



# ACF Community & civil disobedience

## Rights and responsibilities of ACF Community volunteers

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>What is ACF's position on unlawful direct action?</b>	<p>There are many ways to make change in society. Change happens in the streets, in the courts, in voting booths, in newsrooms, boardrooms and community halls. Different people and groups have different roles in creating the change we need.</p> <p>As the national environment organisation, ACF's role is in lawful advocacy. Our campaigners work at every level, from the halls of Parliament to town hall meetings, from the newsrooms to the board rooms. Our successful track record means we are credible with communities, governments, business and the media. We are strategic, and here for the long haul.</p> <p>The decision to participate in peaceful but unlawful activity is a choice for each individual to make. If people feel that there is no other option to stop irreversible harm to our planet and humanity than to do that on occasion, then ACF respects this choice and the courage of people who take peaceful action for the greater good.</p> <p>ACF respects people who are willing, on occasion, to take peaceful action for a better future, including peaceful action that may break unjust laws. However, this is not something ACF as an organisation participates in, organises or funds.</p>
<b>I'm part of an ACF Community Group. Can we organise actions under the banner of groups that use civil disobedience?</b>	<p>As a registered charity, ACF is subject to Australian law. This means we must not act in ways that break the law, nor can we promote unlawful activities. ACF's change model (to build people power, change the story, and fix the system) seeks to create change by doing everything we can within the law.</p> <p>Conversely, the change models of Extinction Rebellion, FLAC, and Galilee Rising are heavily based on disruption and planned unlawful behaviour, so ACF and the ACF Community cannot partner with, endorse or promote their activities. This is covered in the <a href="#">ACF Community principles</a> you agree to as part of signing up as an ACF group.</p>
<b>Can I use ACF Community public liability insurance for other organisations events and actions.</b>	<p>You can not use ACF Community public liability insurance or any other ACF resources to engage in or promote illegal activity, or any activity which is contrary to the <a href="#">ACF Community principles</a>.</p>
<b>Can I wear my ACF t-shirt to an event where unlawful action will take place?</b>	<p>You cannot wear your ACF t-shirt to an event where there is a reasonable likelihood that unlawful action will be taking place, whether by yourself or other participants.</p> <p>Individuals wearing ACF t-shirts during civil disobedience could be seen as ACF promoting or endorsing unlawful activities.</p>

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<p><b>Can we promote civil disobedience events to our local supporter list on Action Centre, our ACF group Facebook pages, or on ACF Slack?</b></p>	<p>While ACF respects people who take unlawful peaceful action for a better future, this is not something that ACF as an organisation participates in, organises or funds. Therefore, we cannot promote or endorse unlawful activities.</p> <p>This means that you cannot use ACF platforms to promote civil disobedience events or organisations who engage primarily in unlawful acts.</p> <p>Conversely, the change models of Extinction Rebellion, FLAC, and Galilee Rising are heavily based on disruption and planned unlawful behaviour, so ACF and the ACF Community cannot partner with or promote or endorse their activities. This is covered in the <a href="#">ACF Community principles</a> you agree to as part of signing up as an ACF group.</p>
<p><b>Can I as an individual participate in unlawful direct action if that is my choice?</b></p>	<p>Some citizens and groups will choose on occasion to disobey Australian law by taking peaceful but unlawful action. We respect this choice.</p> <p>Unlawful direct action cannot be taken in the name of ACF or an ACF Community Group.</p> <p>If you as an individual decide to participate in unlawful activities, ACF asks that you ensure you do not use ACF branding and resources, and you do not associate ACF or your ACF Community group with that activity in any way (through the use of social media, for example).</p>
<p><b>How can I talk about ACF's position on unlawful action</b></p>	<p><b>Key message:</b></p> <p>We can, we must and we will solve the climate and extinction crisis. ACF will take lawful and peaceful action. Some citizens and groups will on occasion choose to disobey Australian law by taking peaceful but unlawful action. We respect this choice. We'll defend people's right to peaceful protest.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p> <p>Throughout history people have fought for, won and protected their rights through civic action. This is part of a healthy democracy. It is how a democratic society progresses, particularly when governments stop listening to its citizens. ACF respects people who are willing, on occasion, to take peaceful action for a better future, including peaceful action that may break unjust laws.</p> <p>Change happens in the streets, in the courts, in voting booths, in newsrooms, boardrooms and community halls. Different people and groups have different roles in creating the change we need. As the national environment organisation, ACF's role is in lawful advocacy.</p> <p>Our campaigners work at every level, from the halls of Parliament to town hall meetings and board rooms. Our successful track record means we are credible with communities, governments, business and the media. We are strategic, and here for the long haul. Everyone has a role. We can build a movement for change everyone can be a part of.</p>