

Conservation Council of SA Annual Report to Members 2010/2011



Conservation
Council SA

We are pleased to present this Annual Report to members for the 2010/2011 financial year.

The Annual Report encapsulates key highlights of our work and a summary of our audited financial position during this, our 40th year.

As the peak environment organisation in SA serving members and the community, CCSA provides leadership and advocacy, through community engagement, to achieve positive environmental change.

Our Blueprint for a Sustainable Future remains our policy agenda for the areas of Biodiversity, Coast and Marine, Water, Energy, Waste and Planning & Development and has continued to underpin all of our campaign, advocacy and policy work this past year.

The Conservation Council has made good progress this past 12 months in addressing many of the significant challenges that faced the organisation this time last year. These have included:

- a range of governance issues and financial processes that required improvement;
- developing the best structure to enhance the organisation's operations;
- improving member and stakeholder relations;
- revitalising our fundraising approaches and, most importantly,
- re-focussing on our core environmental business.

We would like to thank all levels of the organisation for their support in 10/11 – member groups and their councillors, representatives on committees, our Environmental Standing Committees, the Executive Committee, staff and volunteers.

Rob Fowler
President

Tim Kelly
Chief Executive

LAUNCH OF GREEN OUR GRID CAMPAIGN

In May, a very successful luncheon was held to celebrate the Conservation Council's 40th birthday and launch the *Green Our Grid* campaign. This is our cornerstone campaign and calls for the replacement of the Playford B coal power station at Port Augusta with a concentrated solar thermal facility with energy storage. The campaign has resonated strongly with the community, and we are making encouraging progress with key decision makers.



CCSA has also been actively contributing to the development of state and federal climate change and renewable energy policy. We held a *Walk Against Warming* event in 2010 and have frequently drawn attention to our state government's resistance to setting near-term emissions reduction targets, and look forward to pursuing this further when its climate change legislation is reviewed in 11/12.

OTHER KEY CAMPAIGN AREAS

As an organisation we are often expected to be active on every environmental issue but we do not have the resources to manage this in any effective way. Instead we strategically focus our energy and resources on a handful of key campaign areas for the State, taking into account the work being undertaken by others in the sector.

In 2010/11 the **Murray Darling Basin Plan** has continued to be a significant issue for SA. We have written a number of submissions, and worked closely with NGOs in other Basin states on strategy, lobbying and communications. We are part of the Lifeblood Alliance which has its own web presence and encourages members of the public and sympathetic irrigators to advocate for a healthy river with adequate water for environmental flows.

CCSA continues to campaign for **marine sanctuaries** in both state and commonwealth waters, in both cases working closely with other organisations. In 2010, through our Community Conservation Officer, we actively increased the involvement and capacity of the community conservation sector with regard to Marine Parks and broader marine management issues, delivering strengthened relationships between the sector and other stakeholders, and a range of community information and tools.



Australian sea lions Photo: Kathy Whitta

In 2011 advocacy on Marine Parks and the need to establish no-take sanctuary zones has required a strengthened effort due to considerable opposition from some in the fishing community, as well as strong media attention. CCSA has also worked closely with its partners in a Marine Alliance of conservation groups [established some years ago] to deliver a strong campaign to the SA and Federal Governments. Both our Chief Executive, and our Community Conservation Officer, have been appointed to the Marine Parks Council, advising the Minister for Environment and Conservation. The Community Conservation Officer has also been working with NGOs and government agencies to improve fishing practices with regards to species caught in bycatch such as Australian sea lions and dolphins.

The gargantuan **Olympic Dam mine expansion** has been consuming a lot of organisational resources, just as it will soon be consuming the physical resources of our state. While there have not been opportunities for public submissions, we have nevertheless continued to raise our concerns with state government officials, and have tried hard (but unsuccessfully) to engage BHP Billiton.

Hand-in-hand with our campaign work is our substantive **policy and submission work**. The Conservation Council continues to work quietly on the policy front, making well over

50 submissions in 2010/11, meeting with politicians and government representatives from a range of departments at State and Federal levels and in some cases with proponents of proposed developments (eg Uranium SA and BP). As well as looking at specific environmental policy areas, we have had considerable engagement on the revision of the SA Strategic Plan and big picture issues such as environmental spending in the state budget.

Our **Environmental Standing Committees** have gradually been taking shape, and are starting to contribute actively to submissions and position papers. Chairs of the Committees also attend quarterly meetings with the Minister for Environment and Conservation and make representations on issues of concern.

We are continuing to work to increase our visibility through both mainstream and social **media**. Media releases and associated coverage are now more frequent, and an increased number of individuals are connecting and engaging with us on Facebook and Twitter. A redesign of the Conservation Council's website has been undertaken and will be rolled out in early 2012. An integrated communications and media strategy is in developmental stages, subject to the development of a new Strategic Plan for the organisation.

CCSA's ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

The Conservation Council runs a number of funded programs, many based around community engagement, to maximise environmental outcomes in line with its *Blueprint* themes and policy priorities. These programs include:-

Sustainability Programs

Our flagship sustainability program, **Green Hubs**, encourages and assists groups to make environmentally sustainable changes through a community engagement framework. The program grew and prospered during the last year. We are currently assisting eight community organisations to improve their management of energy, water and waste and to provide education on sustainability to their communities. Hub achievements include installation of solar pv systems, insulation, and composting systems, and provision of education workshops on home energy efficiency and sustainable house design. Community members have subsequently undertaken sustainability projects in their homes and workplaces.

In June 2010, we announced the recipients of 28 **Sustainability & Community Grants**. Over the last year these grant recipients have achieved remarkable outcomes - from community gardens and climate change education in migrant communities, environmental themed community arts projects, to carbon challenges in regional communities, these projects have engaged diverse communities in activities that will lead to lasting behaviour change.

We have an ongoing commitment to helping communities become more sustainable and take positive action on climate change. Our exciting and innovative sustainable communities programs are instrumental to this process.



Launch of the Sustainability Display Centre at Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre (a Green Hub).
Photo: Kathy Whitta.

NRM Facilitator Program

Over the last year there has been a significant development in how our natural resources are managed, with the new Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) established to combine environment and natural resource management (NRM) in one agency. CCSA has been working hard to maximise the improvements that can be achieved through this change.

A significant development in 10/11 was the signing of a landmark agreement by CCSA, along with eight other state-based environmental NGOs and all eight NRM Boards, that sets out a framework for a collaborative approach to natural resource management.

This process was facilitated by CCSA and the other signatories (to date) are: Conservation Ark/Zoos SA, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Friends of Parks, Greening Australia SA, Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, Nature

Foundation SA, The Wilderness Society SA and Trees For Life. This agreement is intended to serve as a starting point for relationship building for other e-NGOs, NRM stakeholders and other sectors to help solve the environmental issues ahead of us.



Paul Ledbetter (CCSA Executive Vice-President) – 6th from left - at the signing of the Agreement.

A further highlight for 10/11 was the completion of an NRM survey and report that provided recommendations to NRM bodies on how to strengthen engagement with community groups.

Biodiversity Programs - marine and terrestrial

Reef Watch is the longest-running, and multi-award winning, coast/marine citizen science program in Australia. It engaged more than 400 volunteers in its subtidal and intertidal monitoring activities in 10/11, with condition monitoring data contributing to the adaptive management of reefs. Reef Watch had great exposure this year through Channel Ten's 'Totally Wild' and 'Scope' television programs, as well as displays at Science Alive (attended by 35,000 people), the Victor Harbor Whale Festival (attended by 5,000 people) and the SARDI Aquatic Sciences Open Day (attended by 6,000 people).

A new cluster of intertidal volunteers has been established in the south-east with assistance from the Department of Environment & Natural Resources, and intertidal monitoring continues at four established sites around the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Feral or In Peril – our community education and reporting program that encourages divers, fishers and boat owners to identify and report on unwelcome and native marine species – has focused on marine pests this year. Highlights have included:

- Assisting Reef Watch Victoria (RWV) to establish their own Feral or In Peril program. This year both organisations

exchanged volunteers and our work together has seen the development of many new networks and relationships with recreational fishing and boating groups.

- Another great success this year has been the production of the 'Boat Owners' Guide'. The demand was so great that a second print run was required, resulting in a distribution of several thousand copies. The Guide provides simple, practical advice that enables recreational boat owners to improve their boat keeping practices to reduce pollution, marine pest translocations and greenhouse gases, whilst also increasing protection for our unique marine environment.

Fisheries

Following on from the work of the co-management program with the Spencer Gulf prawn fishers in recent years, the conservation sector now sits on the research sub-committee of the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishermen's Association. This position is currently held by a Conservation Council staff member. A staff member also holds a position on the consultative committee of the Lakes and Coorong Fishery. CCSA has continued to engage with PIRSA Fisheries on a range of important fisheries issues in 10/11.

Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren & Fleurieu Peninsula Swamp Recovery Program

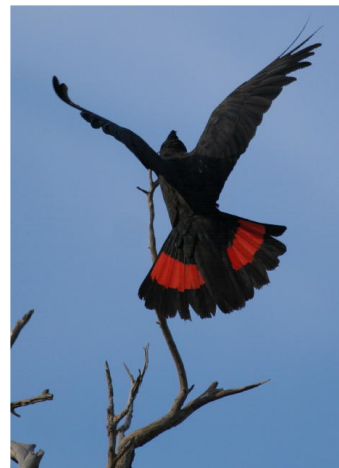
The Recovery Program continues its success in conserving threatened Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps. This year we started in collaboration with the Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM Board on an Environmental Stewardship (ES) program. This program runs until June 2012. Through the ES program the Recovery Program is contacting many swamp landholders and undertaking site assessments of swamps in both the AMLR and SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Regions in a concentrated effort to protect a large swathe of swamps.

The program also focused on developing the first Recovery Plan for the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps, which is a significant step forward but there is still much work to do before the Plan is finalised. The Recovery Program put in a submission and has held discussions with the AMLR NRM Board about the Western Mt Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan, as it directly affects swamps.

The program continues to work with landholders to conserve Emu-wren dry heath habitat. The program's Ornithologist completed the biennial census of emu wrens, which showed numbers remaining steady, although low, for 3 years in the AMLR NRM region. The Ornithologist also worked closely with DENR to develop a new Ecological Fire Management Strategy specifically for Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wrens.

South East Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Program

We have been sharing the management of this program with Zoos SA this year, and we will be handing over full management of this Recovery Program to them in 2011-12. The program has worked on over 40 private properties in the south-east, with more volunteering their support all the time. Activities have included fencing off paddock food-trees, fencing off remnant native vegetation, weed control, and revegetation using both tubestock and direct seeding. A bus tour was conducted in March to look at the success of direct seeding and tubestock planting and to discuss the management of a very large pristine remnant on private land. Several new communication products were developed including two short videos, a poster, and a booklet, 'Ten Amazing things about Red-Tails'.



South East Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo
Photo: Meagan Evans

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October 2011

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the Conservation Council of South Australia Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2011, the income and expenditure statement and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the statement by members of the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Executive Committee of the Conservation Council of South Australia Incorporated is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of South Australia 1985 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Executive Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Executive Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, 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. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Executive Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

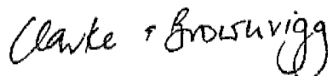
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Conservation Council of South Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2011 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report and the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of South Australia 1985.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Conservation Council of South Australia Incorporated to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of South Australia 1985. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



CLARKE AND BROWNRIGG
Chartered Accountants



CR CLARKE
Partner and registered auditor number 5024

Dated 20th October 2011 in Adelaide

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2010 - 2011



Income Statement for the years ended 30 June 2011

	2010/11	2009/10
		\$
Revenue from operating activities	1,424,197	1,807,014
Salary and employee costs	665,619	871,603
Consultants	291,039	261,878
Onground works	18,687	215,925
Administration	73,513	88,829
Legal costs	39,810	1,062
Materials and Travel	129,497	104,313
Rent, property costs	74,733	76,326
Depreciation, Amortisation, asset costs	12,120	19,156
Event expenditure	52,419	133,977
Other	56,695	77,634
Building Deposit Loss	0	445,092
Expenses	1,414,132	2,295,795
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	10,065	(488,781)

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2011

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash assets	699,721	705,796
Receivables	13,730	324,906
Other financial assets	31,274	40,078
Prepayments	13,567	28,619
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	758,292	1,099,399
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Leasehold Improvements	0	4,809
Property, plant and equipment	21,698	27,403
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	21,698	32,212
TOTAL ASSETS	779,990	1,131,611
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	291,238	639,922
Provisions	82,277	95,279
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	373,515	735,201
NET ASSETS	406,474	396,409
ASSOCIATION'S FUNDS		
Reserves	830,686	830,686
Retained earnings	(424,212)	(434,277)
TOTAL ASSOCIATION'S FUNDS	406,474	396,409

