
WATER, CLIMATE, ACTION.

2021 ANNUAL
REPORT





Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) is Central Australia's peak environmental organisation, defending Australia's iconic desert country for over 40 years.

We inspire, engage and lead local people to take action for the environment, advocate for nature and strong environmental laws and empower people by sharing knowledge on how to live sustainably in the desert.

ALEC 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 First Nations Elders past, present and emerging and recognise that their sovereignty was never ceded.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following document may contain images of people who have died.

Contents

05	2020-21 Highlights
06	Where we work
07	About us - Our strategy, vision, goal
08	Message from the Chair
10	Message from the CEO
12	Climate action in the arid lands
18	Protecting Country
29	Sustainable and resilient communities
37	Our people, our power
43	Governance
47	Financial report

This report covers our activities for the 2020–21 financial year and aims to demonstrate the variety and impact of ALEC's advocacy, campaigning, policy and community education work.

It highlights the incredible energy that ALEC and its members, alongside many other groups and organisations, bring to the challenge we face together - protecting people and nature in the arid lands and beyond.

ALEC is an accredited charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. In addition to private donors, ALEC has been fortunate to receive funding from the Northern Territory Government.

We welcome feedback regarding the content of this report and our activities generally. Responses can be directed to communications@alec.org.au or by calling (08) 8952 2497.





Highlights from the year

Alice Springs Bushcare project

The number of native species recorded on specific sites in the Ilparpa Claypans and Lower Todd River have significantly increased as a result of conservation work undertaken by Arid Edge Environmental Services in partnership with Tangentyere Council.

Singleton Station water licence campaign

The NT Government approved the largest water licence in Territory history – 40 billion litres per year for 30 years. ALEC campaigned to stop the licence on legal grounds, to protect native plants and animals, sacred sites and community drinking water.

Celebrating over 40 years at the ALEC Gala

Friends and members of ALEC gathered to raise a glass to over 40 years of activism, conservation and environmental action in the desert at Olive Pink Botanic Garden. The Silver Bilby Award was presented to the Alice Springs Community Garden for years of service to the community.

A grid of the future is on the way

The Alice Springs Future Grid project will help transform the power system to support more renewable energy and support our town to meet the NT's 50 per cent by 2030 renewable energy target. ALEC is proud to be leading Future Grid's community-facing activities as part of this collaborative project.

Launch of Westside Community Garden

ALEC excitedly announced the beginning of a new community garden in Gillen. The Westside Garden is inclusive and welcomes gardeners from many different backgrounds, of all ages and who share differing views. The Garden invites people to get involved.

Our vision

Healthy futures for arid lands and people



Evening sun at Karlu Karlu

Where we work

Australia's deserts are some of the most ecologically intact arid landscapes on Earth. Landscapes that are full of life spectacularly evolved.

From its beginnings in 1980, ALEC has grown from a small organisation to one with a big impact in the desert region and nationally.

ALEC is made up of a network of local people and organisations who speak up and take action for the protection of water, climate, communities and desert country.



A snapshot of our new 10-year strategy

Our Purpose

To protect nature and support ecologically sustainable development in the arid lands.

Our 10-year goal

Australia's arid lands are biodiverse and resilient. These lands are our home and sustain a diversity of life and ecosystems.

Our goal is to protect our arid home and for ALEC to be locally and globally recognised as an enabler of sustainable living in a desert environment.

Our values

Innovation

New thinking, fresh ideas and creative solutions to transform livelihoods in the arid lands.

Courage

We listen deeply and we act boldly.

Collaboration

We cooperate, partner and collaborate to build relationships and achieve the best outcomes.

Integrity

Our commitment is real and demonstrated by our actions – we walk the talk.

Our strategies

Demonstrate and advocate for environmental protection and ecologically sustainable living grounded in social justice and desert wisdom.

Catalyse and mobilise community action on environmental issues.

Respect, work alongside and be guided by diverse communities, cultures and organisations; we are stronger when we work together.

Ensure that ALEC is a resilient and dynamic organisation operating in a professional and stable framework.

Vivid colours of the Ochre Pits, Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park



Message from the Chair



We live and work on this Country that many thousands of generations of First Nations people have always cared for and maintained. Their deep love and understanding of Country extended beyond their existence as humans to caring for the animals, plants, soil, Spirit, the entire eco-system – without all these things there would be no humans. The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) is based on the Country of Central Arrernte people, it is with much gratitude and respect that we get to do some of the caring for this Country now too. We are humbled to do this work alongside and being led by Aboriginal people and know inherently that together we are stronger. We know this Land was stolen, that sovereignty was never ceded and we commit to setting this past right.

One year into the “decisive decade” for climate action and we the ALEC Board, have sure been called upon to make many decisions these past 12 months! As humans around the planet have woken up to the realisation that we only have this decade to change everything to avoid catastrophic climate disaster and mass extinction, our own government in Australia seems to be blatantly ignoring this fact. This is one of the many reasons I am heartened to be a part of this smart, generous and hard-working organisation that is across so many things going on in this desert country and further afield. With a brilliantly sharp policy officer, Alex, and rest of the ALEC team, they mobilise our community to take action for the things that matter.

The team of ALEC may be small in number, but they are deeply committed, courageous experts in their fields. We had a few new people join us this year and not even quarantining or the lack of accommodation could stand in the way, with people taking up residence in hire vans and backpackers. As always, the work and people of ALEC give me hope and as Chair of the Board, I would like to thank each one of the team who makes so much possible.

There were several significant changes within ALEC in the period 2020/21, one of the biggest being the resignation of our long-standing CEO Jimmy Cocking. A generous thank you to him for 13 years of building strong connections in the community and holding the expansive vision to grow ALEC into the organisation it is today. Consequently, it has been a very busy year for the ALEC Board who used this as an opportunity to complete a few tasks on the ‘to do’ list. I am so proud to report that we were able to welcome our new General Manager, Jade Kudrenko, with a full suite of Policies and Procedures, a shiny new Strategic Plan and a strong Board committed to supporting Jade in whatever ways she needs.

The leadership transition took place over the end of financial year with the ALEC Gala dinner (deftly organised by Juliet, Jess and team). This beautiful night saw many faces old and new sharing stories of ALEC’s infancy and mixed with ideas and hopes for the future that set the night abuzz.

2020/21 came with the same challenges faced by many, with Covid hampering efforts to find a suitable replacement for what turns out to be, the irreplaceable Alex Maclean, creator and leader of ALEC’s social enterprise arm – Arid Edge Environmental Services (AEES). Covid also impacted the day-to-day business of staffing and running AEES – however, despite this the dedication and tireless work of the AEES team has led to many successes this year. Thank you all!

Future Grid too has seen some challenges and contractual hold ups but again the tenacious team has held it on course. The Community Gardens are always such a wonder to behold, with both east and west flourishing. If you aren't already, sign up and become a member: go check them out; meet with Kaz at Westside and watch community in action; visit the café and Food For Alice markets at Eastside; and get some dirt under your nails!

Once again, the Central Australian Frack-Free Alliance has worked on so many fronts to keep our community and beloved NT safe from fracking. Given both governments' commitments to a 'gas-led recovery' I would whole-heartedly like to acknowledge the tireless work of this dedicated and genius group of humans – thank you for all you do behind the scenes and out front to hold our governments to account in this decisive decade where the only way towards a safe future is one where no new fossil fuels are extracted from this precious earth. Despite the many good reasons not to frack, this fight is not yet over – if you're not already involved here is your opportunity to take action for something that matters in a big way!

Thanks go to each and every one of our Board members: Brenda Shields, Sasha Kiessling (Acting Secretary), Rosalie Schultz, Paul AhChee, Keith Castle and to our Executive: Roxanne Highfold (Deputy Chair), Pamela Mills (Treasurer extraordinaire) and Secretary Liz Olle who resigned part way through the term. I would particularly like to acknowledge the phenomenal amount of work Pamela has done all year, as well as the very exciting new Inclusion and Diversity Committee Roxanne created and Chairs. This Committee was established to create a space to grow ALEC to be more representative of the community in which we live and work. Thank you also to volunteers Lyla Dash and Oscar Perri for your contributions as non-ALEC Board members to this committee.

With that big year behind us and having laid solid foundations, it is with great confidence that we look to the year ahead with a new dynamic and skilled leader to guide ALEC in this decisive decade and bring everyone along with us.

Finally, thank you to our community, our volunteers and membership – without you there would be no ALEC!

Barbara Molanus
ALEC Chair



Message from the CEO



This is my 14th and final report as Coordinator/Director and CEO of the Arid Lands Environment Centre. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the community through ALEC and to have the opportunity to learn so much and meet and work with so many inspiring people along the way. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this journey and I look forward to continuing to work towards ALEC's inclusive and long-standing vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people.'

The theme of this year has been a transition. The growth of ALEC has seen us expand beyond the premises in The Gap and establish a second office in Ciccone. This office now houses the Alice Springs Future Grid Community Solutions and the Arid Edge Environmental Services teams. The re-establishment of Food for Alice at the Alice Springs Community Garden has seen an average of more than 40 people every weekend buy local produce and enjoy coffee and cakes in the most beautiful surrounds.

Our fundraising efforts have enabled us to employ a campaigner to fight the fracking onslaught and to recruit an events and volunteers coordinator. The application for the large NT Community Benefit Fund grant has enabled us to start the Westside Community Garden in Gillen. The growth of Arid Edge and delivering food gardens in Utopia, town camps, Yuendumu and Nyirippi, not to mention the native landscaping for Purple House nursing accommodation across the region has seen ALEC's impact diversify and spread.

This growth hasn't been without its challenges. ALEC has almost perpetually been recruiting for positions as people have moved on or for the new positions we have created. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic saw the EcoFair and our events having to adapt to delivering online and hybrid events. The departure of long-standing staff has also increased the pressure and workload of staff as we have at times had to scramble to get things done. But ALEC staff have pushed through the challenges because we believe in the work that we do. We know it makes a difference to people's lives and helps build momentum towards our vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people' and I think and commend everyone, particularly the Arid Edge team for their commitment and efforts.

The ALEC Board also must be acknowledged for the work they have done this year. The development of a new strategic plan, overseeing the development of a comprehensive suite of policies and supporting me as CEO through this period has been an incredible effort. Not to mention the recruitment of a General Manager through all of this. ALEC Chair Barb Molanus and Treasurer Pamela Mills have done an incredible job throughout and Paul Ah Chee's leadership in the recruitment process for the General Manager role has delivered a fantastic new leader for ALEC, Jade Kudrenko. I want to thank the ALEC Board for their support over the years and their strategic leadership. I also want to acknowledge and thank Allan Cooney and Susie Gregory for their guidance and support this year.

I am excited about the future of ALEC. I will miss it incredibly but knowing the ALEC team like I do, I am confident that ALEC's vision will be realised.

Thank you to all of the members and supporters who have continued to make all that ALEC does possible. Your support does make a difference.

Yours in solidarity.

Jimmy Cocking
Signing off.



Climate action in the arid lands

In the Outback, people are already living with the impacts of a warming planet and it's only getting hotter. Longer heatwaves, bigger fires, more extreme heat days and longer droughts will impact our communities and ecosystems. Aboriginal people living in bush communities will be hit the hardest. ALEC is campaigning to stop fracking to urgently reduce our emissions, and working with the community toward a clean, energy future.





Hannah Ekin, ALEC's anti-gas campaigner, speaking at Fund My Future Not Gas. A joint letter was delivered to Minister Chansey Paech, asking him to represent community voices against fracking in the NT Parliament.

Don't frack the Outback

In 2020, the Morrison Government unveiled plans for a 'gas-fired' recovery and over \$200 million in subsidies for gas companies to frack the Beetaloo Basin. Thanks to generous donations, ALEC recruited an anti-gas campaigner to help drive the local anti-fracking movement forward at a critical time.

ALEC has campaigned to stop fracking in the Northern Territory since 2011, working alongside local, regional and national organisations, including the Lock the Gate Alliance and the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance.

This year, our community engagement and advocacy was aimed at keeping public pressure on Territory politicians, with the goal of blocking fracking in the Beetaloo (currently in exploration phase), and ensuring no new areas in the Territory are opened up for exploration.

CSIRO and Charles Darwin University researchers found 11 new species of stygofauna in aquifers underlying the Beetaloo Basin gas fields. ALEC hosted a webinar with researcher Dr Jenny Davis to raise awareness of groundwater connectivity and role of stygofauna for healthy water, calling for a halt on fracking until more is known about the function of these tiny creatures.

Commonwealth tips another \$173 million into Beetaloo Basin gas reserve, insists emissions targets on track

'Back off the Beetaloo': Alice Springs protesters denounce gas policies



Working with the community toward the grid of the future



**ALICE SPRINGS
FUTURE GRID**

With close to 3,000 solar systems in Alice Springs, our energy system is in transition. Alice Springs Future Grid is a multi-stakeholder collaborative project which will help transform the power system to support more renewable energy and help our town to meet the Northern Territory's 50 per cent by 2030 renewable energy target.

Every electricity grid faces challenges associated with the transition to renewable energy. Future Grid is a project that uses a series of trials, models to increase the amount of clean energy while improving use of the current electricity system.

ALEC is the link between Future Grid and the community, as the Community Solutions sub-project lead, working with households to roll out battery storage and the Northern Territory's first Virtual Power Plant.

Trialling new technology

The Solar Connect Virtual Power Plant (VPP) trial will link homes across Alice Springs households via a VPP.

The trial will involve households with rooftop solar only, or solar with a battery system. Households in the VPP will share solar and battery power in ways that benefit the Alice Springs grid and form the next generation of more sustainable energy solutions.

ALEC worked with our partners to prepare the details of the trial and prepare for the launch, including producing a range of print and digital communications materials. In the coming months, ALEC will be hosting a range of events focussed on our local electricity grid.



Our VPP explainer video helps the community to learn how VPPs can schedule household batteries to store energy when solar panels are producing the most electricity. It was great working with Alice Springs' own italk Studios for the production and concept development work on this piece.



Alice Springs residents Nick and Allison said having solar panels is not only about saving on their electricity bills but contributing toward a positive energy future that benefits their town and community.

91% of people want more renewables in the grid

A sample of Alice Springs residents were surveyed to explore current levels of knowledge and awareness of renewable energy, as well as existing levels of engagement with technologies such as solar power and battery storage systems. The survey showed the continued strong support for renewables in Alice Springs, with 91% of respondents wanting more energy from our grid coming from renewables.

The survey was facilitated by market research agency McGregor Tan and designed in collaboration with Intyalheme and CSIRO with input from Project Partners the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) and Jacana Energy. ALEC shared an infographic of the survey with the community.

Solar for social housing = positive energy

ALEC met with stakeholders as part of a study proposal to address the barriers to installing solar energy in low-income housing. 82% of people in the whole-of-town survey agreed that renewables should be more accessible for renters, unit dwellers and those in Town Camps.

We hope this research will bring us one step closer to ensuring that low socio economic renters and those living in community housing in Alice Springs can access affordable and clean energy.



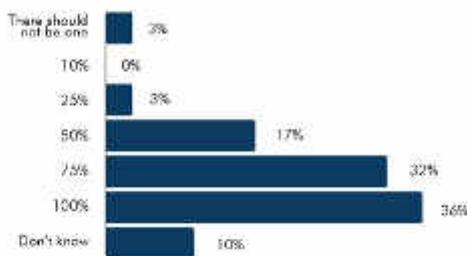
Alice Springs Future Grid is led by the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy, on behalf of Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA). Alice Springs Future Grid is supported by ARENA, the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government.

Community attitudes toward renewable energy.



91%
OF ALL RESPONDANTS FEEL THAT MORE ENERGY FROM THE GRID SHOULD BE RENEWABLES-BASED.

What do you think should be the Northern Territory's renewable energy target by 2030?



WHO DOES THE COMMUNITY TRUST ON INFORMATION ABOUT RENEWABLES?

77% Research/science agencies and universities

68% Early adopters of renewable energy technology

64% Environmental/sustainability organisations

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE WHEN IT COMES TO ENERGY SUPPLY?



1. SUSTAINABILITY



2. RELIABILITY



3. AFFORDABILITY

HOUSEHOLDS ARE LEADING UPTAKE IN RENEWABLES



46% have solar hot water



58% intend to invest in renewables



3,000+ households in Alice Springs have rooftop solar

89% WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ALICE SPRINGS.

82% somewhat or strongly agreed that renewables should be more accessible for renters, unit dwellers and those in town camps.

73% PEOPLE FEEL IT'S IMPORTANT TO GENERATE THEIR OWN ELECTRICITY.

Learn more on the website www.alicespringsfuturegrid.com.au

3% OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE A BATTERY INSTALLED

56% HAVE A RELATIVELY HIGH INTENTION TO INVEST IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

Climate Justice Forum

ALEC attended the two-day *Climate Justice Forum: Our Jobs, Climate and Community* in Darwin in February 2021 to build diverse relationships including with Aboriginal-controlled organisations, unions, community and social services, academia and environment.

The forum focused on a breadth of climate justice issues including: a just transition to a zero-carbon economy and equitable adaptation; the sovereignty, self-determination and livelihoods of First Nations people; economic development that benefits Territorians; and improving labour rights while focusing on economic participation. The key sectors focused on were housing, health, education, social care, energy and resources.

Following the forum, a steering committee was established. The committee continues to meet monthly to foster cross-sectoral collaboration around climate justice issues. This alliance of organisations is a unique collaboration nationally.



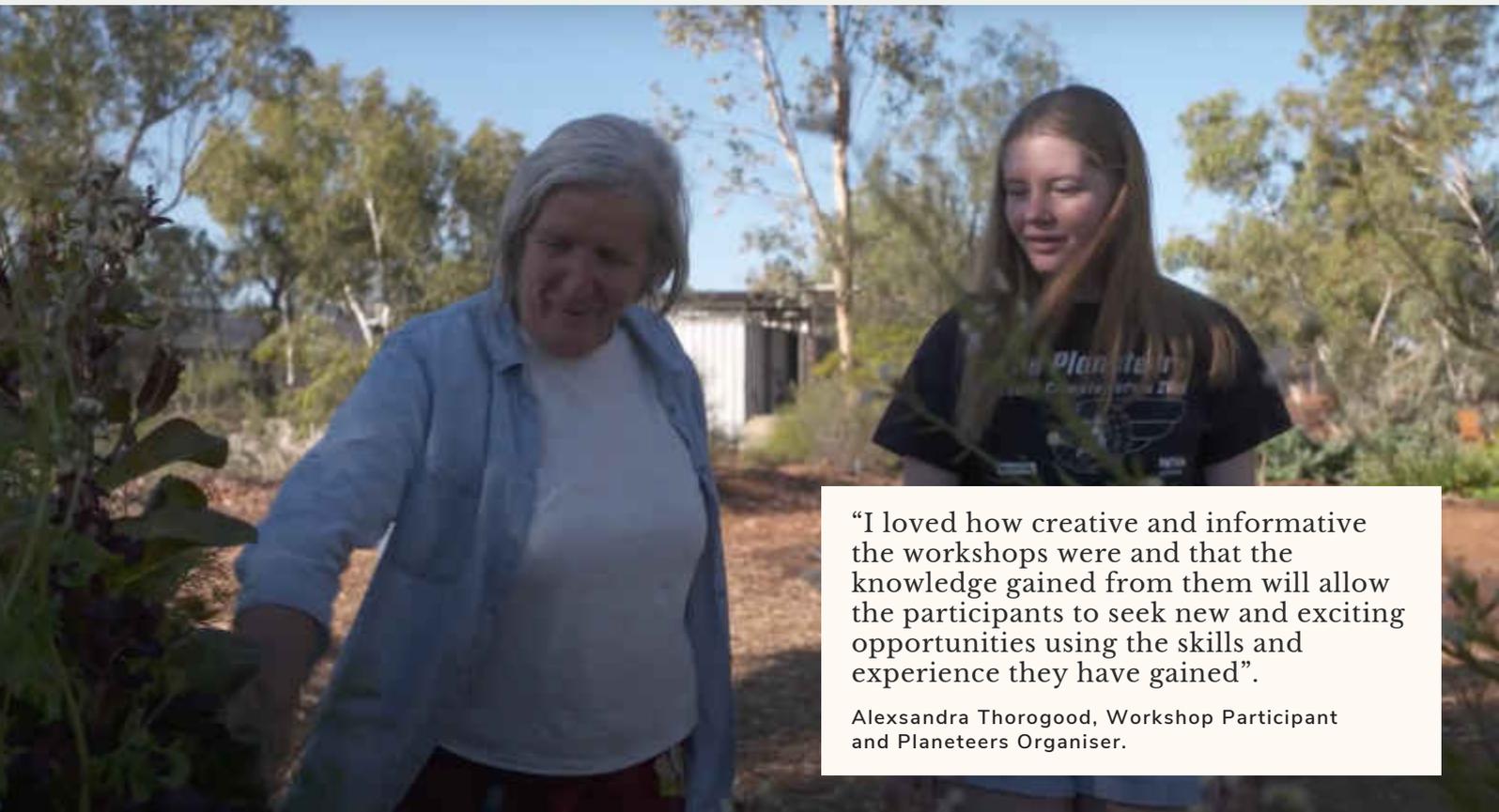
The Planeteers

The Planeteers, a youth-led climate action and environmental group, got skilled up in permaculture and climate change knowledge.

The Planeteers aim to drive local climate action by building the climate and environmental knowledge of their members and developing practical skills to live more sustainably in the desert.

Arid Edge Environmental Services ran a series of permaculture workshops covering topics including creative vegetable gardening, building wicking beds, permaculture design and composting.

ALEC's Youth Climate Forum aimed to empower the next generation of climate leaders, and equip young people with knowledge about climate change and the skills to take action.



“I loved how creative and informative the workshops were and that the knowledge gained from them will allow the participants to seek new and exciting opportunities using the skills and experience they have gained”.

Alexandra Thorogood, Workshop Participant and Planeteers Organiser.



Red bowl containing citrus fruits.

Sweet Potato

Turnips
4 bunch
Radish
\$4 bunch

Cauli
\$10 each
Brocc
\$10 K

Bok bunch
Choy \$4
Mustard
Greens \$4



Protecting Country

Healthy rivers, deserts, wetlands and natural landscapes are central to the way of Northern Territory life, our culture and our livelihoods. Protecting these diverse landscapes against threats from climate change, weed species like buffel grass, and inappropriate industrial developments is a big part of the work of ALEC.



10 Deserts Project - Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert

The Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert (BFGVD) is a project of the 10 Deserts Project, a continental scale environmental resilience project. ALEC's role in the 10 Deserts Project is as a Conservation Partner and the Coordinator of the BFGVD.

The BFGVD working group meets to report back on buffel grass management in the region and shares knowledge on treatments and data management. This is guided by the Integrated Buffel Management Plan for the Great Victoria Desert.

Earlier this year, cross-border on-country work was a challenge and even now, the pandemic continues to create barriers but we didn't let that stop us. We focused on developing an animation to help people understand the impacts of buffel grass on country, culture and communities and highlight the opportunities for action.

The film 'We Can Be Buffel Free' was written for both English and Pitjantjara speaking audiences and produced by iTalk Studios. The film was premiered at the Indigenous Desert Alliance Online Conference in front of more than 100 rangers and received extremely positive feedback. Watch the films on the 10 Deserts website.

www.10deserts.org



APY Lands On-Country Training

Held June 7-11 in Umuwa, the workshop was attended by around 30 rangers and included presentations from PhD candidate Ellen Ryan-Colton, Alintjara Wilurara Landscapes data specialist Adam Wood and accredited training by Batchelor Institute. Graphic recording was done by Sarah Cook Creative.

The week resulted in more than 20 rangers achieving credit for Conservation and Land Management in Biosecurity, Treat Weeds and Apply Chemicals. A statement, referred to as the 'Umuwa Statement on Buffel Grass' was also written and collateral was produced, including a film, to support on-going action on buffel grass.

Due to the departure of former ALEC CEO in July 2021, the project has been handed over to Alintjara Wilurara Landscapes who are better placed to advance the project for the next two years and beyond.



Policy advocacy

Through our policy advocacy, ALEC is working to protect water, biodiversity and climate, so that our communities and ecosystems can live sustainably in the arid lands.

ALEC monitors the laws, policies and developments that impacts the diverse landscapes and communities of Central Australia and the arid zone. This is a critical role providing independent oversight and scrutiny over Government decisions and policies, acting as a key safeguard for environmental protection in the Northern Territory.

ALEC promotes positive policy reform in key areas which seek to strengthen environmental protections across the arid zone. We advocate for a regulatory environment and ecologically sustainable development that is in the public interest, is transparent and accountable, and reflects best-practice in protecting environmental and social values.

Our submissions

ALEC is funded by the Northern Territory Government to provide policy submissions and advice. Commenting on policy provides the community an opportunity to be involved in local decision making, and is vital to good policy-making. In 2020-2021 ALEC completed 13 submissions in the following areas:

Water

Gas and
petroleum

Nature and
conservation

Mining
regulations

Climate

Renewable
energy

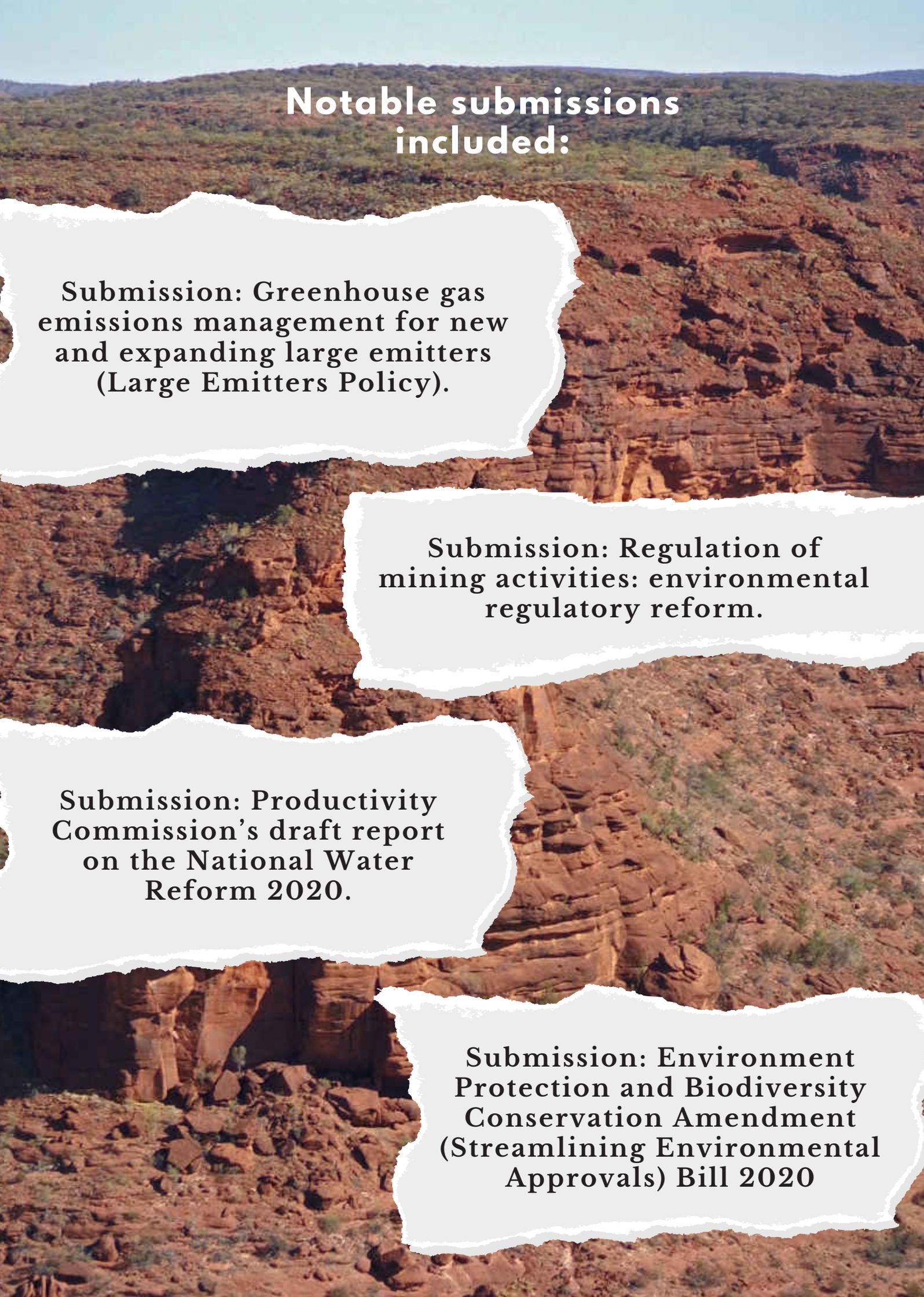
See ALEC submissions and learn more www.alec.org.au/policy_advocacy

ALEC CEO Jimmy Cocking (right) and Policy Officer Alex Vaughan (middle) met with Environment Minister Eva Lawler for a discussion on a range of critical issues for Central Australia.



ALEC Policy Officer Alex Vaughan spoke to CAAMA's Josef Egger about the Singleton Station water licence. ALEC has also appeared on ABC Alice Springs radio and online news, NT News and Alice Springs News.





**Notable submissions
included:**

Submission: Greenhouse gas emissions management for new and expanding large emitters (Large Emitters Policy).

Submission: Regulation of mining activities: environmental regulatory reform.

Submission: Productivity Commission's draft report on the National Water Reform 2020.

Submission: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Streamlining Environmental Approvals) Bill 2020

Stop Singleton Station

The Northern Territory Government has approved the largest water licence in Territory history – 40 billion litres per year for 30 years. The impact on native plants, animals, sacred sites and community drinking water will be disastrous. ALEC is campaigning to protect water and stop Singleton.



Government approves largest ever water licence, ALEC responds

In May 2021, Fortune Agribusiness were granted rights to 40 billion litres of water annually in arid central Australia to irrigate crops for export. Without a water pricing regime, the private company will receive this water for free from the NT Government.

With legal advice from the Environmental Defenders Office, ALEC lodged a formal challenge, requesting the decision be sent to a Ministerial Review Panel.

The risks of groundwater over-extraction:

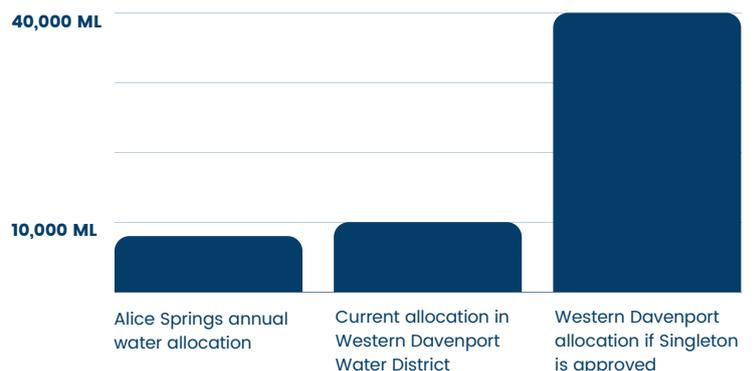
- Lowering the water table by up to 50 metres over the 30-year period;
- Impacts to the drinking water supply of 1,000 nearby residents;
- Potential to irreversible damage groundwater dependant ecosystems for a projected 30kms.

Hundreds sign petition to Minister Lawler

Hundreds of ALEC supporters signed a petition to urge Environment Minister Eva Lawler to intervene and immediately refer the water licence for environmental assessment.



Proposed water licence increase



5 x the annual use of all water in Alice Springs each year



Central Land Council's Michael Liddle joined ALEC's Policy Officer Alex Vaughan and Hannah Ekin, spokesperson for the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance, for a panel discussion at Wide Open Spaces to talk about one of central Australia's most urgent issues: water.

Singleton Station threatens to set a deeply worrying precedent for water management in the NT. The crisis is also an opportunity to activate more people around the issue of water, and advocate together for a stronger and more robust regulatory system. First, we need to #StopSingleton.



Over 50 people joined Stacey Ella (EDO), Georgia Stewart (CLC), Josie Douglas (CLC) and Alex Vaughan (ALEC) for the Singleton Station Water at the East Side Community Garden to learn about the largest water licence in the Northern Territory's history and ask questions about the development.

Water issues run deep

The Singleton Station development exposes systemic issues around water management and governance in the Northern Territory.

- **A lack of baseline research:** major knowledge gaps in how the groundwater system functions creates risk and uncertainty.
- **The Water Act is incredibly weak** and provides too much discretion to the Water Controller.
- **Perceived conflict of interest and a lack of regulatory separation:** the Water Controller wears multiple hats as the water regulator, CEO of the NT's Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security and also sits on the board of the private developer NT Land Corporation.

www.alec.org.au/stopsingleton

Mining regulations

Millions in Federal Government subsidies aimed to fast track fracking in the Beetaloo Basin. The Northern Territory Government failed to manage Federal Government pressure to approve projects from oil and gas at the same time as complying with safeguards to minimise the risks of this fracking. ALEC held the NT Government to account as catastrophe looms without strict laws and regulations.

In April 2018, the Government lifted the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing on the basis it would implement all 135 recommendations of the Fracking Inquiry. The inquiry panel, spearheaded by Justice Rachel Pepper, said the risks could only be reduced to acceptable levels only if all 135 recommendations were implemented.

While the NT Government continues to subsidise and support the expansion of the gas fracking industry, it is failing to keep its end of the bargain to ensure that the risks of fracking are minimised at all times.

ALEC has held the government accountable on Pepper Inquiry recommendations through a joint letter to the Environment Minister, informing the general public via our mailing list and social media, and supporting community groups and stakeholder orgs (e.g. CAFFA and AMSANT) to raise this issue in submissions to the recent senate inquiry.

FRACKING INQUIRY REPORT CARD	
PROMISED:	FAILED
Gas industry to pay for scientific baseline assessments	Territorians are paying for scientific baseline assessments (\$11.79m)
The timeframe for scientific baseline studies will be 3-5 years	The timeframe for scientific baseline studies slashed to 18 months
No net increase in life cycle GHG emissions from onshore shale gas produced in the NT	No plan exists for how lifecycle emissions will be offset
Amend the EPBC Act to apply the 'water trigger' to onshore shale gas development.	The Act has not been amended to apply the 'water trigger'
There will be strong safeguards to assess cumulative impacts of multiple fracking projects in the NT	Not a single environment impact assessment has been completed for fracking in the NT
The Northern Territory introduces a charge on water for gas companies	Gas companies still get their water for free
The NT Government is failing to meet its promises to effectively regulate fracking	

Question of Beetaloo emissions remains unresolved

Fracking the Beetaloo could increase Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions by up to 6.6%, jeopardising Australia's Paris emission target.

The NT Government is failing to ensure all emissions associated with onshore gas production in the NT are offset, as per recommendation 9.8.



Strategic Regional Environmental Baseline Assessment (SREBA) is a vital core element of the Pepper Inquiry, and the Inquiry recommended stygofauna should be included in the assessment of aquatic ecosystems during a SREBA.

Build back better

Responding to environmental and social fractures that were exposed during the pandemic, ALEC developed a Build Back Better campaign to help shape the agenda of the NT economic recovery.

Build Back Better advocates for an effective, collective response to the crisis that focuses on reducing CO2 emissions, preventing environmental degradation, tackling economic inequality and strengthening our resilience to future shocks.

We supported people to make a submission to the NT Government for a climate-positive, sustainable recovery; one that focuses on a low carbon economy, protects nature and sets us on course for a fairer, more equitable Territory.



NT election

Ahead of the NT 2020 election, ALEC launch A Climate-Safe, Resilient Future - Policies for the 2020 NT Election and Beyond, outlining key commitments the next government needs to make to safeguard our future.

Supporters signed a petition calling on all political parties and candidates to protect nature and support a solar-powered future in the NT.

Our key asks



Renewables was one of the most talked-about issues at the Northern Territory Election in August. It was the first time we've seen bipartisan support for renewable energy in an NT election - a result of strong, persistent campaigning.





Alice Springs Bushcare Project

Bushcare aims to increase native biodiversity, reduce the spread of invasive weeds and manage the impact of fire brought on by invasive buffel and couch grasses. The Bushcare team recorded a threefold increase in native species since the project began in 2019.

Average number of native species recorded at monitoring tree sites:

Ilparapa Claypans: 2.73
Lower Todd River: 1.60

2019



Ilparapa Claypans: 8.27
Lower Todd River: 7.30

2021



Protecting special places and native species

Many areas around Alice Springs have high cultural significance to local Indigenous custodians, as well as being home to many rare and threatened species. They are under threat from wildfire, which is largely due to the spread of buffel grass.

The Bushcare team worked with Senior Aboriginal people to identify trees of cultural and ecological significance. Works undertaken includes scoping, vegetation surveys, treatment and clearing of grasses through slashing and spraying and monitoring of regrowth around trees for follow up treatments.

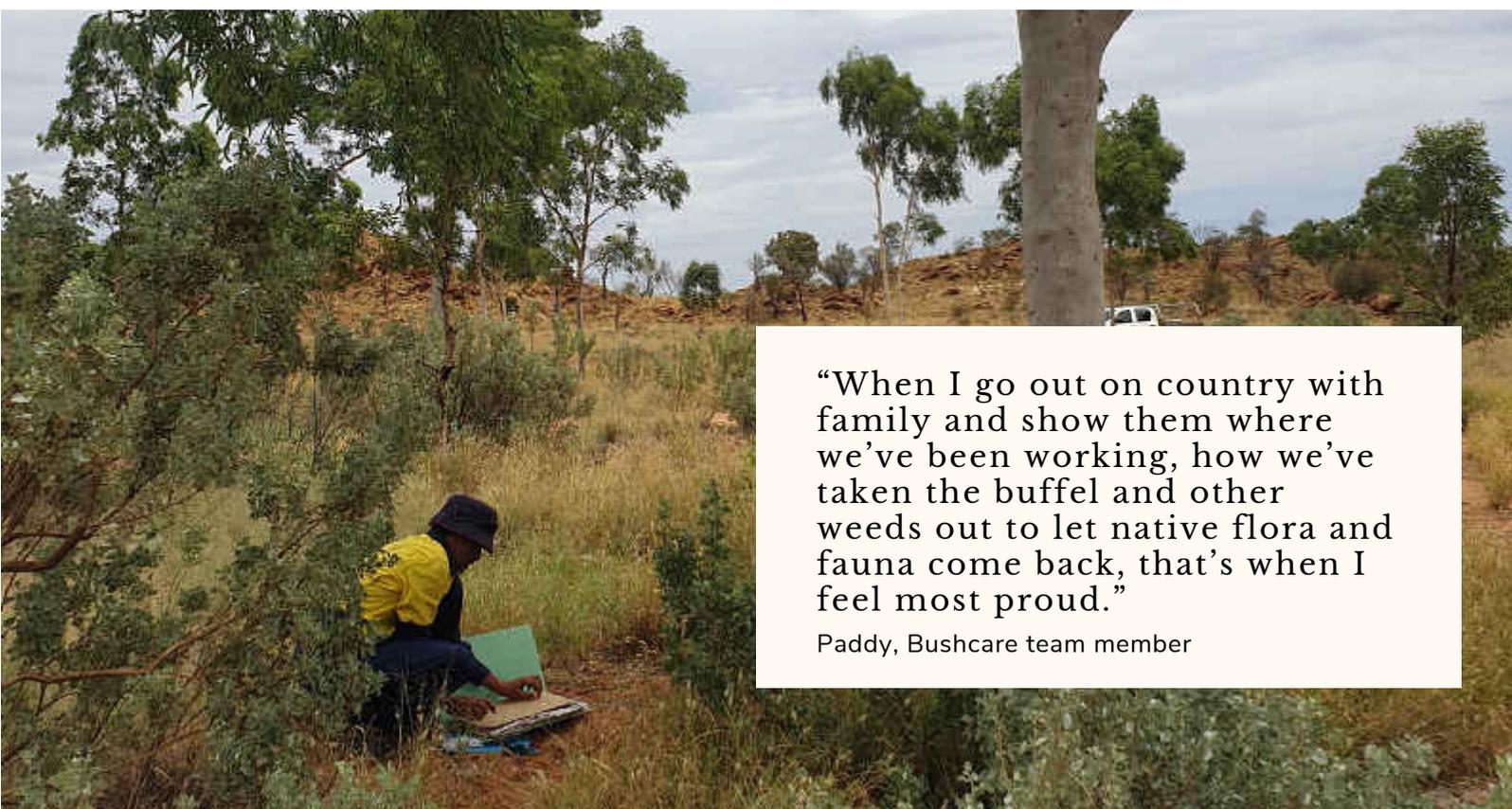


Arid Edge Environmental Services, in partnership with Tangentyere Council, provides training in conservation techniques and employment opportunities to local Aboriginal people, with a goal of establishing a local workforce that can be utilised for ongoing fire, weed and land management of the area.

Since 2019, the Arid Edge Bushcare Team has treated a total of 8.35ha of country with 249 trees protected.

This project has been assisted by the Northern Territory Government Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security through the Aboriginal Ranger Grant Program: Conservation and Land Management Fund. This project has been completed in Partnership with Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation.

◀ The southern slopes of the MacDonnell Ranges, a National Heritage Site, is home to threatened species such as the black footed rock wallaby (pictured left) and central rock rat. Ilparpa Valley, a site of national botanical significance, is home to 55 flora species needing conservation. The Bushcare Team undertook conservation work across these special places.



“When I go out on country with family and show them where we’ve been working, how we’ve taken the buffel and other weeds out to let native flora and fauna come back, that’s when I feel most proud.”

Paddy, Bushcare team member

Sustainable and resilient communities

ALEC contributes to building thriving, resilient Outback communities and supports people, households and businesses to be more energy efficient, reduce waste, grow food locally and conserve water. We do this by sharing knowledge and driving innovation for living sustainably in the arid lands.





HEALTHY TAKE

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Amern Mwerr Good Food program

First established in Utopia in 2009, Amern Mwerr aims to increase access to fresh fruit and vegetables through building and maintaining food gardens, growing skills in harvesting and cooking fresh produce and improving nutrition knowledge with information sessions.

On the Utopia Homelands

First established in 2009, Arid Edge has been running the Amern Mwerr program on the Utopia Homelands since 2015. The team made monthly trips to Utopia, where a Public Health Nutrition Worker organises cook ups with gardening and nutrition information sessions across 11 Homelands.

“Garden was good when working. We go hunting, catch the roo’ and then cook up with veggies from garden. Made us feel good. Our food.”

Atheyle resident from Utopia Homelands



604 

Amern Mwerr program engagements



Arid Edge completed 10 trips to Utopia Homelands

50 

cook ups with gardening and nutrition sessions

Good tucker for Town Camps

Since 2019, Arid Edge has been working with Tangentyere Council to run the Amern Mwerr program with Town Camp Community Centres. Last year, Arid Edge ran programs in six Town Camp Community Centres and engaged 130 residents in Amern Mwerr.

Town Camp gardens had hugely successful summer crops of watermelons and rockmelons and winter crops of leafy greens, cauliflowers, broccolis and herbs. Anthelk-Ewlpaye/Charles Creek has had so many leafy greens that the Community Centre kitchen couldn't keep up!

“This garden is good here, gives us something to do, keeps us out of out town and out of trouble.”

Ilperle/Tyathe Warlpiri Resident



The Amern Mwerr approach



Providing people with a source of fresh, healthy, affordable food



Teaching children and adults to grow food and prepare it in a healthy environment



Providing nutrition and health education to encourage healthy choices.

Utopia kids put kangaroo kebabs on the menu

Arid Edge published a new co-authored cookbook in Utopia, the *Kids Healthy Eating Takeaway Cookbook*, this time written with Utopia children.

The *Healthy Takeaway Project*, funded by the Bill Raby Diabetes Fellowship, aims to promote nutrition in a way that's led by the community. During the school holidays, Arid Edge ran a series of cooking programs with young people to get them inspired about the possibilities of healthy food. Utopia kids chose and trialed a selection of recipes to create a culturally relevant and nutritious take away menu.

The cookbook is a small collection of their favourites, including meals such as kangaroo kebabs, sauso rolls and coconut chicken curry.

The cookbook is a real hit with the community, with more than half of people surveyed reporting that their favourite recipe to cook is from the cookbook.

"It's good for the kids to cook healthy food because it's giving them ideas. They can make it for their friends and families. And so they can stay healthier, to stop diabetes."

Joycie Jones, Soapy Bore resident



Ecofair shines a light on local resilience

The 12th annual Ecofair brought the community together for a three-day festival during National Science Week. With the COVID-19 pandemic raising the stakes on sustainability and highlighting the importance of resilience at the community level, the ideas promoted at the Ecofair are more relevant than ever.





A discussion about the uncertain future that climate change poses for Central Australia and the Indigenous and community leaders that are stepping up in the face of it was one of the festival highlights.

People gathered at Olive Pink Botanic Garden for an outdoor cinema retrospective to honour the life and works of Central Australian filmmaker David Nixon, curated by friend and colleague Fiona Walsh.



50 people toured the Desert Knowledge Precinct to learn about solar arrays and satellites, arts and culture, and learn about Indigenous land management.

EcoScience Schools

EcoScience Schools inspired hundreds of central Australian students around science and sustainability.

EcoScience Schools day has historically attracted over 800 students to participate in hands-on workshops. This year, ALEC organised nine online EcoScience classrooms facilitated by local and interstate organisations on topics including ecology, renewable energy, waste management, sustainable transport, Desert Wetlands, health and more. The workshops received over 1,300 registrations from Central Australian schools and home-schooling students.



EcoScience Schools: Biodiversity in our Backyards presented by Land for Wildlife Central Australia



From arid lands green things grow: Westside Community Garden

10 years ago, we had a vision for a network of thriving gardens across Mparntwe Alice Springs for the community to lead, learn, plant and harvest. Community Garden Network is growing.

The new Westside Garden is part of ALEC's commitment to developing sustainable food systems in the arid lands and empowering people to live more sustainably. ALEC announced the launch of a new Gillen garden in October 2020, thanks to a partnership with the Centralian Middle School (CMS) and funding from the Community Benefit Fund.

CMS Principal, Paul Van Holsteyn says that Centralian Middle School is proud to be a part of such an important community initiative:

“This community garden will provide teachers and students with the opportunity to learn from experts in the field on sustainable living and caring for their environment.”

Garden design workshop

A workshop facilitated by Arid Edge was held to consult and engage community members in the garden design process.

Design features emerging from the workshop include having a native plant, bush foods and bush medicine garden, and building a garden with majority communal garden beds, rather than individual plots.

Setting up the committee

A volunteer Garden Committee was established and continues to meet regularly to discuss issues related to governance, membership, garden design, community engagement, fundraising working bees and the rest.

There's lots to do, but it's a very rewarding time for newcomers to get involved and see the garden grow right from the start.

Become a Garden member or come along to a working bee:

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





Kim McKay, Alice Springs Community Garden Manager, with dates from the farm at Food for Alice.

Alice Springs Community Garden

The Alice Springs Community Garden has continued to flourish and grow in many ways over the past year, working toward its vision of 'Growing Healthy Gardens for the Alice Springs Community'. Some highlights include:



An extremely active Garden Management Committee



Installation of an electronic Smart Water Controller



Establishing six additional Food for Alice/communal garden beds



Developing a new Garden Manual for Members



Garden rep on the Town Council's Environmental Advisory Committee



Running working bees at least twice weekly



Encouraging visits by school, community and Indigenous groups



Volunteers spreading literally tons of compost



An active social media presence that keeps the community informed

The outstanding progress and popularity of our Garden would have been impossible without the ideas, energy, teamwork and commitment of our Committee (and their amazing partners, families and friends!) and our many volunteers. Long may we continue to grow!

Good cheer. Bruce, Garden Convenor

Our community is our power



Why I volunteer



I recently returned to my home town of Alice Springs after several years away. I was shocked by the degradation of the landscape. The buffel grass! Deep water holes of my childhood - disappeared under hooves and weeds. Then came the horrific death of my darling pup – a 'non-target' victim of 1080 and the fires.

I was home and settled and had time and space to think and act. Going to protests wasn't really my thing. I knew letter writing was meant to be one of the most effective ways to engage...

So in 2020, I formed Letters for the Environment Central Australia (LECA) with the aim of providing structure for myself and a resource for others in the community wanting to learn and act in a relatively slow, evidence-based way. LECA involves a monthly open letter writing session where anyone interested can come, discuss the case card and write a letter.

After that, we distribute 'letter writing kits' to cafes in town. The kits include a case card, example letters / letter writing tips, and more recently colouring in templates. They even come with a prepaid envelope and pen!

Thank you Jacqueline Arnold for your work to protect the desert country.

Some of the case cards have led to more action – in Feb 2021, LECA started a petition opposing the Singleton Station water licence which was signed by over 23 000 people!

In April 2021, we started the 'Buffel Grass Information and Action Group'. We have just started working on a dingo protection campaign and look forward to turning our attention to stock and feral animals in permanent and ephemeral water holes.

I manage multiple social media pages and accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Keeping these active is a full-time job in itself!

In such a short time, I have received the most amazing support, encouragement and / or inspiration from organisations in Alice Springs (ALEC, CAFFA, Landcare, the cafes who host the LECA Letter Writing Kits including the The Roastery, The Goods, 8CCC Café, the Base Cafe), the NT (ECNT, the EDO, Gamba Grass Roots) and experts, and other community members locally, nationally and internationally!

Volunteering to this extent has been time consuming (I spend on average 3-4 full days a week working on the various projects), entertaining, confronting, satisfying, exposing, and empowering.

For sure I've got some things wrong – gotten angry and gone too far, felt out of my depth and not gone far enough. Volunteering has put me on one of the steepest learning curves of my life and I have developed so many new understandings and skills.

Letters for the Environment Central Australia

Letter writing sessions: last Tuesday of the month
5:30–6:30PM, ALEC office, 90 Gap Rd.

Facebook page and group:
www.facebook.com/lettersfortheenvironment
www.facebook.com/groups/lettersfortheenvironment

Twitter @letterscentral
Instagram @lettersfortheenvironment

Buffel grass information and action group
www.facebook.com/groups/buffelgrass

Don't Frack the Outback fundraising win!

Within just two weeks of launching the crowdfunding campaign, we surpassed our target of \$24,000 and raised over \$28,000 thanks to the generous support of many passionate people determined to see a permanent ban on fracking.

These funds were matched by the Lock the Gate Alliance, and enabled ALEC to recruit a campaigner to work alongside local groups and organisations and contribute to the nationwide fight against the polluting gas industry.



Thank you to everyone who donated to support the long-haul fight against fracking ahead! We reached the initial target of \$24,000 in just two weeks.

Do it for the Desert, to protect the country we love

In May 2021, ALEC launched Do it for the Desert, a fundraising event which asks people to take a challenge for the desert and raise vital funds to help keep our ecosystems and communities healthy.

Jack raised \$534 for the desert when he challenged himself to quit alcohol for a month!

How it works:



Choose your challenge
Walk, run or choose another kind of challenge.



Spread the word
Ask friends and family to sponsor you to help protect some of the most intact desert landscape on earth.



Protect the desert
Every dollar you raise will support work to help keep our ecosystems healthy for future generations.



"I am taking on the mission of being alcohol-free for one month. This will help redeem myself while at the same time assist greatly to help redeem the Earth from the destruction it has suffered and any future potential threats, which are many. That's gotta be a win/win for generations to come!"

www.alec.org.au/doitforthedesert

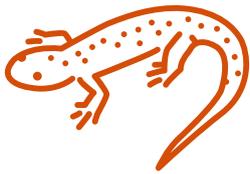
Thank you to the community of people taking action through ALEC

We would like to thank the hundreds of people who donated to the Arid Lands Environment Centre in 2020-21, our 41st year. You helped to power the Singleton Station water licence campaign, took action for a solar-powered future without dirty fracking and contributed to building a thriving, caring and more sustainable desert community.

ALEC is a membership organisation joining together its diverse individual members to speak as a strong and trusted voice for the desert country. ALEC finished this past financial year with over 350 members.

Be part of the community taking action to protect our environment in the arid lands:
www.alec.org.au/member

As a result of the covid-19 pandemic, ALEC saw a significant reduction from the previous year of it's members, Desert Defenders and donors. ALEC received financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government through cash flow stimulus and job seeker allowances to ensure we were able to continue our work in 2020-21.



34 Desert Defenders
made monthly gifts



350 members
at June 2020



Over \$150,000
in total donations

Community Garden volunteers celebrate a job well done after the 2020 Ecofair.



Major donors

ALEC would like to thank our major donors for their generous support of ALEC's ongoing work to protect nature and arid lands communities.

Desert Defenders

ALEC extends our thanks to all of our Desert Defenders who regularly donate to ALEC. This year, 34 Desert Defenders donated \$7,805. We hope to see this number grow.

Organisations

We'd like to thank our local businesses including Duyu Coffee, The Bakery Alice Springs and Lhere Artepe Supermarkets for their support this year.



ALEC touchpoint supporters

Thanks to these businesses for hosting ALEC's donation tap points enabling customers to donate \$5 directly to ALEC:

- The Bakery
- The Base Cafe
- Alice Springs Cinema
- Jump Inn



Thanks to The Bakery for hosting our touchpoint donation system



Partnerships and alliances



The Protect Country Alliance is a strategic network of community representatives and organisations forming a united front against fracking in the Northern Territory.



The Lock the Gate Alliance is a national grassroots organisation made up of over 120,000 supporters and more than 450 local groups who are concerned about risky coal mining, coal seam gas and fracking.



Central Australian Frack Free Alliance is a grassroots community group with the goal to protect our water, health, community and country by opposing unconventional gas extraction in the NT



Made up of Indigenous land management organisations, the IDA plays a vital role in securing the future health of the desert and its people.



The 10 Deserts Project is an Indigenous-led partnership for healthy country and people.



An alliance of non-profits working together for a thriving outback Australia, for the people and the land.



Australia's biggest alliance of environment groups, protecting the laws that protect the places we love.



Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) is an alliance of over 75 local, state, national and international groups working together to meet the challenges of climate change.

Looking ahead



This past year has seen significant growth in ALEC's breadth and reach. Those achievements have been the culmination of CEO Jimmy Cocking's 13 years of unwavering commitment and energy to the leadership of ALEC. I acknowledge his visionary leadership for over a decade of solid independent representation for the desert.

We are heralding a new era for the organisation, as well as entering a new phase of critical and complex threats to our climate and environment. ALEC will need fresh thinking, strong partnerships and creative solutions to transform livelihoods and ensure effective environmental advocacy in Central Australia. The ALEC Board has provided a thorough and thoughtful 2021-2031 strategic plan to guide the innovation that will be critical to achieving our vision of healthy futures for arid lands and people.

As General Manager of ALEC, I will be drawing on my experience working within Land Management in Central Australia, primarily for the Aboriginal Ranger Program. Arguably one of the most important Natural and Cultural Resource Management programs in the country, through the Indigenous Protected Areas, there's now the largest connected footprint of conservation land in the southern hemisphere.

The Ranger Program overcomes horrendous disadvantages to succeed in providing young people meaningful work and empowering Aboriginal people who belong to this land and are looking after their own country. Working in this space has been a privileged opportunity, to deepen my understanding of the challenges faced by desert communities and my appreciation for the arid environment.

Drawn to ALEC as an opportunity to support and amplify that work, I pay respect to the traditional custodians, the Arrente People who belong to this land. I extend that respect to all Traditional Custodians across Australia and recognise First Nations peoples' continued cultural and spiritual connection to the land that surrounds us and the water that sustains us.

As desert people, we know the impacts of water scarcity and heat all too well. Issues of water conservation and climate change weave through all aspects of ALECs areas of focus from land management, energy, biodiversity, waste and food.

One of my first tasks will be to lead ALEC efforts, alongside our allies, to oppose the unconscionable and landmark licence gifting of 40 billion litres of groundwater annually for three decades at Singleton Station. As the largest water allocation in Territory history, this sets a worrying precedent for the risks facing our precious groundwater dependent ecosystems, drinking water and cultural sites right across the desert. Water must be protected. Beyond Singleton, proactive engagement with the government to drive the urgent development of a rigorous and contemporary environmental regulatory framework will be a focus of the coming years.

I thank the ALEC board, staff, volunteers, funders, donors, partners and allies for their ongoing support for healthy futures for arid lands and people. I look forward to working for you to ensure Australia's arid lands are biodiverse and resilient.



Our governance

The success of every organisation depends on good leadership and sound governance. At ALEC, we are fortunate to have a Board who embody our values and believe wholeheartedly in our vision of a healthy future for arid lands and people. This year, they harnessed their collective skills and expertise to set a new strategic direction for the Arid Lands Environment Centre.



Our board as at 30 June 2020

ALEC is a not-for-profit incorporated company and is governed by a Board of Directors.

Our Board provides strong governance and ensures ALEC does effective work in an ethical and transparent manner.

We acknowledge the significant, voluntary contributions of the Board and the broad range of expertise, interest and dedication that they bring to ALEC's purpose and strategic direction.



Barb Molanus
Chair



Roxanne Highfold
Deputy Chair



Pamela Mills
Treasurer



Rosalie Schultz



Keith Castle
Public Officer



Sacha Keisling



Paul Ah Chee



Brenda Shields

With thanks also to past Board member Liz Olle.

Our staff between 2020-2021

Arid Lands Environment Centre

Jimmy Cocking, CEO

Alex Vaughan, Policy Officer

Sophie Elmoultie, Business Operations
Manager

Jess Xavier, Communications and Campaigns
Manager

Juliet Burton, Events and Volunteer Coordinator

Hannah Ekin, Gas Campaigner

Kaz Phillips, Westside Community Garden
Coordinator

Hayley Michener, Project Manager, Community
Solutions, Alice Springs Future Grid

Edan Baxter, Community Engagement Officer,
Community Solutions, Alice Springs Future Grid

Karine Tremblay, Food for Alice Coordinator

Kim Mackay, Alice Springs Community Garden
Manager

With thanks to past staff members:

Glenn Marshall
Haydn O'Keefe
Jasmine Story
Letetia Polychronopoulos
Mumina Tunne
Ruby Marshall

Arid Edge Environmental Services

Sunil Dhanji, Environmental Consultant &
Landscape Supervisor

Ra Sim, Landscape Designer, Horticulturist

Mia Kelly-Johnson, Administration Assistant

James Gomez, Landscaper & Waste Consultant

With thanks to past staff members:

Alex McClean, Arid Edge Manager
Stephen Saines
James Reynolds

Thanks to our casual staff:

Brenden Shedden
Cari Royer
Carmen Robinson
Cedric Cook
Clare Hamilton
Elaine Daniels
Ian Herbert
Jacob Eden
Jimmie Campbell
Keenan Mitchell
Kit Meander
Lesley Tickner
Meret MacDonald
Montgomery Noble-Swan
Orin Dixon
Patrick Laughton
Peter Palmer
Reece Davis
Roger Harvey Junior
Roger Harvey Senior
Sherwyn Williams
Treston Cubillo-Tomlins
Tyron Laughton

Thanks to our funders

The Arid Lands Environment Centre would like to extend a sincere thank you to the following funders and organisations for their financial support in 2020-21:



- Policy Officer (2016-17- 2020-21)
- Alice Springs Hospital Waste Project
- EcoScience Schools Days
- 2020 desertSMART Ecofair
- Building an Alice Springs Community Garden Network



- Community Assistance Grant
- Community Garden Gates



- 2020 desertSMART Ecofair



- 10 Deserts Project
- Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert project

Corporate sponsors

EcoFair sponsors



Treasurer's report



Merit Partners were again appointed as auditors for the financial year 2020/2021; this is their third audit report for ALEC members.

At the end of June 2021, the financial position of Arid Lands is very positive, despite the various challenges of this Covid pandemic environment.

ALEC has appointed the Verve Group as bookkeepers following the end of the engagement with Remarkable Bookkeeping in the fourth quarter of the financial year. Now that we have both new bookkeepers and a new General Manager, we are reviewing the chart of accounts to further streamline and simplify them and to give us better insight to the quite volatile financial landscape.

The appointment of a Business & Operations Manager in the first quarter enabled ALEC to have improved transparency and a more detailed view of our finances for the year. The FY20/21 budget will be carried over to this new financial year with some further amendments and the plan is for the Board to broadly review the budget on a quarterly basis.

The operating result was a net surplus of \$220k, compared with \$135k the previous year. Total equity remains strong at \$684K compared with \$463k last year.

The Covid pandemic continues to impact both ALEC and Arid Edge in many ways – some projects and programmes have been deferred/cancelled, the Federal Government's cash flow stimulus and job seeker allowances have ended, we continue to be impacted by border closures, making some Arid Edge work difficult to execute, and by staff shortages.

Whilst ALEC's position continues to be strong, Arid Edge has been more volatile and its financial performance has been carefully monitored over the year. At 30 June, Arid Edge had made a \$20k loss over the year, negatively impacted by increasing cost of materials, challenges delivering work across borders, and the loss of the Arid Edge manager at the end of the third quarter. As at 30 June, this role was unfilled. We are enormously grateful to the Arid Edge team for continuing to focus on delivering to their projects and contracts and their commitment to just getting on with the job, despite having no direct leadership.

In response to the volatility of the economic climate, the resignation of the CEO and of the Arid Edge Manager, the Board changed its meeting cadence from bi-monthly to monthly and kept a much closer watch on the finances than in previous years.

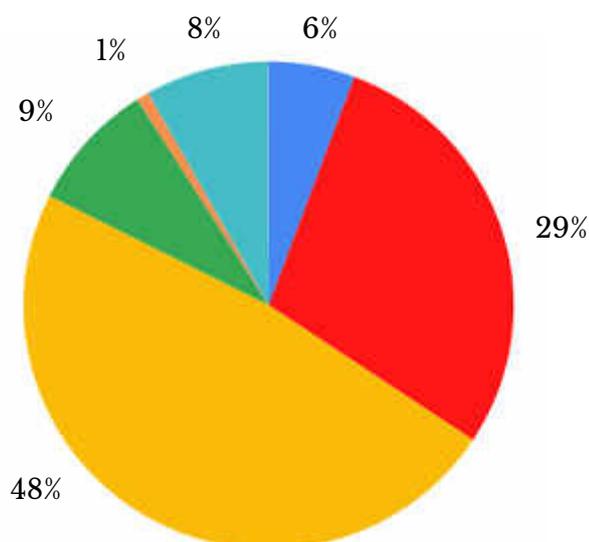
Our 41st birthday celebrations held this year were booked out and the art auction very solidly supported by enthusiastic bidding at the silent auction. This event raised approximately \$7k for ALEC.

Like most businesses across the nation, both ALEC and Arid Edge are under significant pressure and we continue to be enormously grateful to our members and the Alice Springs community for their philanthropic donations. We'd also like to thank the volunteers who also invest a great deal of time and efforts into the success of ALEC.

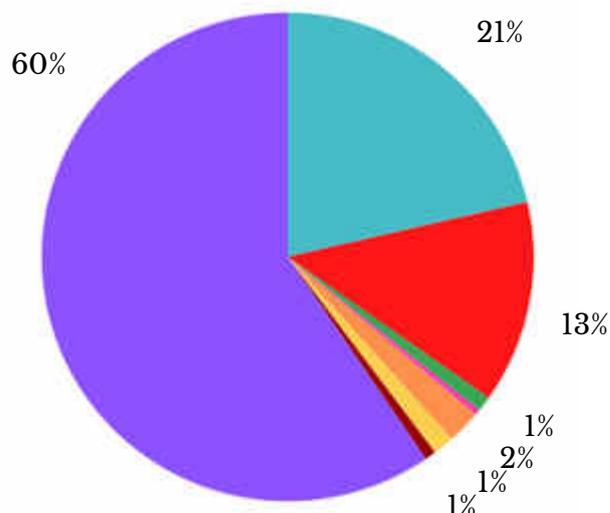
The outlook for the financial year 2021/2022 is strong for ALEC; our new General Manager is focussing on work closely aligned to the strategic plan and on the business process that underpin this work. We continue to be optimistic that ALEC's impactful advocacy work will continue well into the future.

Pamela Mills
Treasurer

Revenue \$ 1.76M



Expenditure \$1.54M



Income

■ NT Government Grants	\$100,000
■ Project Grants	\$503,514
■ Earned Income	\$845,272
■ Donations Received	\$150,912
■ Membership & Fee	\$14,502
■ Other Revenue	\$142,467
■ Fundraising	\$1,654

Expenditure

■ Cost of Service Delivery	\$328,849
■ Management & Operational cost	\$206,130
■ Campaigns, Events & Promotions	\$15,247
■ Fundraising Costs	\$5,984
■ Accounting & Audit	\$33,961
■ Depreciation	\$21,381
■ Motor Vehicle	\$11,299
■ Staff Costs	\$914,894

Total	\$1,758,321	Total	\$1,537,745
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Statement of Changes in Equity

Balance at 1 July 2020	\$463,422	Balance at 1 July 2019	\$327,948
Net Surplus during the year	\$220,576	Net Surplus during the year	\$135,474
Balance at 30 June 2021	\$683,998	Balance at 30 June 2020	\$463,422

For the complete financial statement go to alec.org.au/governance



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www.alec.org.au



**Arid
Lands
Environment
Centre**