



Friends of  
the Earth  
Melbourne

Annual Report financial year  
**2014-2015**

*Friends of the Earth (FoE) Melbourne is an independent community-based organisation working towards an ecologically sustainable and socially just future.*

*We are membership-based, and open to all people who share our vision. We are the local member of Friends of the Earth Australia, which is in turn the national member of FoE International, the largest grassroots environmental network on the planet.*

*FoE has been active in Melbourne since the early 1970s. In 2014/15 Friends of the Earth continued to campaign for the interests of people and the planet on a range of issues including climate change, pesticides and water, nuclear and clean energy, food, and forests.*

*Our decision to shift a lot of our campaign capacity into regional Victoria in 2011 has paid off, and we have now had very significant impacts on energy policy in the state, having helped shift all main parties on the issue of unconventional gas and having championed a dramatic shift in the government's approach to renewable energy.*

There are millions of Australians who are working towards a better future, in their homes, their workplaces, their families, and through political action. It will be collective action, happening at multiple levels, from the individual to the global, that will create the conditions that will allow our society and economies to shift to a sustainable footing. This will require deep and sustained collaboration amongst civil society organisations, business and all levels of government.



## OUR CAMPAIGN APPROACH

FoE Melbourne has a strong 'movement' focus in its work, seeking to support strategic and effective community action for a sustainable and just future. This is reflected in our style of campaigning, which often occurs within alliances. We are willing to apply significant resources into 'un-badged' campaigning. This means that we have helped build community power rather than just our own organisational power, and our public profile is lower than could be expected. The benefit of this approach is that it helps empower and create space for our local partners to step forward and fully own local campaigns.

We operate through a range of tactics, including involvement in government planning processes, research and policy development, community education and outreach, alliance building, advocacy and education, and peaceful direct action. Our work in regional Victoria has been both deep and effective, and we have developed working relationships with more than 75 community groups across the state.

Climate change is the greatest single threat to the long-term protection of the natural environment.

Climate science clearly tells us that if the world hopes to avoid dangerous climate change we will need to keep the majority of known fossil fuel reserves in the ground. Our approach to climate change has been to concentrate locally on ways that we can reduce the production of greenhouse gases while advocating for the development of a thriving renewable energy sector as an alternative to the fossil fuels we currently rely on to meet our energy needs. This 'energy future' approach has two distinct but interconnected campaigns: our work to halt new developments of fossil fuels, and our 'Yes2Renewables' project.

## State election 2014

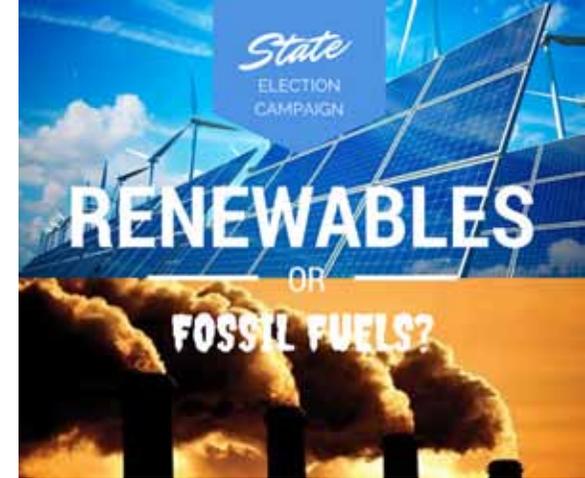
With an election called for late November 2014, the pre election environment was the key opportunity to gain good environmental outcomes over the past year.

FoE is non-partisan and worked hard to develop links with all parties and many independent candidates during 2014.

Our 4 key campaign priorities were to secure commitments on:

1. a permanent ban on any new coal and onshore gas mining operations in key areas in Victoria
2. parties ruling out any further coal allocations or development of coal infrastructure and any further allocations of public funds to coal research and development
3. a re-write of the Baillieu government's VC82 anti-wind laws and reintroduction of a science based approach to taking decisions on where wind energy facilities can be built.
4. the re-establishment of a state-based Renewable Energy Target (VRET), which would drive regional employment and investment, and help Victoria start to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In our lobby efforts we also focused on the need to cancel the East West Link and invest those funds into public transport, and for all parties to support the proposal for a Great Forest National Park to be established in the Central Highlands to the east of Melbourne.



The ALP adopted a number of our priorities, including a commitment to re-writing the anti wind laws and to extend the moratorium on unconventional gas (UCG) drilling and hold a state Inquiry into the UCG industry before lifting the moratorium.

**ACT Government = 90% by 2020**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA = 50% by 2025**

**State Government Victoria = NONE?!**

**VICTORIA IS LAGGING ON RENEWABLE ENERGY.**  
Time for a Victorian Renewable Energy Target



## The campaign against new coal and gas

It was another big year for our campaign against unconventional gas in Victoria. In 2012, the campaign launched by Quit Coal and Friends of the Earth was successful in securing a moratorium on fracking, and kept it in place, and had it extended it to all exploration for unconventional gas, despite concerted attempts to have it lifted by industry.

In 2014/15, Government-held community consultations resulted in a clear message to decision makers that the industry is too risky, and has no social license in Victoria. Local communities, supported by Quit Coal, Friends of the Earth and Lock the Gate turned out in large numbers to the consultations to express their concerns about the industry.

Regional campaigning in the lead up to the South Gippsland by-election saw the National Party significantly re-evaluate their position on the issue, to campaign for landholder's rights to say no to mining developments on their land.

The year also saw significant support from local Councils, with now over a dozen local council areas registering their opposition to unconventional gas, supporting the moratorium or calling for total bans.



After winning the election in November 2014, the Labor Party followed through on its commitment to extend the moratorium while conducting a state parliamentary inquiry into Unconventional gas. The new Mining and Resources minister said "it will remain in place until the science shows that it is safe and there is broad community support."

We expect a decision on the future of the moratorium in early 2016.



### New Coal

We have also continued to keep up the pressure on new coal proposals. Potential coal allocations continue to hang over the heads of communities in the LaTrobe Valley, while the new Labor government granted retention and exploration licenses for coal over the communities of Gelliondale and Mirboo North. Friends of the Earth and Quit Coal continue to work closely with these communities to oppose these projects.



### Farmland not Gasland film launched

Farmland Not Gaslands is an empowering, short documentary that looks at the growing community movement against invasive unconventional gas projects planned for Gippsland and Western Victoria.

It provides an update on the successful campaign against new gas operations since the film *Gippsland is Precious*.

It was launched in Melbourne as part of the Environmental Film Festival and in Sale in September. It has since been widely shown to community groups around Australia and even at film festivals in North America.



## More coal and gasfield free communities

By mid 2015, 63 Coal and Gasfield free declarations had been made, including the second coal free community in the Latrobe Valley at Gormandale. The Coal and Gasfield Free Communities model has been the bedrock of the campaign against new coal and gas in Victoria, and communities are continuing grassroots surveys, re-affirming that there is no social license for new coal and unconventional gas mines across the state.



## Listening tours of the Latrobe Valley

Quit Coal has been active in helping to organise and participating in listening and learning tours of the Latrobe Valley coal affected communities. These reflect our commitment that any transition away from coal-fired power has to see the well-being of the local community as paramount.

Meeting with local residents, including coal workers, we have been learning about their experiences of living and working in and around coal mines.

We firmly believe that a transition from coal-fired power is a problem that concerns all Victorians, but where the impact is felt most greatly by the community currently providing our electricity needs. As part of our own commitment that any transition from coal-fired power must also address the well-being of communities currently

providing our power, we have started a dialogue with residents about their future vision for their community.

Many in the Latrobe Valley express a need for investment, infrastructure and job transition planning to address the region's current economic dependence on coal mining, the need to resolve the legacy of non-rehabilitated holes in the ground (and their inherent fire risk), and importantly to address the health impacts suffered by those living and working around coal mines. As a part of this, we have assisted local residents in surveying their community on health impacts experienced in the wake of the Hazlewood mine fire in 2014. We will continue to work with this community as they formulate their vision for the future, and support them in their campaigns to achieve a just transition from coal.

## Anglesea Coal Fired Power - over!

After a five year struggle, the Anglesea community were successful in retiring the coal fired power station and coal mine. A strong community grounded campaign highlighting climate change concerns and health risks to the local community created conditions where operators Alcoa were unable to find another company to bid to keep the power station open for electricity generation, after the ALCOA Point Henry smelter the power station supplied was shut down.

Throughout the campaign, Yes2Renewables, Quit Coal and Friends of the Earth have been offering logistical support to the local community.

Congratulations to all involved in the campaign, especially local group Surf Coast Air Action on their inspiring win.



## Yes 2 renewables

In addition to opposing the establishment of new fossil fuel projects, FoE campaigns widely in support of the rapid uptake of renewable energy through the Yes2Renewables (Y2R) campaign.

Renewable energy technologies are proven and commercially viable. They represent a quick and efficient way to reduce Australia's greenhouse emissions and hence reduce the impacts of climate change on the natural environment. Additionally, polling continues to show that renewables are widely supported in the community. A key focus of Y2R has been to translate this latent support into active and vocal support for a transition away from Australia's current reliance on fossil fuels to meet the majority of our energy needs.

At the beginning of 2011 the Baillieu Coalition government in Victoria enacted the world's worst restrictions on wind energy development. The planning regulations – which killed off a dozen proposals and cost hundreds of jobs – were still in effect in 2014 and constituted the main barrier facing renewable energy in the state.

Yes2Renewables built on previous campaign experience defending the King Island and Cherry Tree Range wind farm projects by forming strong partnerships with existing community organisations. In 2014, we partnered with the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, Surf Coast Energy Group,

Geelong Sustainability Group, and the Riddells Creek Sustainability Group.

The Coalition's anti-wind farm laws were introduced without community consultation or economic modelling. It was this lack of public engagement and economic modelling that raised doubts in the community over the government's wind energy policy.

Yes2Renewables undertook an independent economic impact assessment of the anti-wind farm laws. Our research was featured in *The Sunday Age*, the front page of the *Macedon Free Press*, and resulted in a meeting with the Minister for Energy, Russell Northe, as well as the relevant shadow ministers.

Yes2Renewables' community survey on the views Macedon residents (and visitors) focused the debate on the government's lack of consultation and directly challenged their legitimacy. With over 700 participants, the initiative presented Yes2Renewables as a credible voice on the issue and allowed us to identify the deep support that exists in the community.

Yes2Renewables' campaign successfully mobilised communities; built a strong counter narrative to the existing laws; and gained a public commitment from the Daniel Andrews opposition to dump the worst aspects of the laws once elected.

The first half of 2015 saw Yes2Renewables run parallel campaigns on national and state issues.



MELBOURNE RENEWABLE  
ENERGY SECTOR JOBS SURVEY

# RIDDELLS CREEK FILM NIGHT OUR ENERGY FUTURE

More info > <http://ow.ly/Ayl2h>



At the Federal level, the Abbott government and crossbenchers established another inquiry into wind energy (announced in Nov 2014). The wind energy inquiry would create ongoing uncertainty for the wind energy sector.

The Select Committee on Wind Turbines was stacked with long-standing wind energy opponents. Senators John Madigan (Chair), Chris Bach, Bob Day, and David Leyonhjelm are on the committee. Yes2Renewables acted as a watchdog on the wind inquiry, holding them to account through the process.

The Abbott government's campaign to cut the national Renewable Energy Target was launched in February 2014. The attempt to reduce the RET was the biggest threat to the rollout of renewables.

In Victoria, the newly elected Andrews government presents an opportunity. The government has flagged leadership on renewable energy. It has repealed the worst parts of the Baillieu-era anti-wind laws and is committed to delivering a Renewable Energy Action Plan.

Yes2Renewables sought to build on the opportunities presented by the election of a new government by highlighting that a Victorian Renewable Energy Target would act as an insurance policy for renewables when the national scheme was wound back.

For further information.

[Yes2renewables.com](http://Yes2renewables.com)

## 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY IS POSSIBLE

Victoria was once a leader in the development of renewable energy. Since 2010, Coalition government policies have stopped the rollout of renewables.

**SUN+WIND = HOT AIR**

The Coalition government's anti-wind farm laws have cost ...

1.38 MILLION TONNES UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE ABANDONED FOR ABBOTT	CO <sub>2</sub>	\$848 MILLION INVESTMENT IN VICTORIA
438MW WIND ENERGY DENIED		490 CONSTRUCTION JOBS
		64 ONGOING JOBS
		\$10.5 MILLION ECONOMIC ACTIVITY TO RURAL ECONOMIES

REMOVE THE VCS2 ANTI-WIND LAWS	ESTABLISH A VICTORIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET (VRET)
REALLOCATE TAXPAYER FUNDS FOR FOSSIL FUELS TO ESTABLISH RENEWABLE ENERGY HUBS	ENCOURAGE MANUFACTURING WITH LOCAL CONTENT DISCLOSURE
INVEST IN R&D TO DRIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY INNOVATION	PROVIDE START-UP FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY OWNED RENEWABLES
PHASE OUT COAL PRODUCTION	BAN ANY NEW COAL/GAS POWER STATIONS

A roadmap to renewables ...

**SUN+WIND = RENEWABLE ENERGY**

If all currently approved wind farms are built, this would mean ...

**\$4.2 BILLION**  
INVESTMENT IN VICTORIA

**\$9.3 MILLION**  
DROUGHT-PROOF INCOME FOR FARMERS EACH YEAR

**\$17 MILLION**  
RATE PAYMENTS TO COUNCILS EACH YEAR

**\$14 MILLION**  
GRANTS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES EACH YEAR

**100% RENEWABLES - WE JUST NEED THE POLITICAL WILL**  
Help us make it happen.

[yes2renewables.org](http://yes2renewables.org) | [melbourne.foe.org.au](http://melbourne.foe.org.au)



# RENEWABLE ENERGY & JOBS

Renewable energy is creating jobs in Portland, yet uncertainty clouds the sector's future. Find out how Portland's renewable energy jobs can be secured.

## SPEAKERS

- John Hewson, *former Liberal Party leader*
- Steve Garner, *Keppel Prince General Manager*
- Lily D'Ambrosio, *Labor Energy spokeswoman*
- Greg Barber, *Greens Leader*

More to be announced...

## EVENT DETAILS

Sunday August 24, 3:00-4:30pm

Fawthrop Community Centre,  
1 Hood St, Portland

RSVP - <http://tiny.cc/PortlandForum>



## Portland Renewable Energy and Jobs Forum

Working with the Australian Wind Energy Alliance and a number of local businesses, we hosted this very successful event in August 2014.

Portland's second-largest employer, Keppel Prince Engineering, is Australia's most prominent wind turbine tower manufacturer, the region's largest solar installer and one of the key forum organisers. Portland businessman

Wayne Barrett told the forum it was an opportunity to have a positive discussion about the renewable energy sector. "We want to see political leaders have a productive discussion about renewable energy."

Dr John Hewson, former Liberal Party leader, was the keynote speaker. And at a state level, Labor's shadow energy minister, Lily D'Ambrosio, and leader of the Victorian Greens, Greg Barber, discuss what policies they will be bringing to the November 29 election.

<http://yes2renewables.org/2014/08/13/renewable-energy-jobs-forum-announced/>

## RESTORE FAIR LAWS FOR WIND FARMS

- Give companies flexibility to use best-available technology
- Exempt community projects from onerous laws
- Repeal blanket bans on wind farms
- End right of veto to block wind farms



**River Country campaign**

In June 2015, our Barmah Millewa campaign (BMC) re-launched as the River Country campaign, with a broad mandate to protect our inland river country in conjunction with traditional owner groups.

Much of the past year has been spent protecting the legacy of the massive national park we campaigned to create. A proposed trial logging operation in the Red Gum forest national park along the Murray River was initially supported by the government. Following a strong campaign, the Victorian government announced in October 2014 that it had withdrawn from the trial.

In late June 2015, we joined the celebration of the 5th anniversary of the protection of the Nyah-Vinifera forests in a national park.

**Shocking footage shows koalas caught in logging**

In January 2015, Friends of the Earth campaigner Anthony Amis released undercover footage, which showed koalas being harmed by plantation logging in South West Victoria.

The video showed a mother koala with her baby holding on for their lives as the tree they live in is felled. The footage was captured inside a plantation owned by the Cayman Islands based, Australian Bluegum Plantations Pty Ltd. Friends of the Earth fears that thousands of koalas will be killed or injured in the next few years as west Victorian plantation forests are logged.

The story received extensive media coverage and forced a re-think by land managers about how plantations are harvested.



**The koalas of Victoria's Strzelecki ranges need Federal protection.**  
To find out how you can help: [melbourne.foe.org.au/koalas](http://melbourne.foe.org.au/koalas)



## Strathbogrie forests

In 2015, FoE highlighted the need for greater community input into forestry operations in the Strathbogrie Ranges in north eastern Victoria, in order to improve the long term viability of the Strathbogrie Koala Population.

Friends of the Earth supported community requests that VicForests and the Victorian State Government grant the community greater input into forest management decisions. FoE also believes that koala surveys are urgently required in the Strathbogrie Ranges, as past estimates of koala numbers are no longer relevant.

FoE supports the view that where there is a clear opinion in the local community that there should be less logging, and more emphasis on protection of country, then such views should be accommodated into management plans by VicForests. At present the wishes of resource extraction enterprises tend to over ride other values in terms of local Forest management Plans.

Friends of the Earth holds concerns regarding the impacts of forestry on a range of species in the Strathbogries. It is clear that some recent logging coupes are too large to be considered ecologically sound. It is clear that current logging regimes have already lead to a diminished local forest environment. It is also unclear how the forests are managed in terms of native species that inhabit those forests.



## Chemicals

FoE co-hosted a speaking event featuring USA-based Prof Don Huber, who talked about the risks associated with broad scale use of the weedkiller Roundup.

In July 2014, FoE published a report looking at the impacts of plantations and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in Victoria. The report, *Victorian Koala Issues, Plantations and Forest Stewardship Council Certification 2000 – 2014* made a series of recommendations about how to improve forest and plantation management to minimise deaths of koalas in forestry operations.

## Aerial spraying

FoE continued to provide support to residents concerned about the impacts of aerial spraying of the herbicides Clopyralid, Glyphosate and Metsulfuron Methyl in the plantations around Bright and surrounding townships, in North Eastern Victoria.



# ANTI-NUCLEAR AND CLEAN ENERGY (ACE) COLLECTIVE



It has been another big year for anti-nuclear activists, despite the fact that uranium prices have plummeted, most of the world had learnt its lessons from the Fukushima nuclear disaster of 2011 and there is shut-down of nuclear power plants right around the world. The world should be promising a clean, peaceful future as this year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings.

2015 began with the announcement of the “South Australian Royal Commission into the Nuclear Fuel Cycle”. It is clear that the pro-industry commission is hand-in-hand with the SA Government in pushing for a national/ international nuclear waste

repository and expansion of uranium mining in SA. We have worked closely with Traditional Owners throughout SA, Conservation Council of SA, Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), and Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA) to make sure the Royal Commission acknowledges: a) the nuclear racism and devastation from the 1950’s nuclear weapons testing in Maralinga, Montebello Islands, Emu Fields and Woomera, and b) the continued resistance, led by Adnyamathanha and Kokatha Traditional Owners, against uranium mining at Olympic Dam.

Local public meetings, a joint ACF-FoE-SA Conservation Council submission and planning for the next ANFA

Meeting (being held in October 2015 in Quorn, SA) have been major elements of our work over the past year.

The Radioactive Exposure Tour is a tradition that has been going for almost 30 years. Rad Tour 2015 was an examination of the nuclear landscapes of New South Wales and South Australia. We visited Australia’s only nuclear reactor, ex-uranium mine sites, both of Australia’s two currently operating uranium mines, saw vast areas which are under uranium exploration, during a journey of 5,000 kilometres. This year’s Rad Tour packed around 25 people into two mini-buses and a ute (running on vegetable oil!) to piece together the puzzle of Australia’s “out of sight, out of mind” nuclear legacy.

Highlights included building the nuclear-free networks in NSW, working closely with Uranium Free NSW and visiting Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Dubbo, Broken Hill and Cobar. We created new connections with Uranium Free Dubbo, facilitating a fiery public meeting to support locals who are challenging a recently approved, radioactive Rare Earths Mine by Alkane Resources.

With the Royal Commission looming, it was more important than ever to build relationships with Traditional Owners throughout South Australia. We were honoured to spend time on Country with some of the Kokatha and Woomera locals, with the message being loud and strong that FoE will

continue to stand side-by-side with Aboriginal peoples to protect Country and fight the nuclear industry. We visited Olympic Dam (run by BHP) and Beverly In-situ Leaching Mine, only to learn that these two companies are incestuously involved in the Royal Commission, advocating for expansion and a waste dump despite opposition by Traditional Owners.

ACE continues the legacy of decades of nuclear-free campaigning and solidarity, with communities impacted first hand by the nuclear industry. A major part of our work is community education, awareness raising and engagement. We have hosted a range of events over the past year. We would particularly like to thank our regular and occasional donors. The local nuclear-free movement is diverse and includes both people currently active in the Melbourne collective, decades of activists who have come before us, and many supporters at home.

As current ACE Coordinator, I would like to end by sharing some moments that have particularly inspired me this year. Sunset over Lake Eyre is unforgettable. I felt the continuing of the legacy on Rad Tour as we sat around the fire at

the Keepers of Lake Eyre protest camp where Arabunna elder Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, Bilbo and many others kept a constant watch on BHP Billiton for many years. Some of the Rad Tour participants were part of the Students of Sustainability Conference (July 8-12<sup>th</sup>) in Adelaide. After the opening fire ceremony we heard from some of the Aboriginal champions for a nuclear-free-world like Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, Mitch and Aunty Sue Coleman-Haseldine. Their words reinforced the relevance of the journey we'd just travelled, and the need to keep the fight alive for an end to the atomic age.

So what will ACE do next? We will continue to support Traditional Owners in their ongoing struggle against nuclear racism. Practical solidarity includes raising funds and offering logistical support for ANFA and another Nuclear Freeways SA trip. We will continue to build and support the national nuclear-free network.

We would like to show our respects and honour Warlmanpa elder B. Nabarula, a leading spokeswoman in the campaign that stopped a nuclear waste dump being imposed on her lands at Muckaty, NT. Her words and determination will inspire future generations for years to come; *"I am crying for my land, I will never stop fighting"*.

We would like to pay deep and ongoing respects to all the staunch, vocal and persistent Traditional Owners who continue to struggle to keep their Country nuclear-free.



# ECONOMIC JUSTICE COLLECTIVE

At the May 2015 ACTU National Congress the Economic Justice Collective, along with representatives of a number of other organisations, brought together over 60 groups including Unions and community groups to unanimously sign on to a joint statement calling on the Australian Government to release the TPP text immediately or withdraw Australia from the secret negotiations. Those represented by this TPP Roundtable include the 2.4 million members of the ACTU and the millions of supporters of the various community groups. As one united voice we can make sure the Government puts the Australian people before the interests of multinational corporations. #ReleaseTheText

In July, EJC released a paper titled '*Fracking the Planet: How the Trans Pacific Partnership will expand fracking in Australia and around the globe*'. The paper explains the implications of the **Investment State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Chapter** of the TPP, and explores the ways in which foreign corporations could use this clause to override the Australian law and environmental regulations to continue fracking the planet. '*Fracking the Planet*' also explains the basic process of fracking, and presents the current state of play across Australia, the US and Europe, including areas currently engaging in fracking, bans and moratoriums, and areas of community resistance.

With the recent release of the text, it is now clear the TPP is everything we feared it would be and a disaster for the environment. However the deal is not law yet. We, along with campaigners in other partnering nations will continue to fight the passing of enabling legislation and the ratification of this secret corporate deal.



## OTHER ISSUES AND ACTIVITY

# Can you make 50% difference?

1

Veg Out



2

Transport



3

No Consumption



4

Rug Up Strip Off



5

2 minute showers



### Sustainable living workshops

FoE organised a series of free workshops which looked at how to transform a typical suburban house into a more sustainable, more liveable and more interesting place live. Topics included sustainability within design and architecture.

Many thanks to Kate Bradley for organising this course of events.

We also hosted a series of free workshops on issues like public speaking, doing radio interviews and developing media skills, how to write opinion pieces and letters to the editor, and produce effective media interventions.

### FoEM divestment forum

FoE hosted a forum, which was attended by a large number of large environmental and social NGOs about how to divest organisational investments away from fossil fuels. We then worked directly with individual organisations around the specifics of how to move their investments.

### Change Course

For the second year, FoE joined with the Melbourne Campaigners Network and CounterAct to host the Change Course. This course takes place over one month and is designed to give a broad overview of the skills needed to be an effective campaigner.

The program was coordinated by experienced campaigner and facilitator Nicola Paris, and included interactive workshops, experiential learning and featured guest experts who are leaders in their field. The project also built an ongoing network of community advocates that will enable participants to gain further skills and support into the future.



### Dirt Radio activates the airwaves for environmental and social justice

Heading for a 4th year on-air, Dirt Radio, a FoE sponsored half hour show brings campaign news and events to listeners every week on 3CR in Melbourne.

Produced and presented by front-line activists, Dirt Radio connects with and hears from all major FoE campaigns around Australia and internationally. The program also features in-depth discussion and analysis on a wide range of environmentally related issues.

Tune in: Mondays, 10:30-11:00am

3CR community radio,  
Melbourne 855 AM

Also available as audio on demand and podcast <http://www.3cr.org.au/dirtradio>



# LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNING AND ALLIANCES

FoE has continued to collaborate closely with other peak Victorian green groups including Environment Victoria (EV), Wilderness Society (TWS), and the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA).

We work closely with The Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta, Taungurung, Barapa Barapa, Wamba Wamba, Mutti Mutti, Wadi Wadi, Latji Latji, Wergaia and Ngarrindjeri Nations.

We work closely with Environmental Justice Australia.

We continue to co-facilitate the Gippsland Alliance, a grouping of local environmental and community groups in Eastern Victoria. Protect the West

was established in 2014 to better enable networking and shared activity amongst groups in western Victoria.

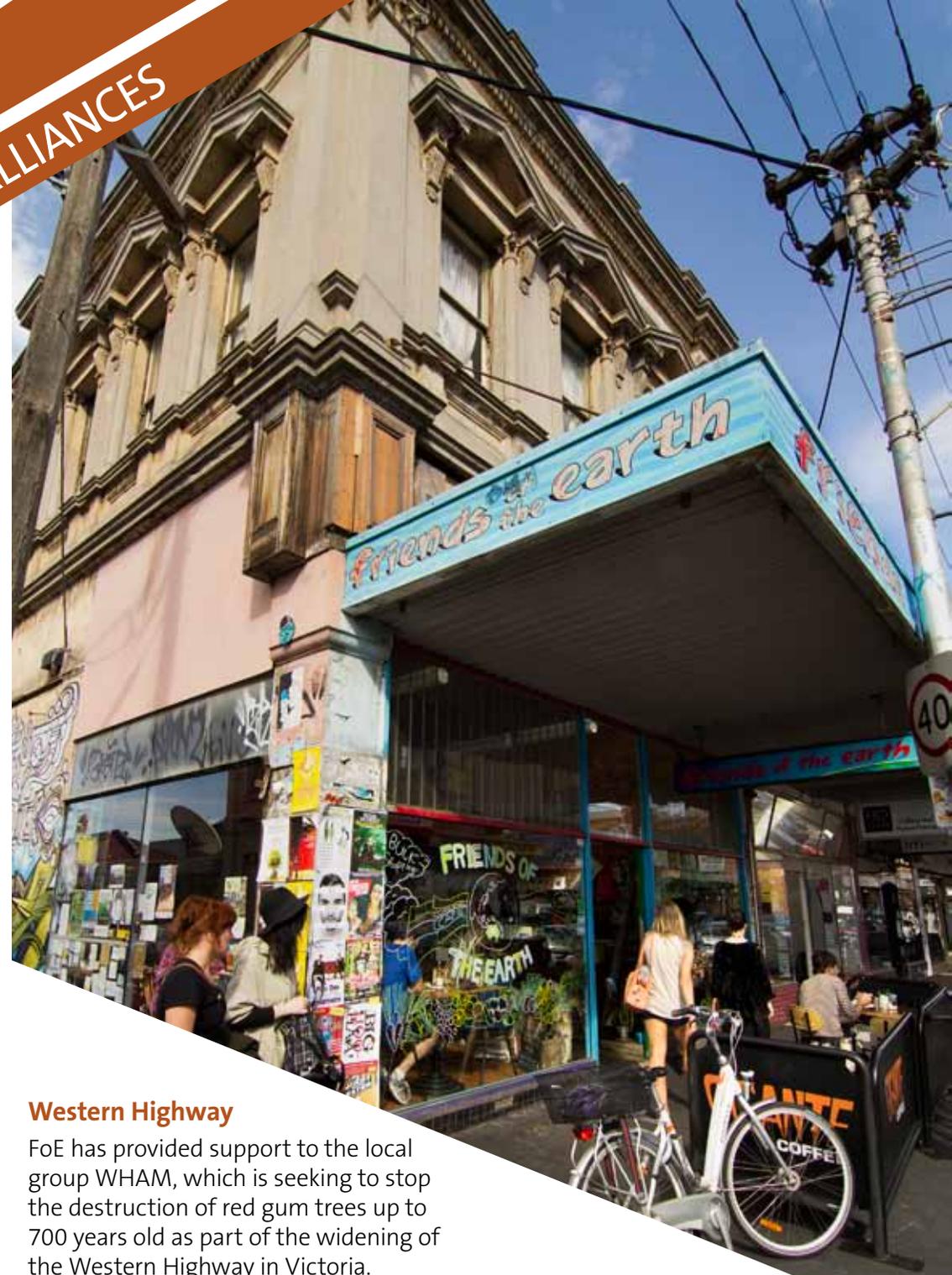
In addition, we continue to support a range of community campaigns and projects around the state.

## Big Hill announcement

In November, we received the excellent news that the Victorian government has knocked back the contentious plan by Canadian company Crocodile Gold to build a massive open cut gold mine at Big Hill on the fringes of Stawell in western Victoria. FoE is proud to have supported the community in its long campaign against this mine.

In the past year, FoE attended events and forums in Stawell, and organised a lobby visit and community rally at Parliament House in Melbourne.

This proposal was rejected in 2000. The community is being forced to mobilise again to protect their landscape and health.



## Western Highway

FoE has provided support to the local group WHAM, which is seeking to stop the destruction of red gum trees up to 700 years old as part of the widening of the Western Highway in Victoria.

# ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES



Environment Victoria awarded our Yes 2 Renewables campaign with Community Environmental Recognition award.

Friends of the Earth Food Co-op won the Business category in the 2014 City of Yarra Sustainability Awards.

Beth Cameron received the Local Hero award in the 2015 City of Yarra Sustainability Awards

Cam Walker received the inaugural Frank Fisher sustainability award from City of Yarra.

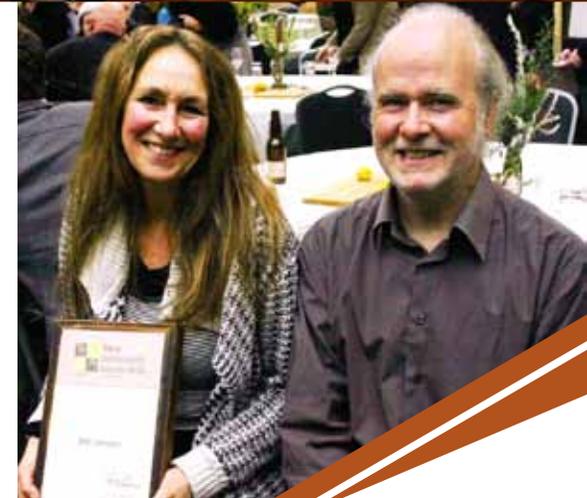
Will Mooney finished as campaigner with the Barmah Millewa campaign. He now works for the Murray Lower Darling Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) and remains active as a volunteer with FoE. Morgana Russell took over the campaign and co-ordination role in the Barmah campaign.

Our fantastic membership and fundraising co-ordinator Sam Cossar Gilbert has taken a job with Friends of the Earth International.

Phil Evans is the new membership and fund-raising co-ordinator.

Gaye McCulloch is the new finances co-ordinator.

We would like to thank the previous finance coordinator Miko Thomas for his work and FoE and wish him well in his overseas adventures. A further thank must be extended to Melissa Slattery for providing support in the transition between coordinators.



# THE ORGANISATION



## Finances and fund raising over view

The upstairs campaign office has worked hard to continue building our income. Our core team is composed of a campaigns co-ordinator, membership and fundraising co-ordinator, finance co-ordinator and operations co-ordinator. These positions are funded by membership, donations, fund raising and direct debit income. Our efforts are paying off, with good responses to our appeals and an improvement in our overall financial situation.

We have built our overall supporter base significantly over the past year. Max Shultz has been calling members and supporters through the year.

The Green Pledge program is in it's second year and will hopefully become an annual event.

Campaigns are responsible for their own fund raising, with support from the office staff.

The downstairs businesses provide considerable financial support to the

campaigns, not least through paying the bulk of the rent on the building, therefore greatly reducing overheads for the campaign collectives.

There are currently three part time staff employed in the businesses, and eleven part time staff in the upstairs campaign office.

A copy of our audited financial report is available upon request.  
[gaye.mcculloch@foe.org.au](mailto:gaye.mcculloch@foe.org.au)

## Governance

FoE's Committee of Management (called the Policy and Accountability Collective, or PAC), has responsibility for oversight of finances, strategic development, and governance and risk assessment for the organisation.

The members of the PAC in 2014/15:

- Rodney Vlasis - chair
- Rob Lucas - treasurer
- David Robertson
- Campbell Walker
- Sam Castro - secretary
- Beth Cameron

On a day to day level all campaign collectives manage their own affairs. Once a month all campaigns attend the strategy meeting, which is where whole of organisation decisions are taken. The Committee of Management (PAC) acts in an oversight role to strategy. The Fund Committee is responsible for decisions regarding allocations of donations received.

All members are encouraged to take an active role in the organisation and are eligible to stand for the PAC and Fund Committee, which is appointed each year at the AGM.

There are regular campaigners' meetings and working groups are established as needed to deal with specific issues.

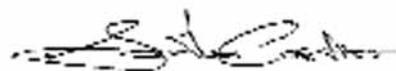
## Statement by members of the PAC Management Committee

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 (Melbourne) Inc as at 30 June 2012 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 (Melbourne) 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, Collingwood, Victoria

## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash on hand and at bank		\$274,775.60	\$208,814.08
Short-term bank deposits		\$364,806.12	\$188,342.97
Receivables	3	\$3,332.96	\$6,138.46
Inventories on hand	6	\$46,043.64	\$43,776.49
Sundry debtors	3	\$72,136.73	\$75,524.12
Total current assets		\$761,095.05	\$522,596.12
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Plant and equipment	7	\$5,397.55	\$10,479.51
Total non-current assets		\$5,397.55	\$10,479.51
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>\$766,492.60</b>	<b>\$533,075.63</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade payables		\$62,671.62	\$36,666.67
General creditors		\$21,087.12	\$21,865.94
Grants/income received in advance		\$0.00	\$0.00
Employee provisions	1(o),2	\$123,762.71	\$137,810.31
Total current liabilities		\$207,521.45	\$196,342.92
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowing's		\$0.00	\$0.00
Other creditors		\$0.00	\$14,743.83
Total non-current liabilities		\$0.00	\$14,743.83
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>\$207,521.45</b>	<b>\$211,086.75</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>\$558,971.15</b>	<b>\$321,988.88</b>
<b>Retained surplus &amp; reserve</b>			
Opening retained surplus		\$271,456.22	\$201,447.41
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		\$236,982.27	\$45,584.38
Transfer from/(to) building reserve		(\$190,510.75)	\$24,424.43
Closing retained surplus	12	\$317,927.74	\$271,456.22
Opening balance building reserve		\$50,532.66	\$74,957.09
Transfer from/(to) retained surplus		\$190,510.75	(\$24,424.43)
Closing balance building reserve	4	\$241,043.41	\$50,532.66
<b>Total surplus &amp; reserve</b>		<b>\$558,971.15</b>	<b>\$321,988.88</b>



## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year ended 30 June 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Food Co-op Sales	\$707,653.50	\$623,476.75
Book Shop Sales	\$11,408.23	\$0.00
Membership Subscription	\$12,946.09	\$15,399.48
Donations	\$394,028.52	\$290,095.14
Fundraising	\$10,030.95	\$31,859.61
Grant Income	\$195,136.63	\$220,333.81
Bank Interest	\$13,426.72	\$7,691.26
Miscellaneous Income	\$34,162.26	\$18,734.79
Consultancy	\$0.00	\$0.00
Proceeds on sales of Fixed Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00
Legacies & Bequest	\$127,178.25	\$0.00
	<b>\$1,505,971.15</b>	<b>\$1,207,590.84</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Cost of Goods Sold - Food Co-op	\$369,232.62	\$389,404.98
Cost of Goods Sold - Merchandise	\$9,428.40	\$0.00
Wages and Assoc. Cost	\$585,294.88	\$503,688.55
Administration Expenses	\$108,548.06	\$88,023.62
Rent and Outgoings	\$76,617.90	\$72,518.48
Fundraising Expenses	\$9,501.18	\$20,889.51
Campaigning Cost (inc Travel)	\$53,964.39	\$44,114.21
Bank Charges & Fees	\$8,145.60	\$5,992.19
Donations	\$5,873.28	\$1,310.12
Depreciation & Amortisation	\$5,081.96	\$6,793.26
Insurance	\$3,075.74	\$0.00
Gas, Electricity & Water	\$13,829.33	\$14,601.75
Audit Fees - Audit or Reviewing the Financial Report	\$4,248.00	\$3,260.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	(\$1,628.46)	\$799.83
Consultants	\$17,776.00	\$10,609.96
Legal & Government Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$1,268,988.88</b>	<b>\$1,162,006.46</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>\$236,982.27</b>	<b>\$45,584.38</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to Profit or Loss	\$0.00	\$0.00
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to Profit or Loss	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to the members</b>	<b>\$236,982.27</b>	<b>\$45,584.38</b>

# THANKS!

To the following people, foundations, businesses and organisations who supported our work over the last year:

## Sponsors/ supporters

Thanks to Spokes Bikes, who donated a bike to the Green Pledge

Thanks to Good Will Wines, who have supported FoE for several years

We thank Pennie Brown, who donated her time to produce the Farmlands not Gasfields film

## Bequest

We received a bequest from Julie Hyndman.

## Donors

We thank the following donors, plus the many individual donors and Active Friends (monthly donors).

Euphonic Investments  
Girlphoenix Pty Ltd  
Greensprings Foundation  
Lucas Assets Pty Ltd  
Minax Uriel Pty Ltd  
Pitching In Ltd  
Schudmak Family Foundation Pty Ltd  
Senvion Australia Pty Ltd  
The Angel Fund

## Staff

**Food co-operative co-ordinator** – Beth Cameron

**Co-op** – Karri Cameron

## Other staff

### Campaigns office:

**Development to co-ordinator:**  
Sam Cossar Gilbert / Phil Evans

**Membership development support:** Max Schultz

**Finance co-ordinator:** Gaye McCulloch

**Operations co-ordinator:**  
Samantha Castro

**Campaigns co-ordinator:** Cam Walker

**Plantations/ pesticides:** Anthony Amis

**Barmah Millewa campaign/ Red Gum: co-ordinator:** Morgana Russell

**Water campaigner:** Will Mooney

**Climate campaign Renewable energy campaigner:** Leigh Ewbank

**Protect the RET project:** Shaun Murray

**Community campaigners:** Chloe Aldenhoven, Ursula Alquier

**Nuclear: state co-ordinator:** Gem Romuld

**national co-ordinator:** Jim Green

**Public Transport Not Traffic:** Berish Bilander

### Volunteer conveners:

#### Indigenous solidarity

– Latin America: Marisol Salinas

#### Quit Coal campaign

– all the wonderful activists of QC

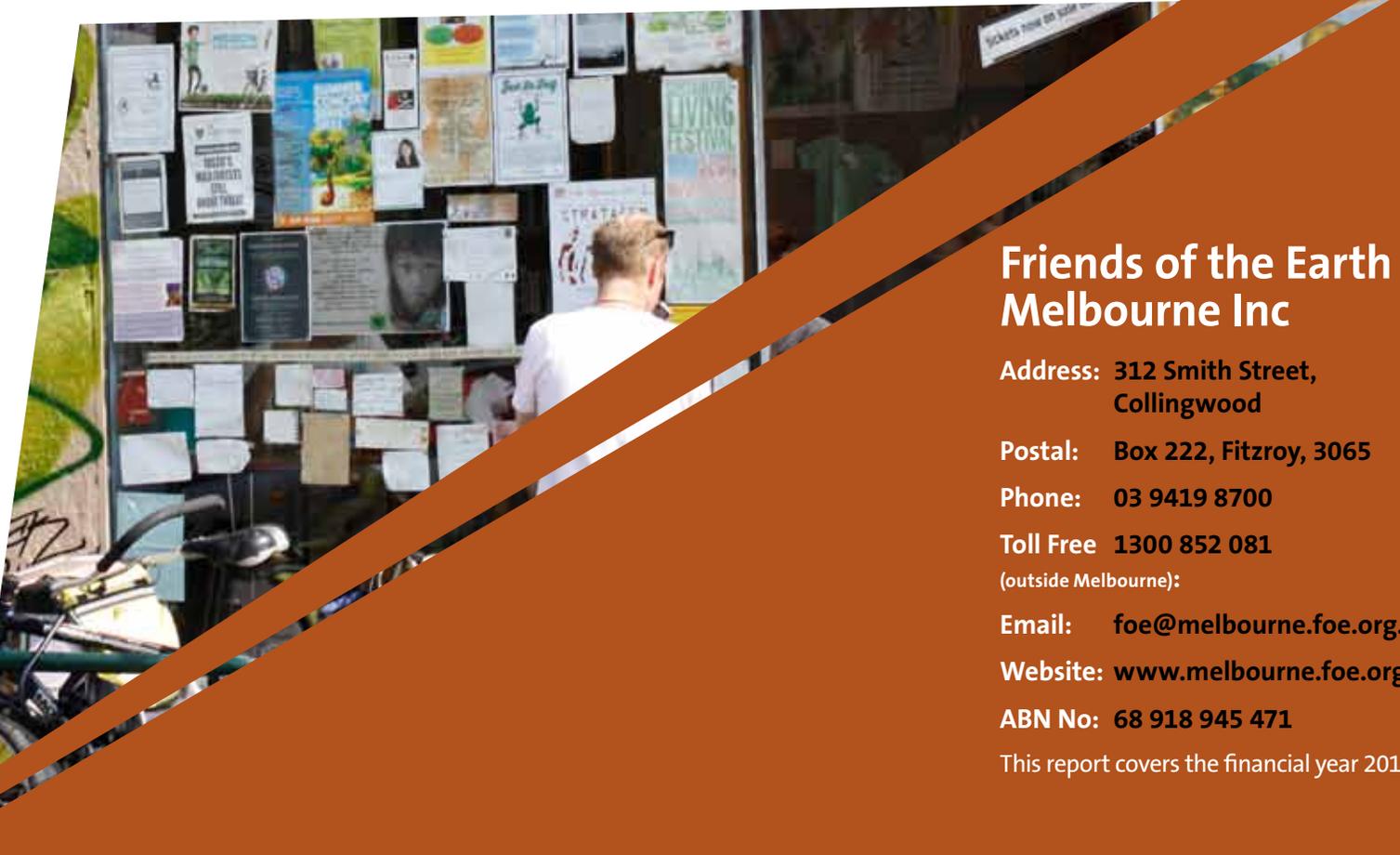
**Dirt Radio (3CR)** – John Langer

#### Food Co-op:& cafe

– all the hard working volunteers

#### The Green Pledge

– Harry Cossar-Gilbert



## Friends of the Earth Melbourne Inc

**Address:** 312 Smith Street,  
Collingwood

**Postal:** Box 222, Fitzroy, 3065

**Phone:** 03 9419 8700

**Toll Free** 1300 852 081

(outside Melbourne):

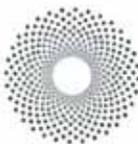
**Email:** [foe@melbourne.foe.org.au](mailto:foe@melbourne.foe.org.au)

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

**ABN No:** 68 918 945 471

This report covers the financial year 2014/15

**Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc**  
**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members**



**TST AUDIT  
& ASSURANCE**

Director:  
A. R Ager CA, BEc  
Registered Company Auditor  
Registered SMSF Auditor

TST Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 189 Coleman Parade,  
Glen Waverley, Vic 3150  
t: +61 (3) 9560 0211  
f: +61 (3) 9561 5497  
e: tony.ager@optusnet.com.au

Registered company auditor

**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes In Equity, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Certificate by Members of the Committee for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The Committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the 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 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 about 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 judgement, 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 entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the 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.

**Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc**  
**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members**



**TST AUDIT  
& ASSURANCE**

Director:  
A. R Ager CA, BEc  
Registered Company Auditor  
Registered SMSF Auditor

TST Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 189 Coleman Parade,  
Glen Waverley, Vic 3150  
t: +61 (3) 9560 0211  
f: +61 (3) 9561 5497  
e: tony.ager@optusnet.com.au

Registered company auditor

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report of Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc is in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards.

Signed on: 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

TST AUDIT & ASSURANCE PTY LTD

TST Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd  
Authorised Audit Company Number: 453122  
Chartered Accountants

  
Anthony Robert Ager  
Director - Audit & Assurance  
Chartered Accountant

