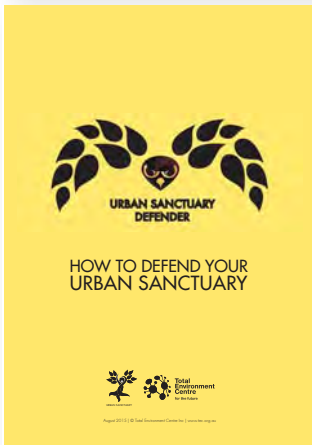


ANNUAL REPORT OF KEY ACTIVITIES 2014-2015



TEC Director, Jeff Angel at the NSW government's announcement of a container deposit system (21/2/15).

Despite the ongoing attacks on the environment movement from conservative politicians and the mining industry — we are fighting back with the overwhelming support of the community.



Urban Sanctuary

The accelerating loss of urban parklands and bushland is now a red alert issue for the community and TEC. In the last year the threats from infrastructure, housing and commercial development, and alienation for exclusive uses, have increased at an alarming rate. All the research confirms that our green spaces are essential to the health and sustainability of our urban communities as they continue to grow. Open space is not a land bank for development.

TEC has launched the Urban Sanctuary campaign to save and enlarge open space in our increasingly high-density cities and towns. We have issued a register of over 30 areas at risk, created a Defenders Toolkit, for community groups and are meeting local groups to assist in formulating local tactical responses.

A particular regional hotspot is the Wyong Shire where we have produced a map showing how the Council has removed protection from 23 bushland lots which were previously community land. We also

highlighted in the media and asked the Council to account for its misleading claims about how much urban open space it actually oversees. This developer-controlled Council has a lot of questions to answer and TEC will continue prosecuting the case.

Biodiversity Challenge

The stakes have never been higher for the future of our threatened plants and animals since the NSW government accepted all 43 recommendations of its Biodiversity Review Panel – including the removal of the successful *Native Vegetation Act*. Prior to the NSW Election, the government promised to ‘enhance biodiversity’ – this remains to be seen.

TEC is leading the environment movement’s negotiations with government. There are complex issues that need to be navigated and our experience with biodiversity law and practice is proving invaluable. For example the application of so-called offsets which are not based on a ‘like for like’ rule is a recipe

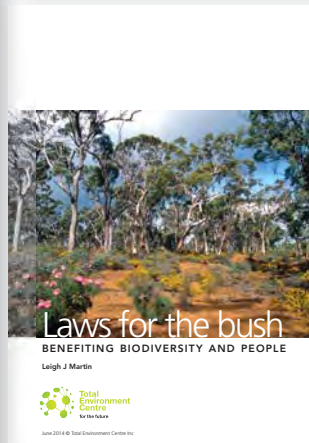
for inevitable loss. It also appears that ‘red lights’ where some areas are off limits to development, may be compromised. Our Living Landscapes campaign is seeking to mobilise the community and sympathetic MPs to take the message to senior ministers and the Premier.

Zero waste

TEC has a long history in advancing recycling and minimising waste. We manage and lead the national Boomerang Alliance, now grown to 32 groups, which is campaigning on plastic pollution, responsible stewardship of used tyres and the emergence of waste to energy.

Plastic pollution is now undeniably a serious global problem. The CSIRO predicts that by 2050, 90% of seabirds will have ingested plastic and the alarm bells are ringing. We are embarking on a major campaign to attack key sources – beverage containers and plastic bags that break up into smaller and smaller pieces; microplastics such as microbeads (exfoliants in cleansers); and nurdles (plastic resin balls that escape from plastic product factories).

Litter and action on the Cooks River



The promise by the Baird government to implement a world-class container deposit scheme (CDS) by mid-2017 was a great advance. This was followed by the new Queensland government instituting investigation into a state-based scheme. Our long term task to move from state based legislation to a national CDS, is progressing.

TEC and the Boomerang Alliance (BA) have continued to invest heavily in research, social media, lobbying and community based events. The coming months up to early 2016 are the most crucial.

Waste to energy is of dubious benefit. It diverts material that could be used for higher value products, rather than a one-off energy extraction; and risks toxic air pollution. While WA has a couple of plants, NSW is facing a one million tonne proposal which will use contaminated mixed waste.

The very successful Boomerang Alliance tyre recycling campaign is winding up. Regulators are taking action against rogue waste tyre collectors and dodgy 'recyclers'. BA's 'Tyrelife' publication has propagated the standard for responsible management. BA will continue a watchdog role to ensure regulators, tyre companies and the new industry scheme,

Tyre Stewardship Australia protect the public interest from the fire and health dangers of dumped tyres.

Green electricity

After a delay of over a year, TEC's proposal to change the national electricity rules to give networks incentives to reduce peak demand — the main driver of higher prices — was finally acted on by the rule-maker in early 2015 and finalised with some success in August. However, the delay means the incentive scheme won't come into force until 2019 or 2020, creating a decade of waste since the reform process began.

With the City of Sydney, TEC introduced another, more far-reaching rule change request in July 2015. It would require networks to pay local or decentralised generators for their reduced use of the whole network, especially during the evening peaks. If implemented, this would increase the financial viability of a range of renewable energy projects involving

community energy groups, local councils and precinct scale co-and tri-generation. We are also pitching it as a lifeline to networks as a way of making it more attractive for small scale generators to stay connected to the grid rather than going offgrid as batteries become more affordable (although off-grid can still be attractive to some households).

We have been working with Solar Citizens to ensure that new network tariffs, which are designed to send consumers a price signal to reduce their peak demand, do not adversely affect solar households (which are contributing to power supplies).

Finally, a 2015 update of TEC and Greenpeace's Green Electricity Guide (www.greenelectricityguide.org.au) will be online at the beginning of November. It ranks the environmental performance of all retailers in Australia with offers to residential consumers. Last year's first edition was a great success, with over 120,000 unique hits. It prompted many consumers to switch retailers and some retailers to lift their game, and has been heavily promoted by the top-ranked companies, Powershop and Diamond Energy.



Hothouse Energy event — optimism

Green Capital — Hothouse and Smart Locale

It has been a busy year for HotHouse as we completed this smash-hit event series. We worked with major sponsors City of Sydney and Sydney Water and venue partner Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) to deliver the second half of the program with two sell-out inaugural shows, Energy and Water. HotHouse has created a buzz around town, generating rave reviews in key media such as Timeout Sydney and Fifth Estate.

In early 2015, HotHouse evolved beyond fast-talk evenings to explore new methods of creative story-telling. We curated Waterways, a five-week pop-up exhibition fusing art and scientific data about water and plastic pollution, which attracted several thousand visitors over March-April. We were thrilled to collaborate with sponsors Frasers Property, Sekisui House and Flow Systems.

The Waterways artwork entitled Our Water, Our Place was installed in the Central Park water feature as part of the Chippendale BEAMS art festival. The work is a reflection on people, water and place in our cities. (TEC's animated short film Under Threat, created for the Living Landscapes campaign was also screened at BEAMS).

In late 2014, TEC's new initiative — Smart Locale Ultimo Pymont — held its first stakeholder engagement meeting. The emphasis is on collaborative action to fast-track projects that can transform the area into an internationally recognised hub of smart, safe, sustainable living by 2020. Smart Locale has gained traction in the business community and a new website has been created with support from Dynamic 4. A solar rooftop feasibility report was completed by

Macquarie University Masters students. Smart Locale teamed up with HotHouse to deliver two practical sustainability workshops for local businesses on buildings and neighbourhood. This was made possible by the grant support from the City of Sydney and in-kind venue support from MAAS.

Green Capital's event – Sydney Frontiers — Can We Make a Local Metropolis? – explored how to expand the precinct scale approach to transformative urban development. We also held two “What About Gas?” breakfast series in Melbourne and Sydney in March and April respectively. The event attracted industry leaders, corporates, academics, NGOs and community groups, opening up debate on “the great gas debacle” and its contentious role in the future renewable energy mix.

Our thanks for key project funding and philanthropic support:

Purves Environmental Fund and Purry Burry Trust – Container Deposits
 National Electricity Consumer Advocacy Panel – NEM Advocate and various research projects
 Purves Environmental Fund – Protect the laws that protect nature
 City of Sydney – Smart Locale
 Office of Environment and Heritage – Pymont-Ultimo Sustainability Precinct
 Lead Environment and Conservation Groups (Environmental Trust) – Plastic Pollution Exhibit
 Frasers Property
 Flow Systems
 Sekisui House

Staff

Jeff Angel (Executive Director). Jo Cory (Accounts Manager). Jenn Brewer (Office Manager). Leigh Martin (Living Landscapes Campaigner). Dave Burgess (Natural Areas Campaigner). Ruth Hessey (Communications Director). Mark Byrne (NEM Advocate). Lisa Wriley (Waste Campaigner). Andrew Tovey (Green Capital Projects). Brooklyn Sulaeman (Green Capital Events). Murray Hogarth (Green Capital Senior Advisor). Boomerang Campaigns: Dave West (National Policy Director). Toby Hutcheon (Qld Manager). Anthony Lazzaro (Investigations). Rachel Dujardin (Program and Mobilisation). Chris Shaw (Projects). Embeth Sadie (Intern)

Management Committee

Seb Crawford (Chair). Gerri Ormonde (Secretary). Bob Wallace (Treasurer).

Anita Mitchell. Fabian Sack. Ronnie Harding. Nari Sahukar.

Volunteers

Steve Granger. Rebecca Anderson. Wendy Chapman. Lyn McColl. Edward Fernandez. Gary Leung. Chris McGrath. Eden Tehan. Candice Quatermain. Sami-Jo Adelman. Mysha Islam. Lean Kaw. Shea Hogarth. Asim Nizam. Chloe Platt. Irina Markowski. Valentina Fineo. Olivia Ghobrial. Morgan Beals. Gary Leung. Colin Stewart. Micha Chataway. Tom Franz. Alex Mitchell. Anna Weingord. Sjirk Bangma. Gavin Hughes. Liana di Stefano. Michael Swanton (Tasmania). Mary Dawson. Rosanna Perillo. Libby Bourke. Charles Gream. Ross Dundas. Cathy Griffin. Justin Bonsey. Silke Stuckenbrock. Cath Leach. Leyna Elbourne. Trang Do. Judy Pincus. Paul Tollan. Christine Freeman.G

Government Committees

TEC staff were members of: Container Deposit Advisory Committee. Product Stewardship Advisory Committee. Microplastic Taskforce. Sydney Water Customer Council.

Environmental Management

during the year TEC purchased 50% GreenPower; implemented an action plan on paper, containers and recycling; and adopted a worm farm. Our office was rated 6 star NABERS.

THANKS
TO OUR DONORS!

