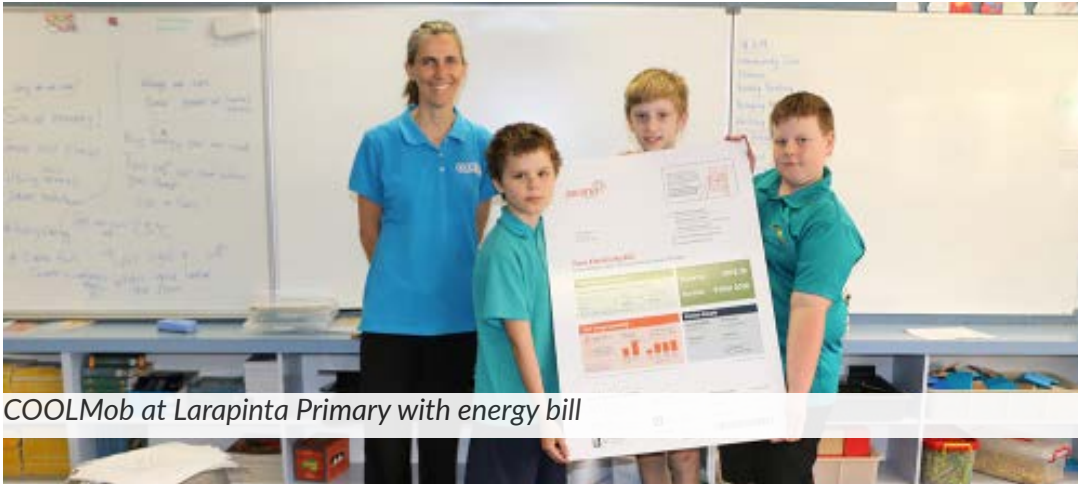
*Norman Frank and family talking energy with ALEC's Rachel O'Leary in Tennant Creek*

As part of this project, ALEC delivered six energy efficiency workshops in Alice Springs and one workshop in Tennant Creek. These included the *Live Energy Smart* event at the Alice Springs Town Council and a presentation to the Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia. To engage the community on the issue of energy usage ALEC also held six stalls: at Todd Mall Markets, outside Coles and IGA supermarkets, and at Bunnings hardware. Finally, a series of energy efficiency radio jingles were developed with funding from Jacana Energy, and were played on CAAMA Radio and 8HA radio.

### *Schools engagement*

ALEC delivered an Energy Efficiency Schools Program to seven schools in Central Australia, engaging 193 students. Schools received four face-to-face educator sessions which enabled the building of relationships and imparted a solid understanding of energy efficiency. These sessions were met with enthusiasm from both students and teachers.

The Program targeted the leaders of the school (years 5 and 6), in part due to the practical nature of the curriculum, with students measuring the temperature of different coloured roofs and learning about the importance of good building design. Students enjoyed learning to use a watt meter to conduct a classroom energy audit and identify energy savings.



At Bradshaw Primary School, students discovered that improving classroom lighting would save a considerable amount of energy. An audit of three rooms found a total of 110 lamps using 36 watts per lamp over a nine hour period. Retrofitting this with a 10.5 watt lamp would result in annual savings of \$1 770 for the three rooms and a payback of less than one year. The school is investigating making these changes.

## THRIVING IN ARID LANDS

---

One of the ways ALEC supports people to thrive in Central Australia is by engaging with Traditional Owners and building on their deep understanding and custodianship of these arid lands. Arid Edge Environmental Services, ALEC's enterprising arm, continues to work with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to share knowledge about environmental management techniques, and collaborate on project design and implementation. The team utilises community development techniques when working with community groups, specialising in participatory approaches to group facilitation and community consultation, particularly in cross cultural settings.

Over the past financial year Arid Edge has worked in land management, bushwalking track maintenance, food gardening, school landscaping and community projects. While Arid Edge was established to make financial returns to ALEC, it also enables ALEC's strategic objectives to be met using a variety of resourcing models.



# TO THE ARID EDGE

---



Arid Edge has had a busy 2018-19 with some exciting achievements and real environmental benefits. The end of significant ongoing funding for the Utopia Homelands *Amern Mwerr* Good Food Gardens Project at the of the 2017-18 financial year was a real disappointment given the great results achieved over the past four years by Arid Edge team members, partners and local Utopia community. This has also directly contributed to Arid Edge making a financial loss in 2018-19 as it adjusts to these changes.

However, the team has worked hard delivering on almost 50 projects and contracts, and there are exciting opportunities coming in the next financial year, including support from several partners to fund the *Amern Mwerr* Good Food Gardens project in Alice Springs from 2019 on.

Contract Type	Number
Landscaping - Lge	1
Landscaping - Med	7
Landscaping - Small	9
Landscaping - Maintenance	14
Land Management	4
Food Gardens	4
Consulting	5
Landscape Design	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>

## Highlights

Construction of landscaping at Braitling School was completed this year by Arid Edge's landscaping team and ProBuild NT (designed by Arid Edge with Sue Dugdale and Associates). This has been a significant project over several years for Arid Edge and was recognized by the Australian Institute of Architects with Sue Dugdale taking out best sustainable design at their 2019 awards – Arid Edge's rainwater harvesting and citrus orchard seating received special mention.

Bushcare work on the lower Todd River and in the Ilparpa Claypans with local Arrernte families has progressed well this year, funded by NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Eleven local indigenous workers have been employed on the project, clearing 5ha of buffel around 600 trees over a 15ha area across the two sites. This is a great project with real tangible benefits for the environment and local Arrernte custodians.



*L: Ilparpa Claypans Bushcare Crew, Dec 2019 R: The Morton family from Utopia with the Amern Mwerr Good Food Gardens cookbook*

Each winter, Arid Edge works with track-maintenance expert and dry-stone specialist 'Snapper' John Hughes maintaining walking trails. This year saw Arid Edge and Snapper John repair and upgrade all the tracks at Trephina Gorge and John Hayes Waterhole, including some spectacular drystone step work at the popular Chain of Ponds Walk in the Trephina Gorge National Park.

Arid Edge's ongoing work on food gardens and nutrition with the Primary Health Network (PHN) in the Utopia Homelands has led to the development of a fantastic cookbook based on recipes from the successful *Amern Mwerr* Good Food Gardens project. Developed by Arid Edge field worker Ra Sim, Arid Edge dietician mentor Ingrid Phyland and over 25 local contributors, this fantastic resource has been well received by Utopia residents and a range of professionals in the health/nutrition field.

In partnership with Tangentyere Designs, Arid Edge has recently completed designs for the redevelopment of landscaped areas at the Hermannsberg Heritage Precinct. This sensitive design includes the establishment of paths, shade, rest areas and re-establishment of the historical terraced vegetable gardens at the site – all in keeping with the heritage values of the precinct.



*Paddy Laughton from AEES and track-work team member Kevin Hart at Alice Springs Telegraph Station*

### ***Looking forward: new contracts***

Next financial year is already looking exciting with some substantial new projects on the way:

- Re-establishing irrigation and grass at the Santa Teresa football oval, in partnership with Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation and Melbourne Football Club
- Landscape design and construction of a new middle school playground at Araluen Christian College
- Establishment of seven new food gardens in town camps and support to other existing gardens through *Amern Mwerr* Good Food Gardens project in Alice Springs, in partnership with Tangentyere Council, NT Health Alcohol Action Initiative and PHN
- Ongoing bushcare work in the lower Todd River and Ilparpa claypans funded by National Landcare
- Waste management consulting with the Alice Springs Show

**ALEX MCCLEAN**  
**AEES MANAGER**



# SUPPORTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

---

Healthy, active, happy, skilled and socially-engaged people are key to building sustainable and resilient communities. ALEC works across a wide range of areas to achieve these objectives.

ALEC's supports the Education for Sustainability Central Australia Network (EFSCAN) which coordinates the annual EcoScience Schools Day. This year, for the first time, the Schools Day ran over two days and hosted almost 500 school-aged students.

The Alice Springs Community Garden grew with the addition of the almost-completed kitchen and accessible toilet which will enable the garden to engage a wider section of the community. This showcases what the community can do with the right resources.

ALEC's Food for Alice local produce market continues to be held weekly at 90 Gap Road, supporting local growers and supplying fresh, affordable food to the community. The model requires one manager and one volunteer in order to function. With around 35 customers per week, it provides a reliable income source for the community garden. In 2019-20 a business plan and electronic point of sale system will improve its operations.



*ALEC policy officer Alex Read picks veggies for Food For Alice*

## **EFSCAN EcoSCIENCE SCHOOLS DAY**

The EcoScience Schools Day is an important feature of the desertSMART EcoFair program, and part of a range of education offerings by the Education for Sustainability Central Australia Network. Schools Day provides an opportunity for students to participate in hands-on workshops on energy, water, land management, biodiversity, climate, health, science and technology at the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens.



In 2018, with grant funding from the NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources, this event was expanded to run over two days, August 9th and 10th, to cater for increased demand. A total of 487 students attended, with students from 14 different schools ranging from year 3 to year 9.

A total of 11 organisations and individuals dedicated their time, passion and knowledge to run workshops. They included: Alice Springs Desert Park, Alice Springs Town Council, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Ekistica, Engineers Without Borders, Gideon Singer, Land for Wildlife, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, National Rural Health Students Network, Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, and Parks and Wildlife Commission NT.

A booklet was given to schools prior to the event, which had lesson plans/activities for students to complete before and after attending the Schools Day.



Getting hands-on with science at EcoScience Schools Day

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by students, teachers and presenters alike. Gillen Primary School Teacher commented:

*"My transition class had a fantastic time at the Eco-Fair ... We attended a health session from Congress. It tied in well with the following Australian Curriculum outcomes and the students were engaged in the talk ... It was important for the students to visit the EcoFair at Olive Pink ... They learnt how their elders collected and produced food during the talk about bush foods. This is a connection to country that many students are not aware of. It validated the children who were aware of bush foods, showing that their knowledge was valued."*

Similarly, Dion Zhang from Engineers Without Borders enjoyed his time as a facilitator:

*"The most meaningful outcome from my workshop was seeing the kids excited ... and also demystifying what it means to be an engineer. Seeing them having fun and get inspired is a truly rewarding experience."*



## FOOD FOR ALICE

Food for Alice is a local produce market held every Saturday morning, supplying fresh organic food to the community of Alice Springs. Organisers source a range of seasonal fruit and vegetables from local farmers, the community garden and backyard growers. The market is now in its sixth year and has become a stable enterprise providing a reliable supply of nutritional and sustainable produce.

With around 35 customers each week, the market is a space for conversations about the environment, and growing food in the desert. It provides a contribution to food security in Alice Springs, demonstrating that the desert can provide healthy food all year round. It builds awareness of seasonal availability which helps to adjust perceptions of agriculture and the value of food.



*Some of the colourful produce on sale at Food For Alice market*



The market provides financial support to the Alice Springs community garden, which helps to promote the value of gardening and local agriculture and contributes to broader environmental engagement/awareness.

The market is working to balance operational costs with the purchase of produce, and manage supply/demand to ensure minimal waste and equitable sharing of excess. The purchase of a new accounting and sales-management system has improved financial accountability and transparency, and improved understanding of viability.

The market will continue to grow in strength as we explore options, such as the electronic point of sale system, to ensure it is able to provide benefits to the community garden, ALEC and the general community of Alice Springs.

# GROWING COMMUNITY

---



The Alice Springs Community Garden continues to flourish as a beautiful and productive garden and community venue. Congratulations to all the Garden's plot holders, supporters and ALEC staff for their contribution to another year-long success story, and to the committee for their commitment to the Garden's development and management.

A special mention to Philippe Freidel for his years of service as the plot holders' representative. It can be a challenging role: ensuring fees are paid and plots maintained, signing on and orienting new plot holders. Hannah Maljcov took over from Philippe and continues the role with infectious enthusiasm.

Composting is a vital passion at the Garden. Our four-bay composting system is in continual operation to supply the individual and communal garden areas - producing a cubic metre of beautiful compost every couple of months. Our success is thanks to good organisation, ensuring a constant supply of 'green and brown' composting materials and willing workers to mix and rotate compost. We also maintain stockpiles of cow manure and mulching hay for general Garden use.

Sunday morning working bees together with members' commitment are critical to maintaining the beauty and productivity of the Garden. We strive to educate newcomers in the best gardening



techniques for Central Australia's tough weather conditions, and hope to be a best-practice role model for the whole community.

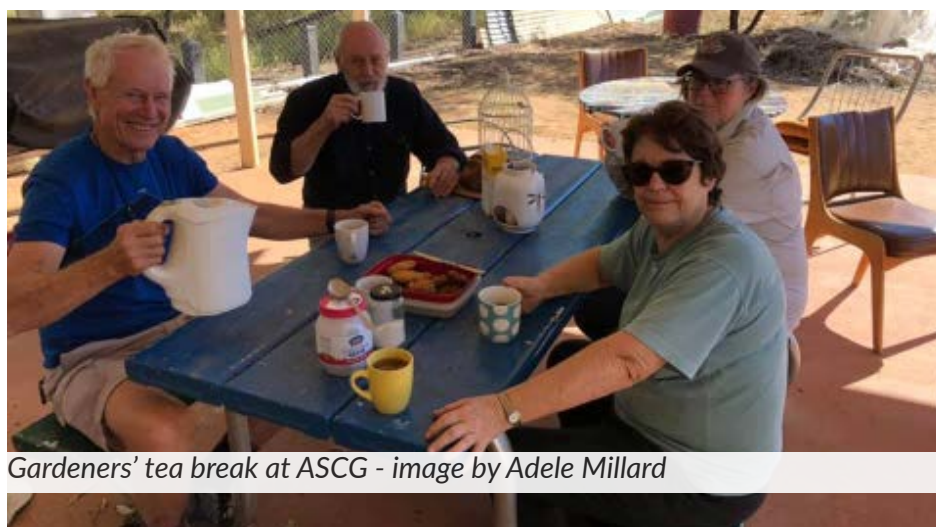
In 2018-19 we opened the Garden to many visiting school and community organisations. We hosted the Garden to Plate event at desertSMART EcoFair 2018, and celebrated the joys of gardening with Geoff Miers and ABC's Costa Georgiadis.



*Costa Georgiadis presents at the Garden to Plate workshop, EcoFair 2018*

Alice Springs Running Club breakfast run was organised with great success by John Bermingham, our fundraising representative. Our volunteers have been key to making these events a success both financially and spiritually.

The NT Government-funded office/kitchen/disability toilet is almost completed, thanks to the efforts of committee member Allan O'Keefe and his company, and countless volunteers. With these facilities the Garden is an even more valuable resource. The Garden also has a beautiful new gate to welcome all, courtesy of the talented J9 Stanton and an Alice Springs Town Council grant.



*Gardeners' tea break at ASCG - image by Adele Millard*



Reliable, efficient irrigation is critical to gardening success. The current semi-automated irrigation system requires considerable maintenance and we hope that in the new financial year we can transition to fully electronically managed. The Garden Committee has approached the Town Council to request some ongoing financial assistance with our substantial water bills, which would allow us to focus more funds on engaging with our community as a useful amenity and resource.

In conclusion, thanks again to the Garden Committee and the ALEC staff members who have been dedicated to the Garden, its amenity and development. Looking ahead, 2019-20 will be an important year as we develop a long-term strategic vision and broaden the Garden network. Growing and eating locally produced food seems common sense.

### ***ASCG Management Committee***

#### **Governance Pod:**

- Bruce Simmons (Convenor)
- Kim Mackay (Deputy Convenor)
- Wendy Mann (Secretary/Treasurer)

**ALEC Rep:** Alex Read

#### **Plot Membership Pod:**

- Philippe Freidel (resigned Nov 2018)
- Hannah Maljcov (from Dec 2018)

#### **Comms/Media Pod Rep:**

- Adele Millard
- Toby Speare

**Fundraising/Events Pod Rep:** John Bermingham

**Maintenance and Infrastructure Pod Rep:** Allan O'Keefe

**Healthy Garden Pod Rep:** Bruce Simmons

#### **General Members:**

- Jodi Lennox (resigned Dec 2018)
- Anna Madabushi (resigned Nov 2018)
- Toby Speare
- Bronwyn Field
- Mark Bates
- Alice Goddard (commenced Nov 2018)

**BRUCE SIMMONS  
ASCG CONVENOR**



STRATEGIC GOAL 4:  
ALEC IS AN EFFECTIVE,  
INFLUENTIAL AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
ORGANISATION  
(ORGANISATION)

# SUPPORTING ALEC TO ACHIEVE

---

ALEC is an effective and influential organisation that is working towards being sustainable. As we approach ALEC's 40th year, our supporter base is growing, increasing numbers of people are standing up on the climate crisis and ALEC's Board is highly engaged and working hard to support our governance.

At the end of 2018-19, ALEC's business manager of more than seven years, Carmel Vandermolen has moved to South Australia. ALEC's communications manager of more than seven years, Nicole Pietsch, has indicated she will depart ALEC after the EcoFair in August. These personnel changes will force ALEC to change the way it does business; transforming ALEC's financial systems and developing a new team structure to support and enable our important work to continue.

ALEC, like any organisation, is only as good as its people. ALEC's staff and volunteers keep it focused and strong, but we can only succeed with the help of our regular donors, large donors and membership base. Thanks to all the people who have made ALEC what it is today - a dynamic and people-powered force for the protection of the environment in the heart of Australia.



*Alice Springs community members voice their concerns about fracking and climate change to Minister Dale Wakefield - image courtesy of CAFFA*

## **GROWING TREND**

ALEC's effectiveness, influence and sustainability as an organization has increased this financial year.

ALEC's supporter base continues to grow, with social media interactions increasing and more people engaging with our events. A strategy of momentum-based organising kicked off this year to engage large numbers of people to assist with election scorecard distribution and fracking-related activities. Linking events through better organising has seen our lists of supporters grow.

ALEC's membership continues to expand, with 291 financial members at the end of the financial year, compared to 176 at the end of 2017-18. Our membership income increased by 17% (2019: \$10 900; 2018: \$9 355). As of June 30th 2019, ALEC had 114 family memberships, 143 individual, 34

concession members and six organisations. ALEC's donations increased by 38% on 2018 figures (2019: \$184,914; 2018: \$134,422), largely attributable to new donors.

## **BREAKING NEW GROUND**

In August 2018, the Australian Environmental Grant Makers Network (AEGN) visited Central Australia. ALEC presented to the group of philanthropists who support environmental work around the country. Through this event ALEC was subsequently invited to present to AEGN members in Melbourne and Sydney. ALEC would like to thank the AEGN for organising the field trip to Central Australia and inviting ALEC to participate.

A number of new relationships have opened up with more than \$65 000 contributed in 2019 by these donors. ALEC would particularly like to thank Vicki Olsson, Bruce and Anne McGregor, Anna Rose, Simon Sheihk and Sue McKinnon. ALEC was also successful with the Nordia Foundation who supported our desert coal and gas campaigns.

ALEC would also like to thank our donors and Desert Defenders. We'd like to extend a special thanks to the local businesses who regularly donate to ALEC: The Bakery, Duyu Coffee, Happy Herb Shop and the Happy Farmer. Thanks to all who have made significant contributions to support ALEC's important work.

In January, ALEC purchased five tap and pay donation points which are located at: The Bakery, Page 27, Epilogue, Montes Lounge and Tourism Central Australia. In the first six months of operation, 404 donations were made, totaling \$2 038. ALEC has long been eliciting donations through webpages or events; now it's even easier for people to donate \$5 at the point of sale at various popular businesses.



*The ALEC CEO was selected to participate in the US State Departments International Visitor Leadership Program. In Texas, Jimmy talked about and learned firsthand about fracking, climate and the the politics of fossil fuels.*



# ENGAGING AND IMPACTFUL

---

ALEC is a high-impact organisation due to good governance, sound management and supporter engagement. ALEC staff provide inspiring leadership and communications across a range of platforms. With a number of active and highly engaged social media audiences and three websites running through ALEC's Nationbuilder website, ALEC is well-placed to grow its impact. ALEC's first community service announcement film promoting our work is now playing at the Alice Springs cinema before every film.

In addition to our digital communications, ALEC engages face-to-face at every opportunity. We hold regular public events, market stalls and meetings with community groups. We engage in conversations with the community whenever possible, and act as a hub for the gathering and dissemination of information about environmental issues relevant to Central Australia. We produce education materials, offer training, and engage in community consultation via a variety of programs.



*Community members gather for climate action at the Sunny Soiree*

The ALEC Board in 2018-19 has been highly engaged and focused on delivering outcomes. The establishment and re-invigoration of Board Committees including the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee, the Public Fund Committee and the People and Safety Committee saw ALEC achieve these milestones:

- New public fund reporting framework
- Risk register and risk-management framework
- Transition to Xero accounting software
- Transition of workflow to Slack, Asana to complement the Google Suite
- Four policies updated and developed including: delegations; risk management; anti-bribery; lobbying; grievance and dispute resolution.
- Review of the ALEC Constitution initiated with draft for AGM in October

The transition to a new team with the departure of two long-term staff members is a work in progress. 2019-20 will see new investment in building people power and supporter engagement. The flatter structure of ALEC will create new opportunities and challenges. ALEC has a strong base to work from and momentum is building - the key will be ensuring that the community comes with us on the journey.



*Momentum: The Climate Election event saw more than 90 people turn up to Montes Lounge with a week's notice*

“

ALEC'S supporter base continues to grow, with social media interactions increasing and more people **engaging** with our events.

# WORDS & ACTION

---




It's tricky to grab people's attention in an information saturated world, but despite this ALEC has had a strong year in communications and community engagement. Fracking, strong environment laws and climate change continued to be key issues for ALEC and formed the basis for much of ALEC's communications and community outreach.

Fracking was again a prominent issue throughout the course of the year. ALEC facilitated community engagement in the NT Government's fracking regulatory reform processes through social media, emails, events, media releases and workshops like the *Fracking Submission Writing Workshop*. Over summer ALEC organised and promoted the *NT Beetaloo Frack Free Roadshow* crowdfunding campaign, and with the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance, organised the *Community Strategy Meeting to Ban Fracking*.

ALEC also ran a strong community engagement campaign on the NT Government's environmental regulatory reform processes, encouraging community participation in draft legislation consultations and making media comment in response to industry attacks on the process.

With the Environment Centre NT, ALEC lead a national campaign focused on pressuring the NT Government to develop a climate policy. Thirty-six organisations and scientists signed the NT Climate Statement, which was supported by a NT Climate Petition. ALEC facilitated community engagement on the NT Climate Discussion Paper, organised the A Sunny Soiree - #Rise For Climate event and



developed the *What Is Climate Change?* brochure for Indigenous audiences. ALEC also translated the *Climate Change in Central Australia* animation into the Warlpiri language.

Another communications highlight was the development of a short video promoting ALEC, filmed and edited by David Nixon.

The communications manager position also supported the COOLmob Energy Efficiency Program, the Tri Star Desert Coal Campaign, The Tellus Toxic Waste Dump campaign, The Climate Election Campaign, the End of Financial Year Campaign and was instrumental in the organisation of the 2018 EcoFair event.

Many community engagement events were also organised throughout the year - with over 30 individual events and workshops in 2018-19, not including countless market stalls and meetings with community groups. For more details see our highlights timeline.

The Nationbuilder community organising platform continued to facilitate deeper engagement with ALEC supporters. ALEC maintained a strong social media presence with more than 2500 Facebook page likes, and the Thorny News E-newsletter remained a popular way of keeping members up to date.

In 2018-19, ALEC hosted 'Volunteer Onboarding Sessions' where people were invited to learn more about the organisation and were supported to get involved. ALEC also offered meeting space and resources to community groups like RePower and the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance. This sense of ALEC as a welcoming space with an open door is essential for increasing accessibility and engagement.

Another successful engagement initiative was the EOFY fundraising phone bank, which utilised the commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers to raise \$9 535. ALEC provided scripts, training and mentorship to volunteers to empower them to call past donors and expired members to ask for continued support. The initiative was well-received and many were eager to donate.

With each new member, donor, volunteer or even social media follower, ALEC's reach, relevance and capacity grows. In 2019-20 ALEC will continue to connect, communicate and also listen - so that we can best represent and activate the community in our fight to protect these arid lands.

**NICOLE PIETSCH**  
**COMMUNICATIONS AND**  
**STRATEGY MANAGER**



# RESILIENT FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

---

The definition of resilience is the ability to withstand shocks. ALEC is developing an increasingly resilient financial system through a diverse range of funding sources, improved budgeting processes and adoption and implementation of ALEC's Information Technology Strategic Plan. ALEC has successfully transformed its income base over the past five years from a dependency on government grants both for operational and project funding, to having almost two thirds of its income from self-generated sources.

The operational separation of ALEC's fee for service operation, Arid Edge Environmental Services (AEES) provides much clearer understanding of how the various parts of the organisation are performing. Despite this, AEES has posted its second loss in a row (2018: \$34 229, 2019: \$78 814). This is a significant risk and vulnerability for ALEC.



*Bird of prey, Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary - Hazel Volk*

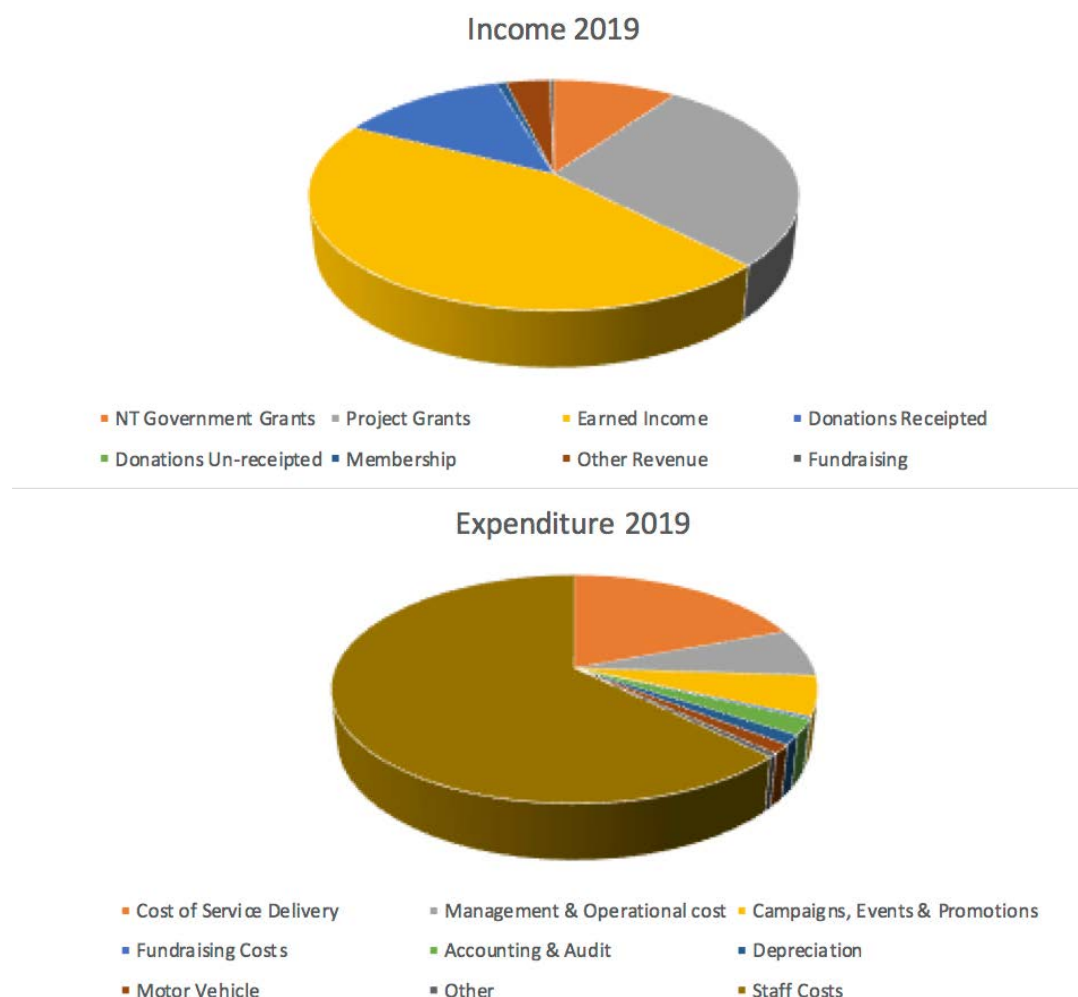
The benefits of delivering on-ground services and outcomes through working directly with Traditional Owners on Bushcare, track maintenance and landscaping projects needs to be balanced with the need to make financial returns. Arid Edge has transferred over to Xero and using other software to provide real-time reporting of its profitability. The ALEC CEO and Board are working closely with Arid Edge staff to get it back on track.

At the end of May, we bid farewell to long-standing ALEC Business and Operations Manager, Carmel Vandermolen. Carmel started in 2012 and played a critical role in all of ALEC's projects and operations over that time. Carmel was instrumental in developing the school program of the EcoFair, driving Food for Alice, organising Biodiversity Matters and establishing Arid Edge. Carmel's departure has seen the appointment of Mellisa Kramer of Remarkable Bookkeeping.

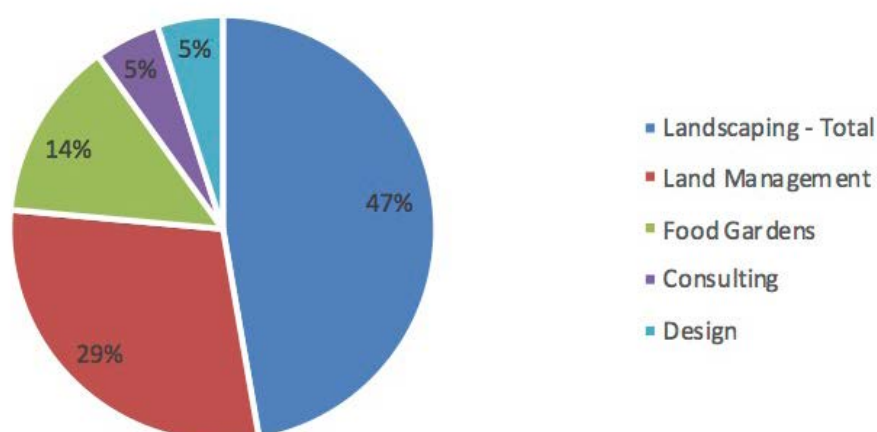
ALEC is transforming the way staff work as a team by implementing the recommendations of our Information Technology Strategic Plan, including: moving our finances to Xero; using Receipt Bank to track expenses; using a

workflow tool like Asana to support team collaboration; moving away from email for internal communications. Deepening our understanding and use of Nationbuilder will also support greater engagement with our supporter base to increase our impact across the organisation. It is an exciting new world for ALEC as it embarks on this process of modernisation.

## ALEC PROFIT AND LOSS



## ARID EDGE INCOME SOURCES 2018-19



# TREASURER'S REPORT

---



Merit Partners were appointed as auditors for 2019 and this is the first audit report that they have provided for ALEC members.

During the last financial year ALEC lost its long-term accountant, and restructured its financial management systems. Two major events occurred:

Accounting systems were transferred to Xero accounting software. Accounts for Arid Edge Environment Services were separated out from the ALEC accounts.

The restructure has improved transparency and provided more financial information to ALEC managers in order to aid good decision making, and the results for the year reflect this.

There were a couple of months without two permanent employees resulting in savings for ALEC, which meant it could operate without a decrease in campaigning, projects or services.

Grant income grew mainly due to an increase of grants received by Arid Edge for bushcare work, and the realisation of income/expenditure from previous years' grants, where the Community Benefit Fund was spent down on Alice Springs Community Garden building projects.

However, the changes to accounting systems have highlighted some challenges going forward. Arid Edge Environmental Services (AEES) was launched as a social enterprise which required investment from ALEC in the start-up phase: \$70,000 in the first year of operations in 2015. ALEC expects a return on these funds and ongoing revenue stream from surpluses in future years. As is the nature of business, Arid Edge's profitability oscillates monthly, and managing cash flow and the balance sheet is challenging. The Board is aware of this and is keeping a close eye on Arid Edge's financial position.

In 2018-19, ALEC ceased providing auspice services to the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance and transferred remaining funds to Friends of the Earth. This contributed to ALEC having less cash at the end of the financial year.

As part of ALEC's upcoming 40th birthday celebrations, the organisation is establishing a perpetual fund. The interest earned on this fund will enable ALEC to finance its own overhead and administration costs, allowing campaign donations funds to be directed to high-impact action.

ALEC has improved its overall position this year by \$50 381. Despite AEES making a loss for the year, strong philanthropic donations and reduced costs in the final couple of months of the financial year saw the organisation end the year on top. As ALEC transitions and adapts from the staff changes it is anticipated that ALEC will continue to build on this success.

**NERIDA NETTELBECK**  
**TREASURER**



# **Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated**

## **Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 30 June 2019**

**Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated**

**Contents**

**For the Year Ended 30 June 2019**

	Page
<b>Financial Statements</b>	
Board's Report	1
Statement of Profit or Loss	2
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	3
Statement of Changes in Equity	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6
Independent Audit Report	15

## Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated

### Board's Report

30 June 2019

#### BOARD'S REPORT

Your Board members submit the financial report of the Arid Land Environment Centre Incorporated ("the Association") for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

#### BOARD MEMBERS

The names of Board members during the year and as at the date of this report are:

Chair:	Barbara Molanus	
Vice Chair:	Marie Schega	
Secretary:	Rosalie Schultz	
Treasurer:	Nerida Nettelbeck	
Ordinary members:	Liz Moore	Brenda Shields
	Tierneigh Pamell	Keith Castle
	Anthony Dent	Liz Olle
	Sezzajai Sykes	

#### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year has been advocating for the protection of nature and ecologically sustainable development in the arid lands region.

#### Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

#### Operating Result

The Net Surplus amounted to \$50,381 (2018: \$101,685 Net Deficit).

In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial report as set out on the attached pages, being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at the end of the financial year and the result of the Association for the year then ended;
- the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Board Member:.....

Board Member: ....

Dated this 8th day of October 2019

# Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated

## Statement of Profit or Loss

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 * \$
<b>Income</b>			
NT Government Grants		138,220	50,000
Project Grants	2 (a)	395,066	91,423
Earned Income	2 (b)	632,368	808,400
Donations Received		184,914	130,620
Donations Un-receipted		0	3,802
Membership		10,900	9,355
Other Revenue	2 (c)	49,181	19,577
Fundraising		4,237	12,166
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,414,886</b>	<b>1,125,343</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Cost of Service Delivery	3 (a)	263,153	99,283
Management & Operational cost	3 (b)	92,401	55,002
Campaigns, Events & Promotions	3 (c)	76,664	43,069
Fundraising Costs		4,702	11,895
Accounting & Audit		29,863	11,225
Depreciation		18,632	18,402
Motor Vehicle		17,098	31,985
Other	3 (d)	7,827	9,442
Staff Costs	3 (e)	854,165	946,725
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1,364,505</b>	<b>1,227,028</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>50,381</b>	<b>(101,685)</b>

\*Refer to Schedule 1 for the Split of Operating Results between Arid Edge Environmental Services (AEES) and all other ALEC Activities and for information about NT Government Grant



## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As At 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	581,233	735,427
Trade and other receivables	5	91,930	32,812
Prepayments and rental deposits		13,490	6,378
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>686,653</b>	<b>774,617</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	161,330	136,090
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>161,330</b>	<b>136,090</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>847,983</b>	<b>910,707</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	172,039	216,147
Unearned income		229,941	331,012
Finance lease		6,458	0
Provisions for employee benefits	8	57,157	57,806
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>465,595</b>	<b>604,965</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Finance lease		38,637	0
Provision for employee benefits	8	15,803	28,175
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>54,440</b>	<b>28,175</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>520,035</b>	<b>633,140</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>327,948</b>	<b>277,567</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained profits		327,948	277,567
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<b>327,948</b>	<b>277,567</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Statement of Changes in Equity

As At 30 June 2019

	Total Equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2018	277,567
Net Surplus / (Deficit) during the year	50,381
<b>Balance at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>327,948</b>
Balance at 1 July 2017	379,252
Net (Deficit) / Surplus during the year	(101,685)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>277,567</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from customers		1,243,804	1,174,276
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,398,715)	(1,127,401)
Interest received		5,959	8,688
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	9	(148,952)	55,563
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(51,542)	(78,525)
Proceeds from disposals of property, plant and equipment		1,205	909
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		(50,337)	(77,616)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities		45,095	-
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash		(154,194)	(22,053)
Cash at beginning of year		735,427	757,480
Cash at end of year	4	<b>581,233</b>	<b>735,427</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in the financial report.

#### (a) Statement of compliance

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Act Northern Territory* and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The Board has determined that Arid Land Environment Centre Incorporated ("the Association") is not a reporting entity and is a not-for-profit entity because in the Board's opinion there are unlikely to exist users who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy all of their information needs.

The special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with the basis of preparation and accounting policies described below. Australian Accounting Standards Board, (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB"), and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB have not been complied with except to the extent stated below.

#### (b) Basis of preparation

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and has been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the Association to make judgements, estimates and assumption that affect the application of policies and reported amounts as assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates. These accounting policies have been consistently applied by the Association.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The special purpose financial report has been prepared on accrual basis.

#### (c) Income tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### (d) Income

Income is recognised when the amount can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of income as noted below, has been satisfied.

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.



## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 30 June 2019**

### **1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continue**

#### **(e) Grant income**

Grant income is recognised when the Association obtains control over the funds, which is generally when the grant is acquired

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.

#### **(f) Other income**

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Association is entitled to it.

#### **(g) Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

#### **(h) Property, plant and equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for nil or nominal consideration have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

#### **(i) Depreciation**

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

#### **(j) Employee benefits**

Liabilities for employee benefits for wages, salaries, annual leave and long-service leave represent present obligations resulting from employees' services provided to reporting date and are calculated at undiscounted amounts based on remuneration wage and salary rates that the Association expects to pay as at reporting date including related on-costs, such as workers' compensation insurance. Contributions are made by Association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

The Association's obligation in respect of long-term employee benefits is the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods plus related on-costs; that benefit is calculated at undiscounted amount. Long service leave is accrued in respect of employees with more than five years employment with the Association.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

### 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continue

#### (k) Going Concern

The accounts of Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated 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 dependent upon grants and subject to compliance attached to grants received.

On this basis the Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated will generate sufficient cash flow to be able to pay its debts when they fall due. The members of the Association believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

#### (l) Comparatives

Comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year. The class of income and expenses presented in 2016-17 financial report differs from the amount presented in the 2017-18 comparative amounts and are considered immaterial. Overall, the changes in reclassification in the comparative amount has \$nil effect in the Association's statement of profit or loss.

#### 2 (a) PROJECT GRANTS

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Grant income	471,899	160,000
Unexpended grants	(76,833)	(68,577)
	<b>395,066</b>	<b>91,423</b>

#### 2 (b) EARNED INCOME

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Project contribution	541,210	704,771
Consultancies	43,381	32,572
Merchandise	36,110	56,016
Registration fees	11,667	15,041
	<b>632,368</b>	<b>808,400</b>

#### 2 (c) OTHER REVENUE

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Interest	5,959	8,726
Sponsorship	11,773	0
Recoupments	11,384	0
Vehicle contribution	112	605
Sundry and other income	19,953	10,246
	<b>49,181</b>	<b>19,577</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

### 3 (a) COST OF SERVICE DELIVERY

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Materials & Hire	213,935	89,528
Equipment & furn.- non cap	49,218	9,755
	<b>263,153</b>	<b>99,283</b>

The above expenses were incurred mainly with Arid Edge Environmental Services, Food for Alice and Community Gardens works.

### 3 (b) MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL COSTS

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Electricity & Gas	15,146	11,910
ICT	9,326	7,818
Rent	16,436	5,720
Insurance	7,536	5,234
Bad Debts	4,934	5,028
Subscriptions and memberships	6,373	3,432
Bank fees	3,318	2,735
Cleaning	3,558	2,652
Maintenance & Repairs	2,813	2,228
Telephone	2,825	1,724
Sundry Expenses	20,136	6,521
	<b>92,401</b>	<b>55,002</b>

### 3 (c) Campaigns, Events & Promotions

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Advertising and Promotion	14,446	16,235
Catering	6,215	6,291
Donations	56,003	0
Multi-Media Production	0	13,824
Photocopying	0	6,155
Workshops	0	564
	<b>76,664</b>	<b>43,069</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

### 3 (d) OTHER EXPENSES

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Occupation, health and safety training	0	2,475
Loss on sale of assets / Write-off	6,465	6,161
Other expenses	1,362	806
	<b>7,827</b>	<b>9,442</b>

### 3 (e) STAFF COSTS

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Salaries and wages	661,688	657,656
Sub-contractor fees	70,448	146,270
Superannuation	62,587	63,077
Staff travel and allowances	43,622	60,243
Other staff benefits	15,820	19,479
	<b>854,165</b>	<b>946,725</b>

### 4 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Cash at Bank – Ops Account	11,780	201,836
Cash at Bank – Gift Account	153,818	79,364
Cash at Bank – Holding Account	66,414	56,689
Cash at Bank – Pay Pal Account	15,047	26,553
Cash at Bank – Desserts Account	22,977	0
ALEC Debit Card	361	2,020
AEES – Ops Account	91,562	0
AEES Debit Card	1,793	929
Term Deposit	216,446	365,555
Cash on hand	1,035	2,481
	<b>581,233</b>	<b>735,427</b>

### 5 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade & Sundry Debtors	91,930	91,836
Less: Expected Credit Losses	0	0
	<b>91,930</b>	<b>91,836</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>6 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Leasehold Improvements		
At cost	110,298	110,298
Accumulated amortisation	(22,212)	(15,346)
	<u>88,086</u>	<u>94,952</u>
Furniture, fixtures and fittings		
At cost	33,836	26,859
Accumulated depreciation	(19,677)	(16,337)
	<u>14,159</u>	<u>10,522</u>
Motor vehicles		
At cost	92,316	64,115
Accumulated depreciation	(33,231)	(33,499)
	<u>59,085</u>	<u>30,616</u>
	<u>161,330</u>	<u>136,090</u>
<b>7 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
Trade payable and other payables	85,757	142,873
Accrued Expenses	20,964	22,614
Payroll Liabilities	12,824	31,758
GST & Other Payable	52,494	18,902
	<u>172,039</u>	<u>216,147</u>
<b>8 PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		
Current		
Annual leave	33,954	28,320
Long service leave	23,203	29,486
	<u>57,157</u>	<u>57,806</u>
Non-current portion		
Long service leave	15,803	28,175
	<u>72,960</u>	<u>85,981</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

### 9 RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	50,381	(101,685)
Depreciation	18,632	18,402
Loss on sale of assets	6,465	0
Bad debts expenses	4,934	5,028
Provision for employee entitlements	(13,021)	(1,396)
Changes in assets & liabilities:		
Trade and other receivables	(64,052)	57,226
Prepayments	(7,112)	(2,193)
Unexpended Grants	(101,071)	395
Trade and other payables	(44,108)	79,786
Net cash flows from operating activities	(148,952)	55,563

### 10 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF REPORTING PERIOD

The financial report was authorised for issue on 8 October 2019 by the Board.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

### 11 STATUTORY INFORMATION

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is:

Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated  
90 Gap Road  
Alice Springs NT 0871

#### **DISCLAIMER ON ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The additional financial information, being the Schedule 1 – Split of Operating Results as attached on page 14, has been compiled by the management of Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated.

No audit or review has been performed by us and accordingly no assurance is expressed. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the additional financial information and no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given.

To the extent permitted by law, we do not accept liability for any loss or damage which any person may suffer arising from any negligence on our part. No person should rely on the additional financial information without having an audit or review conducted.

*Merit Partners*

Merit Partners

DARWIN

8 October 2019

## Schedule 1 – Split of Operating Results

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	AEES <sup>2</sup> \$	Other ALEC <sup>3</sup> Activities \$	Total \$
<b>Income</b>			
NT Government Grants <sup>1</sup>	0	138,220	138,220
Project Grants	0	395,066	395,066
Earned Income	554,341	78,027	632,368
Donations Received	0	184,914	184,914
Membership	0	10,900	10,900
Other Revenue <sup>4</sup>	6,863	52,318	49,181
Fundraising	0	4,237	4,237
<b>Total income</b>	<b>561,204</b>	<b>863,682</b>	<b>1,414,886</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Cost of Service Delivery	123,351	139,802	263,153
Management & Operation Costs <sup>4</sup>	31,934	70,467	92,401
Campaigns, Events & Promotions	2,225	74,439	76,664
Fundraising Costs	0	4,702	4,702
Accounting & Audit	16,258	13,605	29,863
Depreciation	6,303	12,329	18,632
Motor Vehicle	9,906	7,192	17,098
Other	1,362	6,465	7,827
Staff Costs	448,679	405,486	854,165
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>640,018</b>	<b>734,487</b>	<b>1,364,505</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(78,814)</b>	<b>129,195</b>	<b>50,381</b>

<sup>1</sup> The funding from the NT Government is based on a calendar year and therefore only half of the grant should have been recognised in 2017. To correct this, ALEC has recognised less income in the 2018 year to bring the total income recognised to date in line with the grant agreement.

<sup>2</sup> AEES: Arid Edge Environmental Services

<sup>3</sup> Arid Lands Environment Centre

<sup>4</sup> AEES & ALEC amounts was gross up to include interdivision account



## **Independent auditor's report to the members of Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated**

### *Report on the Audit of the Financial Report*

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated (the "Association"), which comprises the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 2019, Statement of Profit or Loss, Statement of Changes in Equity, and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Board's Report.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the *Basis of Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated as of 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

### *Basis for Qualified Opinion*

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable to establish an efficient system of internal control over income, other than grant and earned income, prior to its initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding such income was limited, our audit procedures with respect to income, other than grant and earned income, were restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We therefore do not express an opinion on whether the income the Association received is complete, and we cannot determine the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had this limitation not existed.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the *Associations Act NT* and the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the 'Code') that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

### *Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Reliance*

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated meet the requirements of the *Associations Act* and the Association's constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated and should not be distributed to parties other than Arid Lands Environment Centre Incorporated. Our opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

### *The Responsibility of the Board for the Financial Report*

The Association's Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Act NT* and the Association's Constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2019 as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

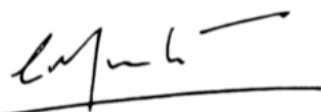
As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control, if any, that we identify during our audit.

*Merit Partners*

Merit Partners



MunLi Chee  
Director

DARWIN

8 October 2019

# GRANTS RECEIVED AND ACQUITTED

---

- \$1500 Alice Springs Town Council - Community Garden Gate - acquitted
- \$4991 CANA Grant - set up website [www.repoweralicesprings.org.au](http://www.repoweralicesprings.org.au) - acquitted
- \$10 000 NT Government - Roadmap to a DesertSMART Town (2013-18) - Review
- \$19 000 NT Government - EcoScience School Days 2019
- \$19220 NT Government - Waste solutions for the Food Services Area of Alice Springs Hospital
- \$20 000 NT Government - Ilparpa Claypans Bushcare Project - Arid Edge
- \$20 000 NT Government - Lower Todd River Bushcare Project - Arid Edge
- \$49 654 Aust Government - Bushcare Ilparpa and Lower Todd - Arid Edge
- \$63 000 Community Benefit Fund - Alice Springs Community Garden Kitchen
- \$100 000 NT Government - Policy Officer Grant



# THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

---

The Arid Lands Environment Centre would like to extend a sincere thankyou to the following organisations for their financial and in-kind support in 2018-19:

NT Government  
Federal Government

## **Arid Edge**

- NT Government - Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Australian Government Department of Business - National Landcare Program
- Primary Health Network NT (PHN NT)
- Bill Raby Foundation

## **Alice Springs Community Garden**

- NT Community Benefit Fund
- Alice Springs Town Council

## **10 Deserts Project - Buffel Free GVD**

- Desert Support Services
- BHP Foundation

**Policy officer and policy communications**  
NT Government

## **RePower**

- Climate Action Network Australia

## **EcoFair**

- Inspiring Australia
- Alice Springs Town Council
- PowerWater
- Double Tree by Hilton
- Colemans Printing
- Spinifex Valley
- 7 Central



# THE TEAM

---

## ALEC 2018-19



**JIMMY COCKING**  
**CEO**



**CARMEL**  
**VANDERMOLEN**  
**BUSINESS &**  
**OPERATIONS**  
**MANAGER**



**NICOLE PIETSCH**  
**COMMUNICATIONS**  
**& STRATEGY**  
**MANAGER**



**RACHEL O'LEARY**  
**SCIENCE**  
**EDUCATION**  
**OFFICER**



**ALEX READ**  
**POLICY OFFICER**



**JASMINE STORY**  
**ECOFAIR**  
**COORDINATOR**



**JESSE HANCOCK**  
**FRACK FREE**  
**COORDINATOR**

## ARID EDGE 2018-19



L to R: Ra Sim, Arid Edge Manager Alex McLean, James Gomez, Sunil Dhanji

## ALEC BOARD 2018-19

### Chair:

- Barbara Molanus

### Vice Chair:

- Marie Schega

### Secretary:

- Rosalie Schultz

### Treasurer:

- Nerida Nettelbeck

### Ordinary Members:

- Liz Moore
- Tierneigh Parnell
- Anthony Dent
- Sezzajai Sykes
- Brenda Shields
- Keith Castle
- Liz Olle

## A NOTE TO SAY...

As ALEC moves forward into 2019-20 we say goodbye to some of our valued team-members. We farewell Carmel Vandermolen, Nicole Pietsch and Jesse Hancock, and thank them for their years of commitment, passion and creativity.

A glimpse of the ALEC to come:



L to R: Jimmy Cocking, Jasmine Story, Alex Read, Rachel O'Leary, Amy Purton-Long



90 Gap Road, Alice Springs NT  
PO Box 2796, 0871 NT 08 89522497  
[www.alec.org.au](http://www.alec.org.au)  
[info@alec.org.au](mailto:info@alec.org.au)  
<https://www.facebook.com/aridlandsec/>  
[@AridLandsEC](https://www.instagram.com/AridLandsEC)

Rear cover: Moon - Hazel Volk



**Arid  
Lands  
Environment  
Centre**