



# Friends of the Earth Australia

## Annual Report 2020-2021

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Friends of the Earth  
312 Smith St, Collingwood, VICTORIA 3066  
03 94198700 | [www.foe.org.au](http://www.foe.org.au)



# VISION

Friends of the Earth Australia recognises First Nations sovereignty and that the land on which work and meet was stolen during the Frontier Wars, upon colonisation. Friends of the Earth pay respect to their Elders, past and present and emerging, and acknowledge the pivotal role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the community. We work at the local level with specific Indigenous communities as well as participating in broader debates and campaigns at the national and international level.

Our vision is of a world where everyone's needs are met in a way which safeguards the future of the natural environment. We work for a world where environmental protection, social justice and economic welfare for all people go hand in hand. Through our local, national and international networks, we work with the community to raise awareness, put forward alternatives, and take action for a fair and ecologically sustainable future.

Friends of the Earth operates from an environmental justice perspective. This

means working towards a situation where natural ecosystems are valued and protected, all people live in a healthy environment, and where the benefits and costs of economic activity are shared equally, including between nations and generations.

We understand that in an era of globalisation and international environmental problems that a global and co-operative response is required, and we are constantly seeking to develop strong relations with environmental and social justice movements in all parts of the world.



Like other organisations, COVID-19 brought on a new kind of organising. The re-ignition of the Friends of the Earth Melbourne Forest Collective was celebrated by many.

# LOCAL GROUPS

Friends of the Earth is made up of a federation of local groups and other members. Local groups campaign on local issues within the larger global context.

Currently Friends of the Earth has 7 local groups working on different issues:

## ADELAIDE

- A fair and just transition for workers in the fossil fuel industry
- Nuclear waste issues

## BRIDGETOWN - GREENBUSHES

- Forestry issues - in particular representation on the Forest Stewardship Council and WA Forest Alliance

## BRISBANE

- Strong collaboration with the Reverse Garbage initiative
- Forced climate migration and Pacific Island Solidarity especially in collaboration with PNG-based group Tulele Peisa
- Peace and anti-nuclear initiatives, particularly drawing links between militarism and environmental impacts
- Resisting fossil fuel expansion and climate justice issues

## FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

- The Cassowary Keystone Conservation program
- Guardians of the Wet Tropics; linking biodiversity projects and environmental landholders in the Wet tropics

## MELBOURNE

- Energy justice issues resisting new fossil fuel developments and fair and just transition for workers
- A swift transformation of the energy sector to one of 100% renewable energy
- Climate justice action particularly emphasising frontline affected community voices
- Nuclear resistance supporting national work in South Australia against radioactive waste dump proposals

- Transforming our transport sector from vehicular use to one that privileges public and active transport alternatives
- Restoring equity to water flows in the Murray Darling Basin - one where agricultural, ecological and cultural needs are all carefully considered
- Stopping native forest logging and seeing a fair and just transition for workers in that industry
- Supporting communities in their local struggles

## PERTH

- Working with First Nations communities to ban uranium mining
- Reducing food waste
- Transformation of the economic system to one that services people and planet, rather than profit
- Supporting local forest groups and School Strike for Climate Perth

## SOUTH WEST AUSTRALIA

- SWWA works closely with affiliate member Sustainable Energy Now (SEN) on renewables and clean energy.



**Tipping Points supports Wangan and Jagalingou people in asserting their human rights as Traditional Owners to practice culture on Country at the Waddananggu ceremony**



## ANTI-NUCLEAR



### NUCLEAR WASTE

We continued to speak with MPs, local Councils, Unions, community and environmental groups, regional media and politicians around the waste dump and participated in submission processes.

We continue to work against the Federal Government plan for a nuclear waste dump in SA with submissions into the parliamentary inquiries and help with proforma submissions.

Over the last year FoE Brisbane's Anti-Nuclear Campaign has held monthly vigils displaying anti-nukes banners, weekly anti-nuclear stalls and annual "Politics in the Pub", an anti-nuke forum in collaboration with Just Peace. The group also co-hosted commemoration activities for Nagasaki Day, a Maralinga Webinar and Fukushima street demonstration.

Friends of the Earth Melbourne's Nuclear-Free collective, have been working for over

35 years supporting Traditional Owner voices and community resistance to the spread of the nuclear industry in Australia. The Nuclear Free Collective at Friends of the Earth continues to fight the nuclear industry at every point in the cycle.

In 2021, despite the challenges that the ongoing pandemic posed, we campaigned against the federal government's plan to impose a national nuclear waste dump at Kimba in SA despite the unanimous opposition of the Barngarla Traditional Owners and wider community opposition.

We also continued to challenge the push from ultra-conservative politicians for nuclear power through our work to influence parliamentary inquiries and through media work and community education. And we've actively debunked the endless misinformation about so-called 'small modular reactors'. As part of this, we

contributed to the Don't Nuke the Climate initiative to protect federal environment legislation from efforts to remove the ban against nuclear power and from efforts to weaken governance of uranium mining.

We supported trade unions in their work to maintain legal bans against nuclear power (check out the Electrical Trade Union's NoFuture4Nuclear website), and supported important work challenging the planned expansion of the Olympic Dam uranium mine in SA. Important, successful work the planned mine expansion was cancelled in 2020!

Part of our work consisted of strengthening our relationships across Australia and the world, participating in national strategy discussions, taking part in the Australia Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA) annual meeting and being represented on the ANFA national committee.

We thank our members and supporters for being a part of a nuclear-free future.

Friends of the Earth Australia was founded 47 years ago opposing a nuclear power plant in Victoria. To this day we remain involved in the resistance against all stages of the nuclear cycle - mines, power, weapons and waste.

## DON'T NUKE THE CLIMATE

Friends of the Earth have also been pushing back against the latest plans to introduce nuclear power to Australia - writing detailed submissions, doing media work, and facilitating community involvement in the campaign.

It is undeniable that we find ourselves deep within the midst of an unfolding climate crisis.

Friends of the Earth believes in pursuing climate justice. This means that our work addresses the social issues, such as disproportionate use of resources, inequality, and colonisation, whilst we take the urgent action required to address greenhouse gas emissions.

Friends of the Earth is actively working to build resilient communities around the country to resist the spread of the nuclear, coal, and gas industry, to protect forests - our beautiful carbon sinks - and to adapt and prepare for the already changing climate.

Our climate justice campaigns have helped to forge the agenda on the human rights dimensions of climate change. We have supported the rights of those at risk of climate-induced displacement as well as exposing the social impacts of carbon offset schemes in countries of the global South.





## RESISTING COAL AND GAS WHILST GROWING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Friends of the Earth worked to encourage state and territory governments to enact policies which will drive the uptake of renewable energy, whilst stopping new coal and gas projects.

Friends of the Earth works to see investment shifted to jobs-rich renewable energy and storage.

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The fossil fuel and extractive industries and the blockers in government continued to stall action on climate and environmental protection as communities took drastic action to flatten the COVID-19 curve. The preparedness of these forces to use the COVID-19 crisis to push for a “gas- fired” recovery was straight out of the disaster capitalist’s playbook.

Meanwhile, the state of Victoria continued to be a place where the environmental movement could push for gains and minimise the damage caused by the Federal government and extractivists.

Friends of the Earth (FoE) played a significant role in forging a different path at the state level. Our climate, energy, and transport collectives combined forces to campaign for Victoria’s COVID stimulus package to deliver for communities and our environment. This sustained effort with allies in the movement helped secure a record \$1.6 billion investment in for climate and energy initiatives, as well as significant investment in sustainable transport.



Forcing a vastly-improved climate policy out of Japanese behemoth Sumitomo Corp.

## STOP ADANI

If left unchecked, climate change poses an existential threat to the natural environment of Australia. Climate science makes it clear that if we are to avoid runaway climate change we must keep the majority of known fossil fuel reserves - coal, oil and gas - in the ground.

Friends of the Earth continues to support and connect the #StopAdani grassroots networks that are working in their communities to stop Adani’s mega coal mine and move Australia beyond coal.

Our national project, Tipping Point continues to work behind the scenes to support two of the largest grassroots climate networks in the country - the #StopAdani and the School Strike 4 Climate movements.

Key highlights this year include reaching the milestone of over 100 companies ruling out involvement with the Carmichael mine, and launching a new strategy to force Adani’s top 5 investors to dump coal and walk away from Adani’s climate wrecking mine.

Tipping Point also hired graduated school strikers and young BIPOC within the movement to work with the team to mobilise the May 21 #FundOurFutureNotGas #ClimateStrike, turning out over 50,000 attendees at 50+ strikes across the continent.

## MARKET FORCES

Market Forces has continued to deliver campaigns that ratchet up the degree to which the financial and corporate sectors are acting on climate change.

Market Forces has some remarkable achievements last year;

- With UniSuper’s decision to divest its active holdings in Woodside and Santo,
- Forcing a vastly-improved climate policy out of Japanese behemoth Sumitomo Corp
- Getting one-fifth of Woodside’s shareholders tell the company it’s time to wind up its fossil fuel assets and hand back the capital and continuing to keep proposed coal power plants throughout South and Southeast East Asia at bay
- Growing their campaign to account for the deeds of the Stop Adani campaign, which now has well over 100 companies either refusing to finance or work on the Carmichael project.
- Confirming that Adani can no longer secure insurance from the Lloyd’s marketplace, chasing them down to the handful of remaining insurers that could cover the risks of the Carmichael mine.
- They even managed to get Adani kicked off the Dow Jones Sustainability index, and nearly ten investors have committed to no longer supporting Adani group companies due to the impacts of the Carmichael project.

## SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE

Over the past year, our newest member group, SS4C's campaigns have primarily fought against the governments 'gas led recovery' from COVID-19.

At the beginning of the last financial year, they launched the #FundOurFutureNotGas pledge, a pledge for businesses and community groups to pledge to support our demands of the federal government in relation to gas. The pledge has since garnered over 700 signatures from hundreds of businesses, unions and community groups.

Alongside the pledge, SS4C launched their September 25 day of action, where there were community actions in over 650 locations around Australia, making it the most widespread day of action for climate in Australian history.

The day of action gathered significant public attention, and put climate back on the public agenda, with #FundOurFutureNotGas trending number one on twitter for several hours on the day, and then within the top 20 for a day afterwards.

They followed this day of action a few months later with our May 21 day of action, which was also focused on the #FundOurFutureNotGas campaign. The day of action saw strikes held in over 50 locations across the country, which mobilised over 50,000 people. This made it the largest climate mobilisation to be held during the course of the COVID pandemic.

The day of action saw over 2800 media hits including key national television broadcasting networks such as the ABC, Sunrise & Sky news.

Like the September 25 day of action, the May 21 mobilisation was immensely successful in bringing climate back into the public eye, and also in allowing SS4C to further relationships with several unions, businesses and community organisations, which they continued to work on over the year and into the future.



## HEALTHY FUTURES

In the 2020/21 financial year Healthy Futures advocated to NSW and Victorian governments and EPAs to reduce toxic pollution from coal fired power stations.

Campaign activities included webinars, face to face launches of the NSW and Victorian People's Clean Air Action Plans, and public presentations of an open letter to EPA Victoria's Traralgon office in December and the Victorian People's Clean Air Action Plan outside Victorian Parliament in March.

In the first half of 2021 they also launched a new campaign calling on AGL to replace its coal fired power stations with renewable energy by 2030 as a measure to protect health from toxic air pollution and climate change.

The latter campaign includes an open letter to AGL from several health organisations and hundreds of healthcare workers, it can be viewed at [www.healthyfutures.net.au/agl](http://www.healthyfutures.net.au/agl).



## CLIMATE FRONTLINES

Since 2018, Climate Frontlines has been in a collaborative relationship with the Pacific Islands Council of Qld (PICQ) and its climate change network. It will continue to work in this way for the foreseeable future.

Through a connection established with the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN), Climate Frontlines was able to open the way for representatives of PICQ to be involved in the regular civil society consultations held by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji, for all of its major program areas.

The focus of the program in 2020-2021 was to build conferences, "Where do we go from here? Displacement and

relocation challenges of climate change for communities in the Pacific Islands Region", held at Qld Parliament House in collaboration with PICQ, and the Human Rights and Climate Change conference, a collaboration between the

UQ Human Rights Consortium, Climate Frontlines, PICQ and 350.org.

The decision was made early in 2020 to particularly focus on the 3 nations in the Pacific composed entirely of atolls – the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu – as the most vulnerable to major climate change impacts, including the threat of completely losing their territorial sovereignty. After a lengthy period of consultation and planning, two webinars were held on 19 October and 9 November on the topic: "Climate Change Challenges to the Sovereignty of Our Pacific Atoll Nations".

Behind the title was a recognition of the need to uncover and explore the complex of understandings that the notion of sovereignty holds for the peoples indigenous to Pacific atoll nations and the way this is being impacted by climate change.





**LAND & WATER**

## FORESTS

### GECO

2020/2021 has been another huge year for forests. GECO has continued important on the ground monitoring of forests in East Gippsland scheduled for logging, working closely with community members, other environment groups, and First Nations peoples to advocate for the protection of forests. They've created multiple petitions to go out to engage supporters, with strong online engagement, and managed to hold a number of community events; including an Easter citizen science camp where over 30 people attended and did surveys for threatened species.

GECO successfully helped fund-raise more than \$10,000 for the East Gippsland old growth forest court case and worked closely with Bidewell First Nations Elders and families to stop logging from going ahead in the Bidewell reserve.

Together with a number of local East Gippsland environment groups and the VNPA, they helped to produce a report looking into the impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfires, and identified key refuge areas for wildlife. It formed a really important avenue for GECO to continue to advocate for the protection of forests, and also as a tool to identify key areas for citizen science surveys.



### WOTCH

Wildlife of the Central Highlands (WOTCH) Supreme Court case against VicForests is ongoing in order to protect unburnt habitat for the threatened Greater Glider, Sooty Owl, Powerful Owl and Smoky Mouse. These animals were severely impacted by 2019–20 bushfires and all found to be among the 'fauna species of most immediate concern' by the Victorian government's own preliminary response to the bushfires.

WOTCH has been able to raise \$55,000 for expert scientific witnesses to contribute to our case. These experts are some of the best in the field and the evidence they provide regarding the focus species is critical. This support will also cover the court and other legal fees to make sure they can put the best case forward to protect native habitat.



## GUARDIANS OF THE WET TROPICS

Friends of the Earth Far North Queensland launched a new campaign called Guardian of the Wet Tropics to actively promote, educate, and increase the number of local landholders living adjoining World Heritage areas and to work with them to protect and preserve the rich biodiversity and the unique ecological values of the area.

To highlight the responsibilities of living within the Wet Tropics bioregion they have started actively building inclusive, respectful, transparent, and healthy community relationships, engaging Traditional Owners throughout the processes for collaborative outcomes.

GOWT has started monthly gatherings with local environment groups and members of the community, where people can come together to discuss issues, solutions, and shared common values to create clusters of projects across the Wet Tropics.

### PORTLAND KOALAS

In February Friends of the Earth was alarmed to learn about serious burns to a koala found near the Portland Golf Course. The animal had to be euthanized, but a local whistleblower said that he had witnessed the animal being removed from the Portland Aluminium Smelter, owned by Alcoa. The animal had apparently been burnt after entering the facility's "anode room". After some pressure from FoE, including some national media coverage, Alcoa claimed that they would improve the site to lessen the likelihood of koalas entering the smelter. It also transpired that the issue was not new and that over 100 koalas had entered the facility since 2015. Friends of the Earth is also waiting on the results of an investigation into the deaths and relocation of hundreds of koalas west of Portland that FoE helped uncover in February 2020.

### FIRE AND CLIMATE

Climate change is now the overwhelming cause of the conditions which drive extreme wildfire behaviour. Eastern Australia suffered a terrible fire season over the summer of 2019/20, and during 2020/21, FoEA continued its work on a range of fire-related issues.

This included providing submissions to relevant government processes into fires, developing fire policy, tracking the implantation of the Bushfire Royal Commission, and advocating for best practise fire treatment of landscapes which will provide ecological outcomes while protecting people and human assets. FoE supports the involvement of First Nations people in land management including Cultural Burning practises.

### PFAS AUSTRALIA MAP

During the year, the PFAS Australia Map has morphed into a much bigger project than previously anticipated. Many new locations have been added to the site and FoE is currently assessing information sourced from a number of Freedom of Information applications from Victorian water authorities. FoE is concerned that recycled water from many waste water treatment plants are contaminated with PFAS. Another potential source of PFAS contamination are landfills. Potentially there could be tens of thousands PFAS contaminated sites across the country.



## ECONOMICS FOR EARTH

### FAIR AND JUST TRANSITION FOR WORKERS

Member group, Earthworker Cooperative, continues to bring together people from diverse backgrounds in practical action to solve social and environmental problems faced by communities and the planet. This work provides a common ground where trade unionists, environmentalists, small business people and others work together in common cause.

Earthworker's pilot project is the establishment of Australia's first worker-owned factory, making renewable energy appliances and components. Located in the heart of Victoria's Latrobe Valley, the Earthworker Energy Manufacturing Cooperative (formerly Eureka's Future) is part of ensuring a just transition for communities affected by the move from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.

Earthworker Cooperative has had a year of maintaining monthly meetings and building their strategic plan for the future. For their member worker-cooperatives, this year has been for surviving, re-building and growing in the context of the pandemic and lockdowns.

Given this context, Redgum Cleaning Cooperative and Earthworker Energy Manufacturing Cooperative have both made significant progress, with Earthworker Energy scaling up production and recently winning work to upgrade almost 80 social housing properties with 'Made in Morwell' solar hot water products.

The pioneering work of the Powering Victoria Cooperative project is continuing to take ambitious steps forward - gaining official endorsement and engagement from Victoria's Trade Hall Council - to develop job-creating construction and retro-fitting of green affordable housing and holistic energy services.

Earthworker Education has been created to teach short courses on the foundational principles and practical elements of co-operatives with regular courses now run in Melbourne.



## ECONOMIC JUSTICE COLLECTIVE PROJECT

The Economic Justice Collective (EJC) works to create economic systems which will provide long term protection of the natural environment as we meet people's needs. This year, the EJC worked to highlight corporate crimes which infringed upon Indigenous sovereignty and destroyed sacred sites through our Corporate Cane Toad Award.

Through the Cane Toad award the public got to vote for the biggest Australian corporate cane toad. Rio Tinto was voted biggest corporate cane toad for the mining blast that destroyed Juukan Gorge Aboriginal heritage sites that held significance dating back 46,000 years.

Through this campaign we were able to stand in solidarity with Indigenous groups by highlighting these injustices and bringing public attention to the way in which environmental destruction disproportionately affects Indigenous people.

We joined with Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action to make a climate complaint against ANZ with the OECD.

**Tipping Point supports local Stop Adani groups to protest HSBC's funding of coal**





## FOOD & TECHNOLOGY

Friends of the Earth believe public scrutiny of the environmental and social impacts of new technologies is essential and support community involvement in technology assessment and public policy development. There should be robust, independent and transparent regulation of all emerging technology which is approved before it enters the marketplace or environment. In 2020/21 a focus of this work was on Synthetic biology (SynBio), which is a new set of Genetic Manipulation techniques called CRISPR, Talen and ZFN and their living products. FoE holds concerns about possible impacts of these technologies on the natural environment should they be released without full and comprehensive assessment of risks.



### SPRAY FREE FAR-NORTH-QUEENSLAND

Spray Free FNQ, a partner with FoE FNQ continues to work to get 12 local Councils to reduce or stop the use of chemicals in their shires and council areas. Their first goal is to restrict the use of Glyphosate oriented compounds.

They held regular stalls and fundraising with sticker sales, providing information about the effect of chemicals on humans and native animals and plants in the Wet Tropics area. While the use of Glyphosate is common in many waterways around the country, FoE FNQ

**Spray Free FNQ was featured in the ABC after Glyphosate was given the tick of approval by a state authority to be used across the World Heritage-listed wet tropics area in Far North Queensland.**

holds concerns about possible impacts on the natural and undisturbed World Heritage and adjacent areas. This is part of the broader campaign by the group to see the area protected from unsustainable development and invasive species, and protection of key species such as the Cassowary.

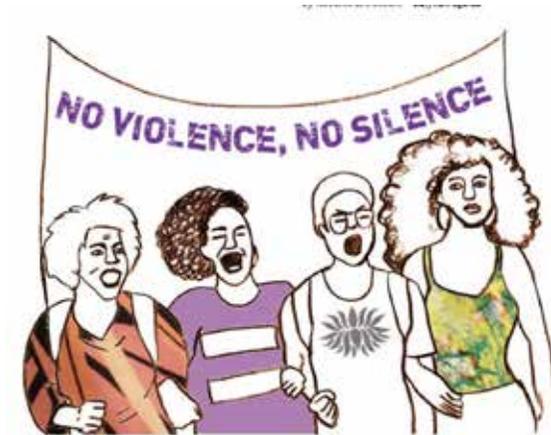
# Work for Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy

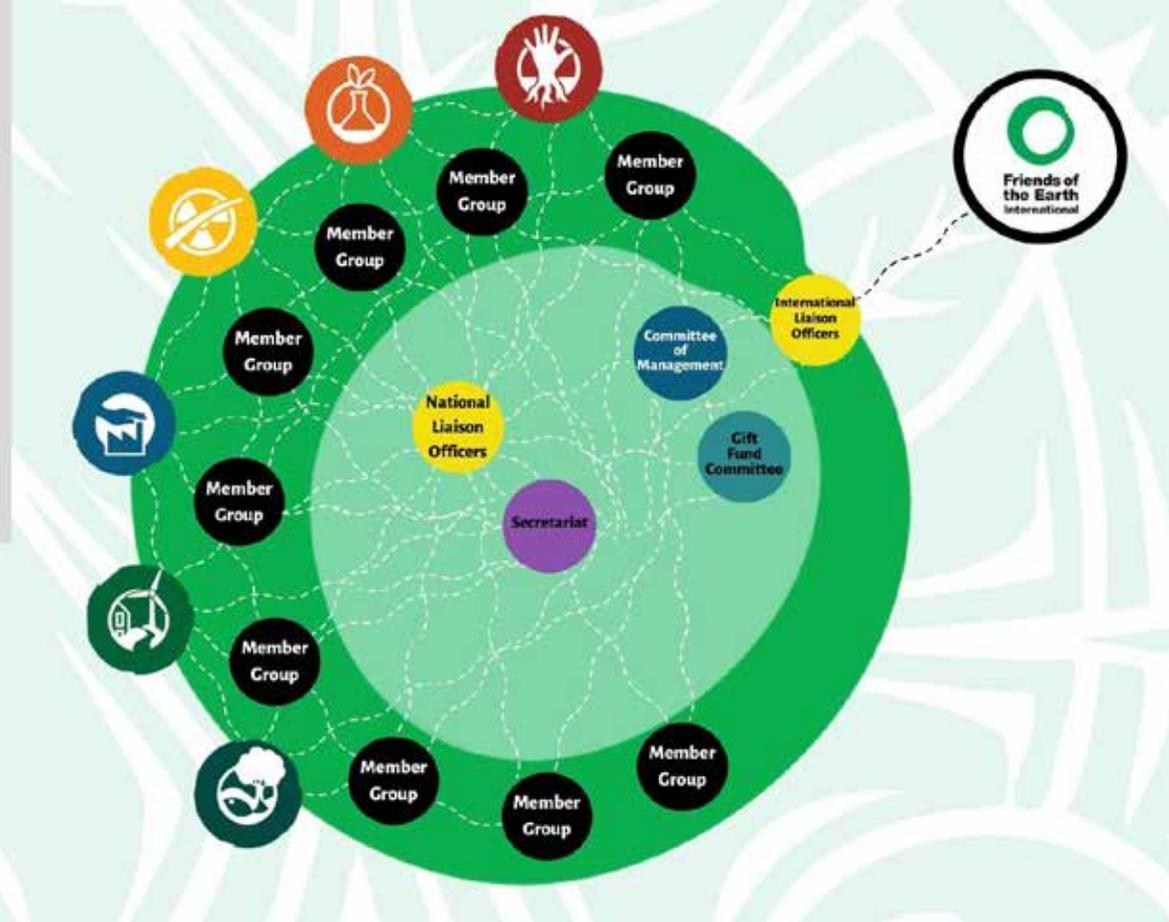
Friends of the Earth recognises that the environmental and social justice problems facing the Earth will not be solved by incremental reform of oppressive, exploitative structures, and therefore FOE supports activities and organisations, which seek to dismantle and bring about an end to oppressive and exploitative structures such as environmental extractivism, capitalism, colonialism and patriarchy. The attainment and implementation of these objectives will be carried out in accordance with a recognition of the need to abolish all forms of oppression and environmental and social exploitation including those based on class, gender, ethnicity, sexual preference, age or disability.

Friends of The Earth Australia's Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy working group have been working over the last year of lockdown on a Feminist Frontlines Anti Oppression workshop series for the FoEA federation. The WG has now applied for grant funds to finish producing the resources to accompany the workshops. The current plan is to role out these workshops to members of the federation and then the broader community and movement over 2022 and 2023 and to begin to plan for the development of the GJDP WG into a National Feminism and System Change project. The group will share the development of idea of a feminist and system change national project in the near future.

Our FoEA and FoE APAC representative on the FoEI GJDP WG (Sam Castro) has continued to work hard during the pandemic to produce resources on feminist popular education and anti oppression resources. The FoEI GJDP moved online with the global lockdowns and pandemic in 2020. Over the last year the WG has held over 6 workshops online (over 3 global regions) on feminist popular education, just transitions and feminism ([here is an article that came out of the information gathered through these workshops](#)). In June 2021 the GJDP WG ran workshops assisting FoEI member groups (in 74 countries) to develop and implement anti harassment and anti violence policies by the FoEI BGM of 2023. The FoEI GJDP WG has also contributed to [FoEI's strategic response to the pandemic](#), participated in the crafting of FoEI's 5 year plan, [just transitions](#) principles and the African regions forest and community management strategic documents. The working group also worked with the defenders of territories team and the School of Sustainability to deliver workshops on the intersectional nature of women defenders and structural and State violence against women. Below are some of the resources that FoE Australia's representative has participated in writing and delivering for the FoEI Federation in collaboration with our international ally World March of Women. We also worked on a video with our international allies via ["Capire"](#).

- 1) GJDP booklet "Why gender justice and dismantling patriarchy?" (a more accessible version of the GJDP conceptual framework): <https://www.foei.org/features/gender-justice-dismantling-patriarchy-booklet-stories>
- 2) Feminist popular education manual "Sowing gender justice to dismantle patriarchy" (based on several years of feminist training and political formation in the federation, with support from WMW to develop the manual format): <https://www.foei.org/resources/sowing-gender-justice-dismantle-patriarchy>
- 3) Manual and poster to accompany the FoEI Policy on Violence and Sexual harassment (accessible tools based on the policy): <https://www.foei.org/features/commitment-against-violence-sexual-harassment>
- 4) Feminist Frontlines article on our response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the care crisis: <https://www.foei.org/news/feminist-responses-covid19-care-crisis>





## WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

Friends of the Earth Australia's federation structure means that local groups work in ways that are most appropriate to their local circumstances. Our grassroots focus and strong volunteer basis means we are able to work effectively with a vast range of groups and community groups.

Friends of the Earth Australia is acknowledged as being the leanest of the large environmental groups in terms of minimising administration costs and overheads.

## HOW WE WORK

We are a national federation of groups that work through community engagement, education, mobilisation and transformative solutions. We have a strong focus on working in alliances with others in the environmental and social justice movements and with organisations in the broader community.

In recent years we have developed stronger links with communities and organisations in regional Australia and with the renewable energy sector. We engage in advocacy, and

support community mobilisations and peaceful direct action in appropriate circumstances.

Friends of the Earth have strong regional and global connections through our international network.

Our local groups and affiliates act as a training ground for many emerging campaigners and in 2018-2019 we began development on a series of training workshops that help new volunteers and staff to understand our unique structure and way of doing things.

We bring a strong human rights perspective to all our campaigns.

We support a range of not for profit social enterprises, including an organic cafe, food cooperative, the Earthworker cooperative and 'Reverse Garbage' enterprise, which finds commercial uses for materials which would otherwise go to landfill.

We are politically non-aligned and seek to develop working relations with a range of Parties, businesses and others in civil society.



## STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

Friends of the Earth Australia is composed of independent member groups. Each group is self-managing in terms of its campaigns, decision making structures and fund-raising and needs to meet certain membership criteria. These are assessed on an annual basis. In addition to their local work, groups co-operate on specific campaigns at an appropriate and sustainable level.

A Committee of Management is appointed at the AGM and has strategic oversight for finances, governance, and legal issues. Friends of the Earth Australia's Committee of Management is made up of members of local groups and in 2020/2021 were:

- Chair: Em Gayfer (Melbourne)
- Treasurer: Franklin Bruinstroop (Brisbane)
- Secretary: Sam Castro (Melbourne)
- Katherine Cunningham (Earthworker)
- Jim Kremer (ASEN - Melbourne)
- Claud Gallois (Melbourne)
- Jim Green (Australia)

A separate public gift fund committee appointed at the AGM manages the FoE Australia Fund. This year the members of the Gift Fund Committee were:

- Cam Walker (Melbourne)
- Ila Marks (Melbourne)
- Linda Marks (Melbourne)
- Wendy Flannery (Brisbane)
- Fosco Ruzzene (Melbourne)
- June Norman (FNQ)

Communication between local groups is facilitated by the National Liaison Officers. This year we had 5 National Liaison Officers:

- Zianna Fuad (Melbourne)
- Phil Evans (Melbourne)
- Anisa Rogers (ASEN)
- Siobhan Sutton (Melbourne)
- Patricia Winfield (Adelaide)



The International Liaison Officers are responsible for communication between Friends of the Earth Australia and Friends of The Earth International (FoEI). This year the International Liaison Officers have been:

- Chloe Aldenhoven (Melbourne)
- Emma Harvey (Melbourne and FoE Asia Pacific)
- Franklin Bruinstroop (Melbourne)
- Pat Simons (Melbourne)
- Sam Cossar-Gilbert (Melbourne and FoE International)

National spokespeople are nominated by local groups at the AGM and are approved to speak on behalf of Friends of the Earth on specific issues.

Decisions are made at two national meetings which are generally held in February and October. The AGM is held as part of the October National meeting.

Various communication structures keep groups informed during the year.

Friends of the Earth Australia places great value on collective consensus decision-making systems and internal information sharing.

# GLOBAL CONTEXT AND CONNECTION

Friends of the Earth Australia is a member of [Friends of the Earth International](#) which is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 74 national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent. With over 2 million members and supporters around the world, we campaign on today's most urgent environmental and social issues. We challenge the current model of economic and corporate neoliberal globalization, and promote solutions that will help to create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies.

Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) mission:

- To collectively ensure environmental and social justice, human dignity, and respect for human rights and peoples' rights so as to secure sustainable societies.
- To halt and reverse environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources, nurture the earth's ecological and cultural diversity, and secure sustainable livelihoods.
- To secure the empowerment of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, groups and individuals, and to ensure public participation in decision making.
- To bring about transformation towards sustainability and equity between and within societies with creative approaches and solutions.
- To engage in vibrant campaigns, raise awareness, mobilize people and build alliances with diverse movements, linking grassroots, national and global struggles.

- To inspire one another and to harness, strengthen and complement each other's capacities, living the change we wish to see and working together in solidarity.

Friends of the Earth International has a democratic structure with autonomous national groups which comply with the guidelines established by the federation. Friends of the Earth International member

groups are united by a common conviction that these aims require both strong grassroots activism and effective national and international campaigning and coordination.

They see Friends of the Earth International as a unique and diverse forum to pursue international initiatives, taking advantage of the varied backgrounds and perspectives of its members.

More information about the work of Friends of the Earth International groups around the world and copies of the Friends of the Earth International annual report can be found online at [foei.org](http://foei.org)

Details on the FoEI Executive Committee (ExCom) is available at: [foei.org/about/excom.html](http://foei.org/about/excom.html)



## ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES

Long term campaigner with FoE's Climate Frontlines project Wendy Flannery received the International Day of Peace Award, which is hosted by The University of Queensland partners with the UN Association of Australia, Griffith University and other partners.

During the past year, the inspirational students network School Strike 4 Climate (SS4C) affiliated with the FoE network. This has deepened our connection for, and support of the student's movement. To ensure we meet all our duty of care responsibilities to young people, we have created a Safety and Wellbeing Convenor within the secretariat.

FoE Australia is a proud member of the FoE International federation. With a regional structure, Australia is a member of FoE Asia Pacific. This network is growing in size and influence. In 2020/21 we welcomed a new member group to the FoE Asia Pacific, from India.



## SUPPORTERS

Friends of the Earth Australia gratefully acknowledges the many members and supporters who support our local groups and national campaigns through our regular giving program.

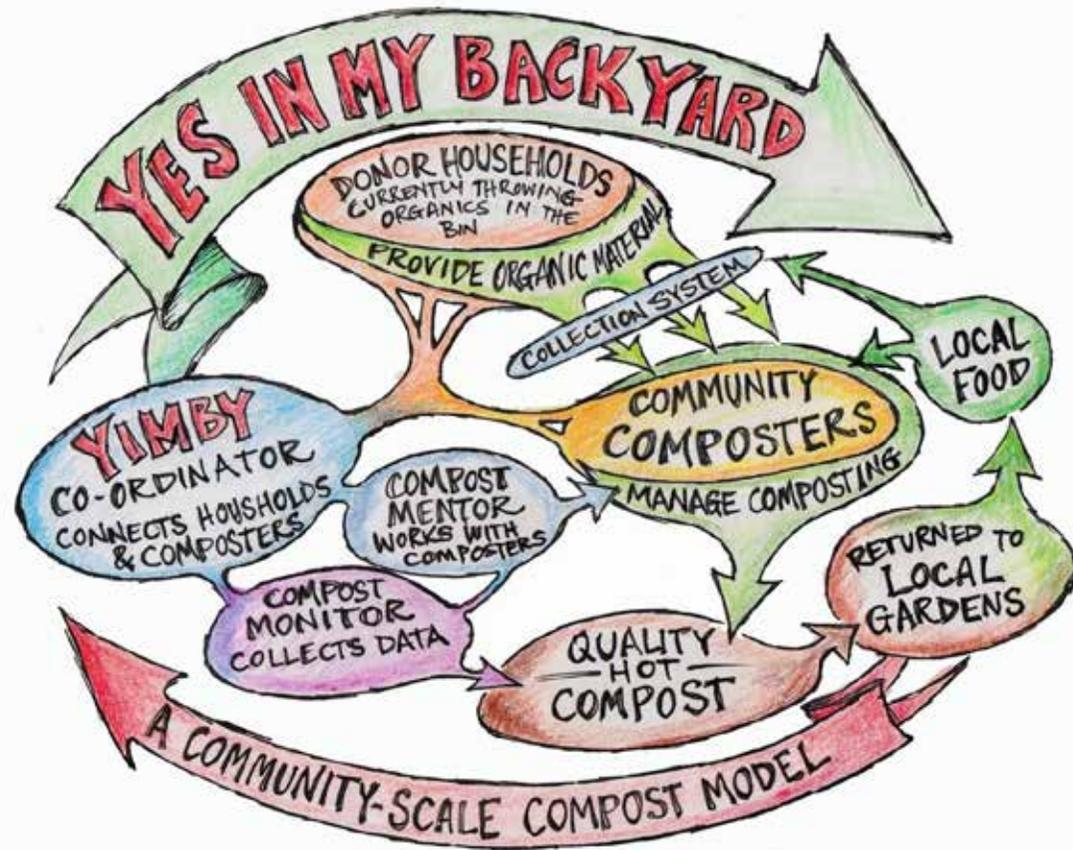
Friends of the Earth would like to thank the following for their support:

- ACME Foundation
- Community Impact Foundation
- Crisp Nominees
- Climate Action Network Australia
- Friends of the Earth South Korea
- Friends of the Earth International
- Fumina Projects Pty Ltd
- Graeme Wood Foundation
- Hiccup Events
- Kenwill Pty Ltd
- Lord Mayor Charitable Fund
- LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
- McKinnon Family Foundation
- Minax Uriel Pty Ltd

- Oranges & Sardines Foundation
- Patagonia
- Perpetual Foundation
- Pixel Seed Fund
- Queensland Community Foundation
- Ross Knowles Foundation
- SM Robinson PAF
- The Angel Fund
- The Energy Project Pty Ltd
- The Hope Family Foundation
- The Madden Sainsbury Foundation
- The Spranz Family Foundation
- Tucker Foundation

And our many wonderful individual donors and supporters!

We would like to acknowledge all the individuals and organisations who have supported Friends of the Earth through in-kind support such as donation of time, skills or materials for our campaigns and projects over the 2020/2021 financial year.



### THEY INCLUDE:

- Action Skills
- Dvize Creations
- Environmental Justice Australia
- Photographer Julian Meehan
- Web Designer Glenn Todd
- Tipping Point Advisory Team (Larissa Baldwin, Tony Mohr, Joan Staples and Phil Evans)
- Graphics and design Sam Wallman
- All the School Striker volunteers
- All the Stop Adani volunteers

### OUR BEQUEST PROGRAM

Thank you to our many members who have let us know that they are including Friends of the Earth in their wills. Every gift, whether large or small, makes a real difference.

If you would like further information on remembering Friends of the Earth in your will, see [foe.org.au/bequests](https://foe.org.au/bequests) or call Phil Evans in the Melbourne office: +61 03 9419 8700 or toll free 1300 852 081.



## Introduction to Worker Cooperatives

The WHY, WHAT and HOW of Worker Cooperatives

Workshop 1 - Starting September 22

Friends of the Earth Australia has the following active national campaigns and projects

- Chain Reaction magazine - published 3 times a year
- Anti Nuclear and Clean Energy
- Climate Frontlines
- Emerging Technology
- Defense of Earth - war, militarism and the environment
- Tipping Point - climate change
- Economic Justice

Friends of the Earth has offices in Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne.

In 2020/2021 it had Friends of the Earth following affiliate members:

- Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN)
- Earthworker Co-operative
- GM-Free Australia Alliance
- Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO)
- Healthy Futures
- The Hub Foundation Castlemaine Ltd
- Market Forces
- Sustainable Energy Now WA
- School Strike 4 Climate Australia (SS4C)
- Wildlife of the Central Highlands (WOTCH)

## Contact Us

Friends of the Earth Australia.

**ABN:** 18 110 769 501

**Friends of the Earth Australia Registered Office:** 312 Smith St, Collingwood VIC 3066

**Postal Address:** PO Box 222 Fitzroy VIC 3065

**Phone:** 03 9419 8700

**Toll free:** 1300 852 081

**Fax:** 03 9416 2081

**Website:** [www.foe.org.au](http://www.foe.org.au)

**Email:** [foe@foe.org.au](mailto:foe@foe.org.au)

# Financial Report 2020/21



## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Membership Subscription	1,477	1,035
Donations and Funding	2,290,523	2,191,239
Grant Income	3,088,999	2,189,573
Bank Interest	15,689	22,651
Government Assistance	600,100	341,500
Publication	6,806	9,635
Miscellaneous	64,912	23,124
	<b>6,068,506</b>	<b>4,778,757</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Employee Benefits and Related Expenses	(2,607,431)	(1,861,613)
Administration Costs	(271,940)	(429,925)
Fundraising Expenses	(6,142)	(6,485)
Campaigning Costs	(828,180)	(1,140,225)
Campaign Funding for Member Groups and Projects	(207,434)	(280,184)
Donations	(19,117)	(15,820)
Depreciation and Amortisation	(90,692)	(23,195)
Audit Fees - Audit or Reviewing the Financial Report	(8,500)	(5,320)
Interest Expense	(30,805)	(7,138)
	<b>(4,070,241)</b>	<b>(3,769,905)</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>1,998,265</b>	<b>1,008,852</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to the members</b>	<b>1,998,265</b>	<b>1,008,852</b>

### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the members of the committee the financial report:

Represents a true and fair view of the financial position of Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Friends of

the Earth (Australia) Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

**Samantha Castro**

*Secretary  
The Committee of Management  
Friends of The Earth Australia*

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalent	5,085,488	3,897,981
Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors	139,767	206,474
Inventories on hand, at cost	9,561	7,407
Other Current Assets	137,291	39,781
Total current assets	5,372,107	4,151,643
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Plant and Equipment	19,430	18,795
Right-of-use Asset	-	991,470
Total non-current assets	19,430	1,010,265
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>5,391,537</b>	<b>5,161,908</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Other Payables	(268,657)	(317,022)
Grants Received in Advance	(853,410)	(1,651,756)
Tax Liabilities	(109,637)	(83,650)
Provisions	(142,761)	(96,712)
Lease Liability	-	(96,712)
Total current liabilities	(1,374,465)	(2,247,946)
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Provisions	(23,350)	(66,303)
Lease Liability	-	(900,837)
Total non-current liabilities	(23,350)	(967,140)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>(1,397,815)</b>	<b>(3,215,086)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>3,993,722</b>	<b>1,946,822</b>
<b>Members' Funds</b>		
Retained Surplus	3,993,722	1,946,822
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>	<b>3,993,722</b>	<b>1,946,822</b>

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (AUSTRALIA) ACN 18 110 769 501

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

We have audited the financial report of the Friends of the Earth (Australia) (the registered entity), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021, and the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information and the responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the registered entity is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial positions as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent as detailed at Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

#### *Basis for Opinion*

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

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

### **Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon**

The responsible persons are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the *ACNC Act*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **Responsibilities of the Responsible Persons for the Financial Report**

The responsible persons of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *ACNC Act* and for such internal control as the responsible persons determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible persons are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible persons either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the reporting entity's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible persons.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible persons' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entity or business activities within the entity to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the entity audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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



**McBain McCartin & Co**  
**Chartered Accountants**



**Simon Aukstin (CA)**  
**Partner**

123 Whitehorse Road,  
Balwyn VIC 3103

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021