

Australian Youth
Climate Coalition

***2021 IMPACT
REPORT***



WHO WE ARE

At AYCC we're building a generation wide movement of young people to solve the climate crisis, by shifting the power for a clean and just future.

What We Do

BOLD AND AMBITIOUS CAMPAIGNS

We work together on campaigns that win powerful change in the fight for climate justice, keeping fossil fuels in the ground and supercharging the transition to 100% renewables.

NATIONAL GRASSROOTS NETWORK

We support young volunteers in teams across the continent to take meaningful action on campaigns for climate justice. We build the skills, confidence and knowledge of young volunteers to empower them to take on leadership in our grassroots network.

TRAINING YOUNG LEADERS

We're building the leaders of today with training programs that give young people the skills they need to create change - from understanding climate science, campaigning, communication, organising and leading a team. We also run dedicated training and education programs for high school students in our Switched on Schools Program.

We're fighting for climate justice

The climate crisis is unjust because those that have done the least to cause the problem feel the effects first and worst. Solving the climate crisis is about more than just cutting emissions; it's an opportunity to rethink the way our world operates and build a fairer future for everybody.

Climate change is a symptom of deeper injustices. It affects everyone, but not equally. It is often the most marginalised in our societies who are hit first and worst by climate impacts and carry the burden of polluting industries.

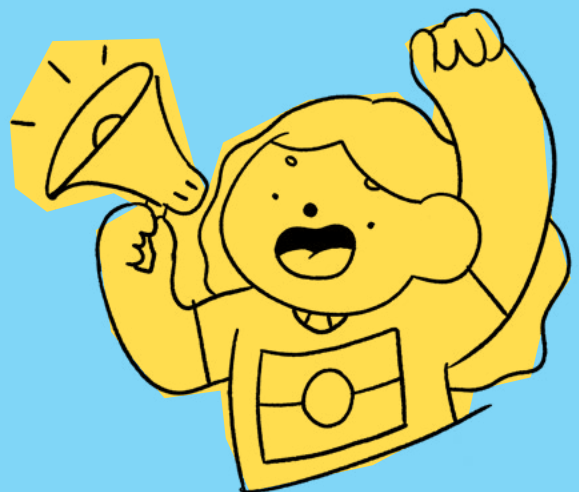
As young people, we are concerned that we already live in an incredibly unsustainable and unfair society, with rising inequality and environmental destruction. At the root cause is a colonial system that puts the profits of big polluters over Aboriginal land rights, the wellbeing of our communities and the environment.

Working for climate justice means all people - regardless of the place they're born, the year they're born, or the colour of their skin - have access to a safe climate and healthy environment, and are empowered to

create solutions to the climate crisis that work for them.

We are committed to a vision of climate justice, which means we:

- **Work to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees**
- **Advocate for just and sustainable solutions to the climate crisis**
- **Take leadership from, and work together to build the power of, those most affected by climate change**
- **Examine and challenge the systems at the root cause of the climate crisis**



MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Throughout another turbulent year, young people have continued to stand together and speak up for climate solutions that protect our future and care for our communities in times of crisis.

We know that coal, oil and gas must stay in the ground to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Yet the Morrison government has promised billions of dollars to the fossil fuel industry since the start of the pandemic. And in November, Australia was shamed on the world stage at COP26 for lagging behind on climate action.

Young people won't back down until our political leaders have a clear plan to transition beyond fossil fuels, reach 100% renewable energy and protect those on the frontlines of climate change.

We know the community is on our side. This year, Australia's biggest ever climate poll, run by our friends at ACF, showed that the majority of people in every single electorate want the Federal government to do more on climate change. The 2022 Federal election presents an exciting

opportunity to put ambitious climate action on the political agenda and have thousands of conversations with young voters.

We have already seen the power that this work can have. **In 2021, we celebrated some big wins for climate action, like the Queensland government's commitment of \$2 billion for publicly-owned renewable energy.** This was a huge achievement for our campaign led by young Queenslanders, unions and movement partners in 2020. It showed the power of grassroots conversations, strong alliances and leading with a positive vision for our future.

Throughout the year, I've continued to be inspired by the courage and determination of our grassroots movement. Over 1,000 young people took action with AYCC in 2021: getting our message in the media spotlight, having conversations in their communities and turning up the heat on politicians.

AYCC has continued building power with young people disproportionately impacted by climate change and traditionally shut out from decision-

making: from organising in regional Queensland and Western Sydney, to providing dedicated programs for young people of colour and high school students.

I'd like to acknowledge our volunteer leaders for their incredible work throughout the year. From kickstarting new AYCC action groups, to leading training sessions and designing ways for our movement to be more accessible, thank you so much for your hard

work and congratulations on all your achievements.

AYCC's work is only possible because of thousands of people across the country lending your time, energy, passion and funds to this movement. I've been so moved by the generous support that this community has continued to show throughout 2021. Thank you so much for all you do.

— ALEX FULLER,
FOR THE WHOLE AYCC TEAM



MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Young people have a critical stake in the decisions being made today and I'm continually inspired by the passion of AYCC's volunteer movement to build a safer, fairer future for all of us. From transformational training programs, to media stories reaching millions, throughout 2021 AYCC has continued to be a strong advocate for ambitious climate action, whilst empowering young people with lifelong skills to create change.

The AYCC staff team have shown so much dedication and creativity in powering our impact this year, despite challenging external circumstances. I'd like to welcome all of the new staff members who have joined the team in 2021: Claire Galvin, Disha Chandanshive, Elle McDonald, Haniah Davis, Hareem Abbasi, Maddie Sarre, Morgan Pickett, Rachael Szumski, Rosie Brodie, Stef Roberts-Thompson, Taya Stocks, Violet Cully and all our wonderful new Regular Giving calls team members.

Excitingly, the Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network have completed their transition to becoming an independent, self-determined organisation. I'd like to recognise the

Seed team and incoming Seed Board for their leadership in the climate justice movement and on behalf of the whole AYCC community wish them all the best into the future.

At the conclusion of 2021, AYCC remains in a stable financial position, with over 50% of our funds coming from sustainable small-dollar revenue streams. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to everybody who has generously contributed to AYCC's work throughout the year.

Early in 2022, I will be passing over the reigns as Board Chair to Kelly Albion, alongside Deputy Chair Billy Marshall. Kelly and Billy have decades of combined experience across campaign strategy, community organising and organisational leadership and I know that AYCC will be in confident hands.

With a Federal election on the horizon and the potential to reconnect through in-person organising, there are so many opportunities for AYCC to scale our impact in the year ahead. Thank you all for standing with us.

— MORGAN KOEGEL,
AYCC BOARD CHAIR

OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

1106 young volunteers took action.



243 students participated in school-based workshops.

70 young people of colour joined our people of colour network.

Young people led region-based organising, including knocking **538** doors in Cairns and running a Climate Justice Fellowship in Western Sydney.

40 national grassroots actions.

3753 supporters made submissions to public consultations on the National Gas Infrastructure Plan and the Beetaloo Basin Inquiry.



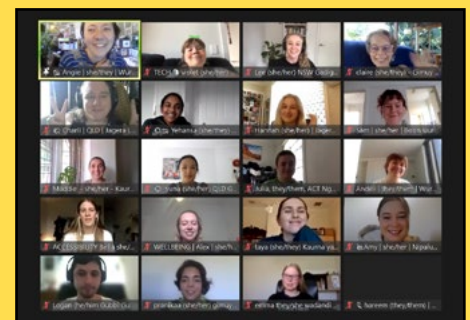
14659 supporters took online action.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS



➤ We collaborated with Democracy in Colour to run a climate justice fellowship for young people of colour in Western Sydney.

↓ Young people across the country built in-person and digital “walls of hope” in the lead up to the federal budget, calling on Treasurer Josh Frydenberg to invest in climate solutions, not dangerous gas projects.



➤ We brought together more than 60 young leaders for a 3 day online training and to shape our 2022 federal election plans.



↑ We held grassroots actions outside Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's office in the lead up to the Federal budget, pressuring the Government to rule out public money going to climate-wrecking gas projects.

→ We supported highschool students in Cairns to lead a school strike for climate.





➤ We projected young people's vision for climate justice onto Sydney Town Hall and Fed Square in Melbourne.

→ We had conversations with community members about political parties stepping up their ambition on climate for a safe climate future for our generation.



↑ We engaged with MPs from major parties and the crossbench and called on them to rule out public money for fossil fuels.



↑ We sent a powerful message to the Government in the lead up to the federal budget, calling on them to fund our future not gas. The action garnered national media attention in outlets like the Guardian live feed, 7 News, SBS, the Age and Canberra Times.

ABOUT SEED

Seed is Australia's first Indigenous Youth Climate Network. We are building up the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to protect our country, culture and communities from the causes and impacts of climate change. Through our movement building and volunteer training programs, together with our strategic campaigns, we have been working towards our vision for First Nations people to lead solutions to the climate crisis and build strong, resilient and sustainable communities.

LAUNCH OF SEED AS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION

In December 2020, we announced that Seed would be transitioning from AYCC to form our own independent organisation. Throughout 2021, this became a huge focus for our team as we navigated a unique transition process, and focused on establishing the necessary foundations for the new organisation.

We are incredibly proud to share that this process is officially complete!

Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network is now officially Australia's first and only First Nations youth-led environmental organisation.

This is a defining moment for the climate movement in Australia. Seed will be entirely led by First Nations



young people, and we are incredibly proud that this means we can embed our principle of self determination at the core of our work.

On behalf of every volunteer and staff member, we want to thank everyone who contributed to making this

moment possible. From supporting Seed as a program of AYCC since 2014, to the wealth of support we received in 2021 to launch; we are incredibly grateful to those who helped us to navigate this unique context and moment.

Becoming the first youth-led First Nations organisation in Australia brings with it a wealth of responsibility. We owe it to our community to take our time in this consolidation period, to ensure we live and uphold the principle of self-determination; act as a platform to elevate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on the frontlines; and empower young First Nations people to lead campaigns to protect country.

Our growing staff team and volunteer network are already hard at work

creating our strategic vision for the next few years, and we cannot wait to see their leadership shine across our movement building, campaigning, storytelling and communications work.

As we take our first steps, we are also excited to have the support of a fully First Nations Board of Directors. The inaugural board will have a unique opportunity to guide the organisation throughout this journey and lead the development of an innovative, culturally informed governance structure.

This year has been critical in giving us the space and opportunity to establish our core foundations. While there have been challenges and delays along the way, this has been an incredibly rewarding journey and we cannot wait to share the impact Seed will achieve into the future.



SEED CAMPAIGNS TO PROTECT COUNTRY, CULTURE AND CLIMATE

Don't Frack the NT

In the face of the federal government funnelling billions of dollars to fossil fuel companies to fast track gas fracking plans, Seed continued to play a critical role in organising and supporting remote Aboriginal communities across the Northern Territory to have their voices heard and do whatever it takes to protect our land, water and future.

To begin the year, in collaboration with the First Nations Justice team at GetUp, Seed organised a community-wide gathering in Darwin with over 60 Traditional Owners. We were able to support critical conversations and build plans for communities to continue leading the campaign. We also supported the community of Borroloola to organise a powerful rally to spread awareness about Empire Energy's looming plans for 7 new exploration wells within the region.

After this gathering, we travelled to Canberra with Traditional Owners to meet with politicians and urge them to listen to the concerns of Aboriginal communities on the frontlines of fracking. A direct result came just days after this lobby

trip: the Senate voted to establish a Parliamentary inquiry into the Morrison Government's \$50million handout to fastrack fracking in the Beetaloo Basin.

This Senate inquiry gave us a chance to shine a much needed light on the greedy fossil fuel corporations who are trying to cash in on the government's promise of public money to rush ahead and frack more wells. We will continue to support Traditional Owners to have their voices heard through this inquiry process, which is set to be complete by April 2022.



To continue raising awareness and momentum; Seed then co-hosted a week of solidarity with a

nation-wide virtual town hall. We achieved a massive turnout with over 3,000 supporters joining to hear the experiences and concerns of Traditional Owners who are leading the fight against Origin Energy's fracking plans. We invited attendees to take a cheeky action with us on the night, and together sent hundreds of email calendar invitations to the CEO of Origin Energy reminding him of our message: Don't Frack the NT!

Seed then joined with GetUp and Market Forces to support Traditional Owners to attend Origin Energy's Annual General Meeting (AGM) as proxy holders. Just like years prior, the AGM was flooded with questions about Origin's failure to obtain proper consent from Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities and the risks associated with fracking to water, country and the climate. Together, we made it clear that fracking is risky business and is a key issue in front of Origin's shareholders.



➤ Community-wide gathering in Borroloola to show there is no social license to frack in the NT.

Our Islands

Our Home

In solidarity with the 'Our Islands Our Home' campaign, Seed has become a partner organisation to support the important work to elevate the voices and leadership of Torres Strait Islander people to protect their island homes. Through this campaign, eight claimants from Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait Islands) have brought a human rights complaint against the Australian Federal Government to the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations over the Government's inaction on climate change.

Seed's role in this was and will continue to be focused on empowering and engaging young people across the Torres Strait, making sure that they have what they need to take action.

Tishiko King, Seed's Campaign Manager and Torres Strait Islander woman, was able to be on the ground in Waibene (Thursday Island) on Kaurareg Nation. Here, she was able to engage with local high schools, empowering students to understand the role they can play in this campaign; while also organising community events to further awareness.

We look forward to continuing to support this campaign by adding capacity to key moments and actions throughout 2022. This will include asking key politicians to meet with the Torres Strait 8, holding creative awareness raising events in Canberra and community organising across the islands and mainland.



➤ Students painting banners for a community event on Thursday Island.

Building and training our movement of young people

At the heart of Seed's work is empowering First Nations young people to lead change in their communities and take action together on climate justice campaigns that make a difference. By doing this, we can shift power away from the fossil fuel industry, to our communities, who are leading the solutions on the frontlines.

To kick off our movement building and training plans in 2021, we organised a calling drive to reconnect with more than 800 young First Nations people who have been a part of Seed's grassroots network over the last few years. Becoming independent presented us with an exciting opportunity to re-engage with old volunteers and provide space for them to shape Seed's journey going forward.

To support both these existing as well as new volunteers, we then updated and continued delivering our online training content, which had been adapted due to covid-19 restrictions.

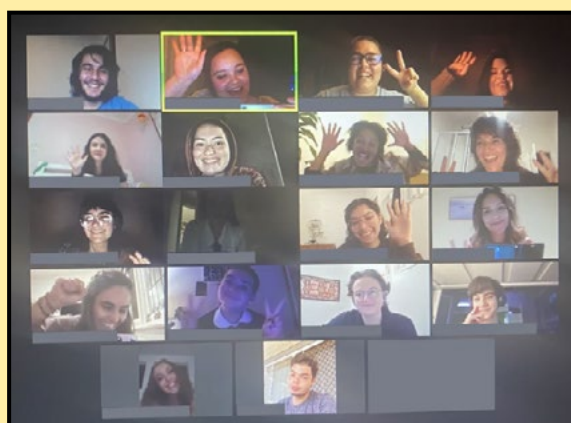
This included 'BlakOut', a leadership training program which engaged over 60 First Nations young people. Here, volunteers came together to listen and learn about Seed and our campaigns, learn about the impact of climate change on country and how we work together to hold companies like Origin Energy accountable. When asked about their experience, one young person said, "I've come here for my country, and will stay for all the mob", which really shows how important Seed's grassroots network of volunteers is.

Excitingly, we grew our Organising team by welcoming in 4 new staff.

These new community organisers will not only bring skills and passion to leading our training and school engagement programs, but also add further geographical diversity coming from Alice Springs, Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney meaning further support to our grassroots network.

The uncertainty that covid-19 restrictions brought to this year meant that hard decisions were

made, in order to prioritise and protect the health and safety of our volunteers and communities. This included postponing our national Heal Country Summit, as well as regional training camps. We look forward to hosting the 3-day summit online in April 2022 with over 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, so that together we can build our skills, size, and impact on campaigns to protect country.



➤ Seed's virtual 'Blakout' training program.

Elevating the stories & leadership of First Nations young people

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have cared for Country since time immemorial, and our stories of resistance and resilience offer a powerful path forward in addressing the climate crisis and building a more just society.

Seed is already a powerful and unique voice advocating for First Nations justice and leadership in relation to climate change, and throughout 2021 we had a big focus on elevating the voices and stories of First Nations people.

For example, we hosted regular educational 'Heal Country Webinars' which were public and open for anyone in the community to join. These were able to create a platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have conversations about what 'healing country' looks like in their community and in the work

that they do. This spanned across grassroots movements, frontline campaigning, art as well as wellbeing. Topics included "Healing Country: Through Our Art", "Healing Country: On The Frontline", "Healing Country: Healing us", and "COP26 & Beyond: where to next for First Nations-led climate justice".



↑ Seed's Campaigns Manager, Tishiko King, at COP26.

Seed also had the opportunity to send a representative to COP26, which acted as a platform to raise the calls to action for our climate justice campaigns

and key issues facing First Nations communities. Here our Campaigns Manager, Tish, was able to connect with other First Nations communities from across the world, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate with them moving forward.

From this, Seed was flooded with media opportunities which included stories in *NITV*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Koori Mail*, *ABC Radio National* and this Op Ed, written by Tish, published in *The Age*.

Throughout the year, Seed's story and messages echoed across the nation through many mainstream and Indigenous media outlets, some of these include the *UK Guardian* video, *Croakey Health Media*, *ABC NSW North Coast* and features on ABC's *Climate Special* program with Stan Grant, and ABC's *The Drum* in November. And in the lead up to COP26 in October, Seed's National Director was a panellist on *ABC'S Q&A*.

We are also proud to have been a part of *Passing The Message Stick*. After completing the First Nations Messaging and Communications Fellowship back in early 2020, it has been a privilege to be a part of the cohort of fellows who have supported the launch of this groundbreaking research report and recommendations that are already being used to build public support for self-determination and First Nations justice, paving the way for long term change.

By highlighting examples of Indigenous climate leadership in the media and online, we were able to educate and inspire thousands of people across the continent to take action and put pressure on decision-makers for huge progress towards our vision for climate justice and self-determination of First Nations people.



↑ Seed's National Director, Amelia Telford, on Q&A.

➤ Seed's Heal Country Webinars

SEED STORIES

“Seed is a vital organisation because it empowers us as First Nations young people to continue to protect country. It connects us with Indigenous Land defenders across the planet and helps us to understand the importance of our cultures. The ingenuity of our ancestors in maintaining healthy relationships with country and people is important to remember and learn from as we face the impacts of unnatural climate change. Seed is a tangible way that young Indigenous people can be self determining and make an impact on what our futures will look like while also supporting people in other communities to do the same.”



— TEILA WATSON, PROUD BIRRIGUBBA AND GANGULU WOMAN AND THE COMMUNITY ORGANISER & SCHOOLS PROGRAM MANAGER AT SEED

No public money for gas

As much of the world moves away from subsidies for coal and gas, the Morrison Government continues to funnel billions of dollars in public money to big fossil fuel corporations. So in 2021 young people across the country took on a bold campaign to erode the social licence of gas, and pressure the Government ahead of the May budget to rule out public money for gas.

Over 2000 young people engaged in the Government's public consultation of their gas development plans and flooded the committee with evidence-based reasons to stop the program and heartfelt stories with suggestions for better ways to spend public money.

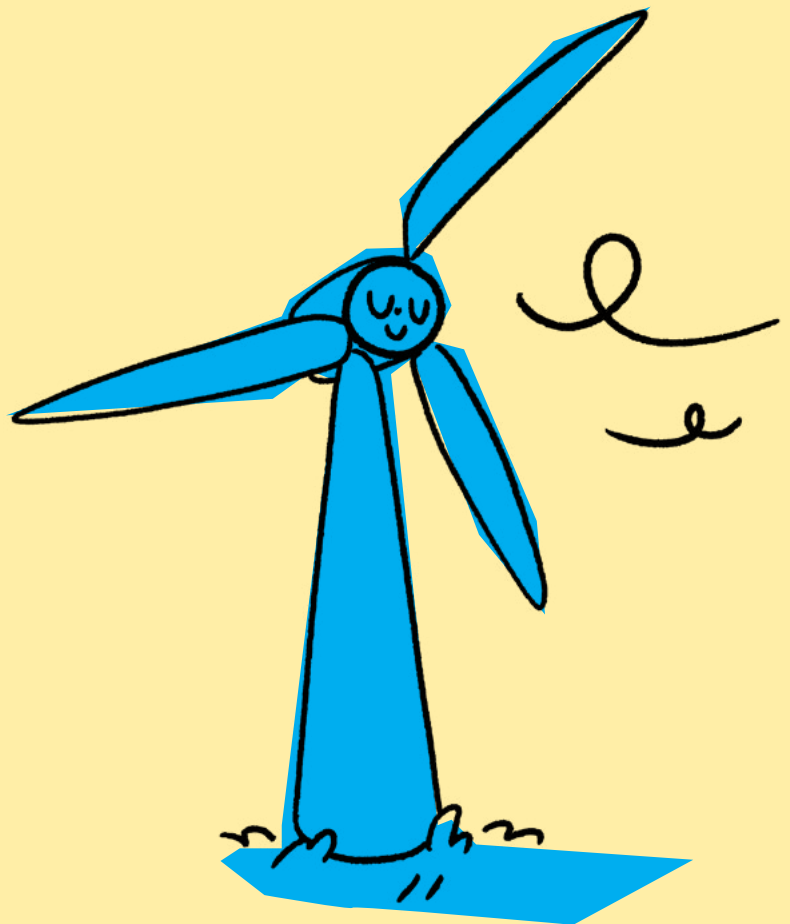
Hundreds of young people hit the streets and ask their communities 'what should the government spend public money on instead of gas?' Through our creative 'Wall of Hope' actions we collected thousands of responses advocating for renewable energy, free tertiary education, social housing and First Nations-led ecological restoration. These stories were amplified through our report with 350.org Australia and Lock the Gate.

We took these messages to MPs and to our neighbours through our National Week of Action, with banner drops and MP engagement across the country, including over a hundred young people outside Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's electorate office demanding he rule out funding for gas in the federal budget. Kooyong electorate local and AYCC volunteer leader inspired the crowd with a hard hitting speech and Tishiko King from Seed Mob shared stories from frontline communities facing the impacts of gas extraction in the NT with coverage across media platforms including Channel 7 TV news.

With the Morrison Government continuing to play into the palm of the gas industry's hand we shifted our focus to ensure public awareness with a media action. On Budget night, AYCC staff and volunteers laid out thousands of candles on Parliament lawn with the message 'fund our future, not gas' - with mass media coverage of our image and messaging reaching millions and making international news. The morning following the budget, we held a press conference outside Parliament House

with Senator Sarah Hanson Young and Independent MP Zali Steggal and AYCC and Seed volunteers reaching tens of hundreds of thousands more through our media coverage.

While both major parties continue to support public money for fossil fuels, we saw significant international and local pressure during *COP26* later in the year and know narrative shifting campaigns that raise public awareness are vital to political change and will continue fighting to keep fossil fuels in the ground!



Community Climate Solutions

In the lead up to COP 26 we brought together our young leaders from across the country for an online launch of our Climate Solutions Not Pollution campaign. The campaign calls on our government to get serious about the real solutions our generation demands to address the climate crisis this decade. From reaching net zero emissions by 2035, to ending all public subsidies to coal, oil and gas - we already have the solutions but we need our leaders to act.

The Morrison Government announced their new climate policy in the lead up to COP26 - a policy full of empty promises for action thirty years from now and a reliance on technology that doesn't even exist yet.

And while our government was dragging its heels on climate in the spotlight on the worldstage, our volunteers across the country stepped up to share what a real vision for climate justice looks like.

We compiled a video with our volunteers sharing their vision for a fairer, safer future and we put it where businesses, community members and decision makers could see it - projecting it onto Sydney Town Hall and Fed Square in Melbourne. The actions got coverage on SBS world news, and the video reached more than 24,000 people across our digital platforms.



[CHECK OUT THE VIDEO TO HEAR ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE'S VISION FOR NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2035.](#)

Empowering impacted communities

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Throughout 2021, young people in regional Queensland continued leading campaigns for community-led climate solutions for Cairns and surrounding areas.

Regional Queensland is already on the frontlines of the climate crisis, from devastating heat waves and rising sea levels, to destructive cyclones and floods. Local communities are heavily reliant on industries impacted by a climate in crisis, such as tourism. There is an urgent need to address climate change and economic diversification in tandem, to ensure that communities have the resources and the resilience to adapt.

The year kicked off with an incredible win: an announcement by the Palaszczuk Government to invest \$2 billion dollars in expanding renewable energy projects across the state. This was a key demand of AYCC Queensland volunteers in 2020, who worked tirelessly alongside unions and other organisations to put big

and bold investments in renewable energy on the political agenda.

In the second half of 2021, the work of our Cairns volunteers focussed on building community power and support for climate solutions in frontline communities. Across 2021, small but powerful team of 30 AYCC volunteers worked with our friends at the Cairns & Far North Environment Centre to...

- Knock over 500 doors of local community members to hear firsthand experiences of climate impacts and build local support for climate action that centres the needs of local communities;
- Engage more than 70 residents commit to hosting Climate Action Now signs in their front yards;
- Host the Cairns Climate Strike in October, 2021; and
- Run two successful town halls, providing community members

with an opportunity to share their concerns and ideas with each other and with decision makers, and build the critical relationships with one another needed to bring community-centred solutions to life.

The leadership of young people in regional Queensland is a bold and powerful force pushing back against the vested interests of fossil fuel corporations. These corporations are still pushing the false narrative that it's either jobs or climate action, not both. Young Queenslanders are coming together to show their local communities that another path is possible: one that prioritises the wellbeing and the resilience of communities and the climate together. With an election on the horizon, the work of our Far North Queensland has never been more critical in building community power to create lasting, transformative change.

"My name's Pranikaa Gulati, and if I'm perfectly honest, up till a year ago climate change was nothing more to me than a horror story I read and felt too powerless to do anything about. I couldn't be more grateful that I met someone from AYCC who helped

me change that powerlessness into purpose. And every time I volunteer, every doorknock or action I go to, it feels a little less like powerlessness and a little more like hope. Being part of something bigger than myself has always seemed like a cliché as extraordinary as it is unrealistic, but my favourite part of AYCC is how it makes that feeling real."

- Pranikaa, Cairns volunteer.



WESTERN SYDNEY

Western Sydney is home to communities on the frontline of the climate crisis who are already experiencing the devastating impacts of extreme weather events, severe heatwaves, and rising energy prices. It is the most culturally and linguistically diverse region in Australia and home to half of all Sydney's overseas-born population. And it is an area that



has significant political influence covering a dozen electorates with many of them being highly contested marginal seats.

2021 was a critical period for re-establishing a strong base of young people in Western Sydney, helping them to develop the skills and relationships necessary to have an impact in their communities.

The Western Sydney Climate Justice Fellowship, the first of its kind and run in conjunction with Democracy in Colour, was a vital launchpad, with 13 participants going on to become active volunteers in the Western Sydney volunteer team. Since completing the Fellowship, these volunteers have had an active

role in shaping movement-building and election campaign plans for the Western Sydney region and have developed deep relationships together to create a strong foundation for long-term action.

Our political leaders are taking notice, too; at the Faith Leaders Climate Summit in late 2021, hosted by Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese, Western Sydney MPs engaged with AYCC volunteers to understand youth perspectives on local issues affecting Western Sydney - including the climate crisis. During our campaigning throughout the COP26 climate summit, one of our Western Sydney volunteers was a media spokesperson for our projection action on the side of Sydney Town Hall.

"I really enjoy being a part of the Western Sydney local group because working in a space where others have a shared understanding about your community for your community is very rewarding. I've enjoyed meeting new people and having interesting conversations about organising in Western Sydney, particularly as it's so different to other areas. It's very rewarding seeing all our plans in action."

- Natasha Abhayawickrama, Western Sydney volunteer.

PEOPLE OF COLOUR CLIMATE NETWORK

The POC Climate Network is a rapidly expanding program, born of the Western Sydney Climate Justice Fellowship in 2021. People of colour are often impacted disproportionately more by climate impacts, despite contributing little to climate change. We believe that there is no climate

justice without racial justice, and seek to find holistic, justice focused climate solutions in communities of colour across the continent.

Through our climate and racial justice work and the POC Climate Network, we envision a world that celebrates people of colour and their unique and valuable insight and perspectives. We are working to create a climate movement in which people of colour are heard and can take actions towards building power and telling our own stories.

Already, we have established a group of 64 young people of colour, eager and determined to take action for climate justice. The activities of the network moving forward will be co-designed with this group and officially launch later in 2022.



SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE ON CLIMATE

Over 2021 we had 327 media mentions, including 29 significant media stories that got our messages in outlets like the Guardian live feed, 7 News, SBS, the Age and Canberra Times.

↓ Alex Fuller, AYCC's National Director, was interviewed on the Wire about the Morrison Government's climate policy announcement and COP26.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH WANTS NET-ZERO TARGET SOONER THAN 2050



Gas-led budget fires up climate activists

Marlon Rae • aap Published: Wednesday, 12 May 2021 11:28 AM AEST

11 May 2021 10:06 Outside of parliament house, **youth activists** have spelled out "Fund our future not gas" in candles. The protest is organised by the **Australian Youth Climate Coalition**.

National director Alex Fuller said in a statement that young people will be simultaneously living through worsening climate change impacts while "paying the bill of this federal budget for decades".

“ We are calling on the Treasurer not to exacerbate the climate crisis for our generation by giving publicly-funded handouts to dangerous gas.

Right now, young people are sending the Government a clear message: "Fund Our Future, Not Gas". We will not stand by while this Government sells out our future to prioritise the fossil fuel industry. Young people deserve a fighting chance for a safe climate future: a gas-led recovery will intensify the climate crisis and endanger our future, while forcing us to pay the bill.

↑ In response to the federal budget announcement we spelt out "fund our future not gas" in candles on parliament lawn.

TRAINING & ORGANISING

VOLUNTEER NETWORK

2021 was another challenging year for young people, facing dual challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. Our campaigning and organising work in 2021 sought to find the balance between recognising the real impacts of repeated lockdowns like job and financial insecurity, and providing an opportunity for those who were fired up and ready to take action to do so.

In 2021, we welcomed 295 committed new young people to our movement, who engaged in everything from training programs, to leading action online, to coming together in-person where possible to pull off massive, public-facing, media-worthy actions. More broadly, we had more than 1100 young people get involved and take action in 2021 either online or in-person!

Our core leadership cohort expanded to 77 volunteers, all of who are actively engaged in planning and designing our campaigns, developing plans for action in their local communities, shaping the long-term strategy of AYCC, and becoming impactful, confident and dedicated leaders of their generation.

2021 also saw the beginning of our new organising model - a model designed specifically to massively expand the capacity of our movement, and to provide many more accessible opportunities for young people to take action. We will continue to strengthen this model through 2022 and beyond, combining the local power of our state and electorate based groups, with the power of hundreds of more volunteers engaging online. Together, we are transforming how activism takes place online and offline.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Supporting young people to develop the skills they need to run impactful campaigns and organise in their communities is a key pillar of AYCC's work. Our 2021 training featured a mix of existing and brand new programs, designed to be accessible by any young person in the movement - whether brand new or a long-term volunteer! We experimented with new online formats, co-designed trainings with a superstar volunteer training team, and together trained approximately 500 young people throughout 2021.

Some of the highlights from our training programs were:

- Summer School: our inaugural Summer School training program saw more than 133 young people sign up to learn critical organising and campaigning skills, setting them up to get involved and take action throughout 2021.
- Climate Justice Crash Course: a 4-week workshop series designed to deepen and develop participants' understanding of climate justice and climate impacts, giving them essential context and framing with which to take action.
- Solidarity Training: developed with Karrina Nolan from Original Power, this training is designed to teach participants about taking action in solidarity with First Nations communities, who are leading the fight for climate justice.
- Leadership Skill-Ups: targeted training aimed at existing volunteers who are looking to develop skills in particular areas, such as facilitation and project management.
- In-School Workshops: workshops run by volunteers designed for a student audience, educating them about taking action as young people and within their school environments.

Recognising the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on our work and ability to effectively train, organise and mobilise young people, we are continuing to explore new and innovative training delivery methods - including self-paced online learning models and peer training networks.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The power of youth underscores everything we do at AYCC. This is why training, mentoring and supporting young people to develop their skills and leadership capacity remains such a core pillar of our work. Whether through national training programs delivered online to hundreds, or through the one-on-one relationships between organisers and volunteers, we meet young people where they're at. Together, we're building a generation of leaders for the moment we're in right now, for tomorrow and for well beyond.

"I was 25 when I took on the most enriching volunteer experience of my life with AYCC. I joined the volunteer Digital Content Team in 2021, casually at first. The Content Team is a small group of volunteers who work directly with the Communications team at AYCC to create engaging content for AYCC's social media platforms and learn digital campaigning and organising skills. We shared feedback on each other's designs, and brainstormed AYCC's communications in a fun, inclusive space."

With time, I took on more responsibility within the team, and stepped into the role of Content Team Coordinator to lead the group. I was deeply supported to take on this role by the point person on the staff team, who really invested in my skills. We set up a training plan based on my personal goals and how I wanted to make an impact; a long checklist ranging from outreach skills, to facilitation, to co-creating the content plan for the Speak Up 4 Climate Justice peer to peer fundraiser.



Volunteering with AYCC's Content Team enabled me to develop the skills, experience and confidence I needed to find paid work in the social justice space. With ongoing support from the Content Team staff lead, I landed the role of Digital Fundraising Officer with UNRWA USA. I'm now in Washington DC supporting Palestinian refugees with a skillset I could never have acquired without

AYCC's help. It's a nonprofit that treats its volunteers as selflessly as it treats our planet, and it gives just as much back."

- Nahed, former AYCC volunteer.

SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Our movement is inclusive - and that means creating opportunities for young people to take action and get involved no matter how old they are. That's why the work of our Schools team is so important: it creates that opportunity for students to take action within the community they're already part of and begin developing critical skills in climate activism.

In 2021, the Schools team expanded to 34 members. Together, this incredible group of volunteers ran in-school workshops, training more than 243 students in climate justice and taking action.

The Schools Team is doing incredible work to empower the youngest cohort of our movement, and often those most excluded from conventional systems of political engagement.

Looking ahead, the Schools Team is already lining up in-school workshops for 2022, and launching the Sprouts of Action program in March to provide school students with the opportunity to take action in the lead-up to the Federal election, regardless of whether they are eligible to vote.

"I got involved in the Schools Team because I myself originally learned about climate justice and how to

take action as a high school student in a similar workshop, and I wanted to give something back after seeing how impactful it was to my climate activism journey.

In 2021 I've been able to escape the feeling of isolation and helplessness in lockdown by helping deliver half a dozen workshops on climate justice to high school students online over Zoom, and connecting with other Schools Team volunteers during regular check-ins.

I have learned so much being part of the Schools Team, including how to communicate effectively with many different audiences, creating a safe and empowering environment for learning with under 18s, and sharing my personal experience growing up in remote areas impacted by environmental issues, which has been incredible for me. To be able to see the lightbulb moments when young students realise they are more powerful than they thought is extremely rewarding."

- Zoe, Schools Team volunteer.



Speak Up 4 Climate Justice

AYCC's peer to peer fundraiser in 2021 expanded on the successful and innovative Speak Up peer-to-peer fundraiser model developed and run in 2020, by centring strong connections to our work and our movement while providing engaging opportunities for a broad range of participants to get involved. The challenge aimed to provide participants with the opportunity to prioritise connection with family and friends after two years of pandemic lockdowns, while also raising vital funds to power our campaigns for community-led climate solutions,

our vital training programs and organising work in frontline communities such as Western Sydney and regional Queensland.

We had more than 230 participants sign up to run engaging storytelling events with their networks, including documentary screenings, climate-focussed art nights, live streams online, book clubs and picnics - a real showcase of the creativity and innovation of our volunteer base.

Together, young people across the continent raised a collective total of \$86,155.



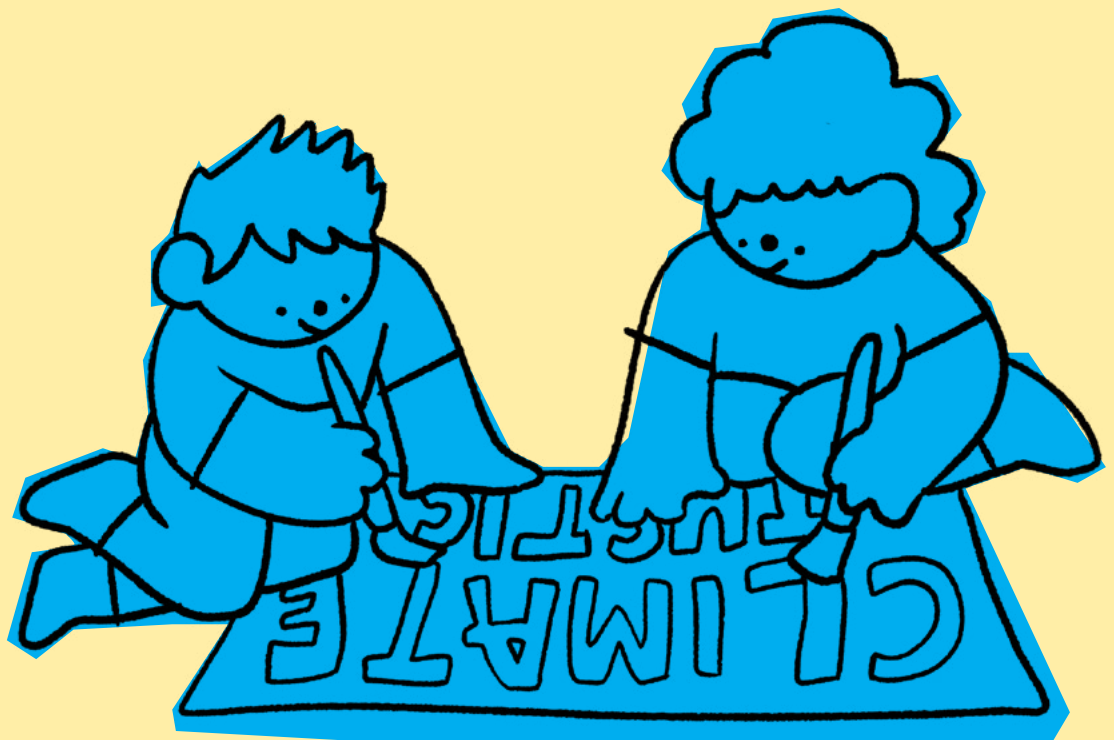
The finances

In the 2020 financial year, AYCC received a total of \$3.8 million in community and major donations, grants and other revenue. Of this, 47.5% related to the Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network program. The organisation's total expenditure for 2021 was \$3.2 million, with approximately 36.5% of this relating to the Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network program.

In December 2021, AYCC ensured that all funds which had been given with the intention of supporting Seed's programs were transferred appropriately to the new, independent organisation to continue their fantastic work. This funding

will be used to deliver a range of climate justice campaigns and youth empowerment programs that remain aligned with AYCC's charitable purpose and the expectations of donors. Due to this transfer of funds, AYCC will be reporting a statutory deficit for 2021; however, this will not impact our long-term sustainability as an organisation.

51% of AYCC's fundraising in 2021 was achieved from small-dollar sustainable revenue streams, thanks to the generosity of thousands of monthly and online donors. In 2022, we look forward to implementing a range of strategies to grow and diversify our revenue and, in turn, our impact.



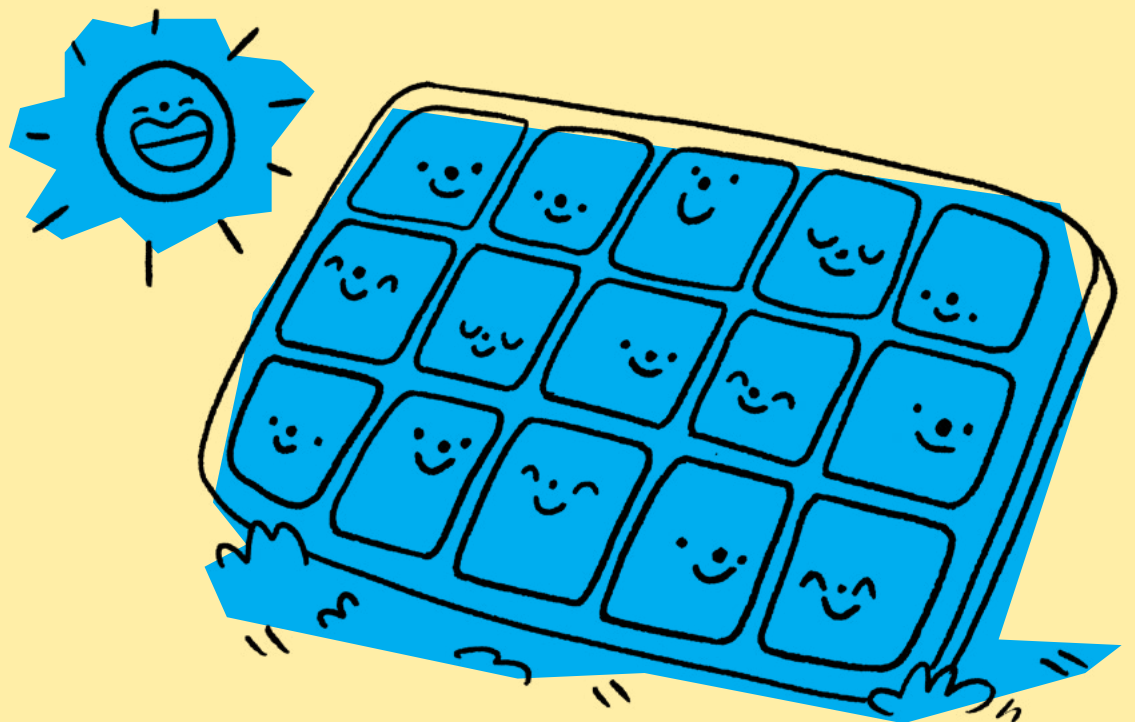
Thank you for your generous support

All of us at AYCC and Seed extend sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported our work in 2021.

Thank you to our major donors for your commitment to building and backing a generation-wide youth movement. Thank you to the foundations, granting bodies and local councils who have invested in the leadership development of young people through our training

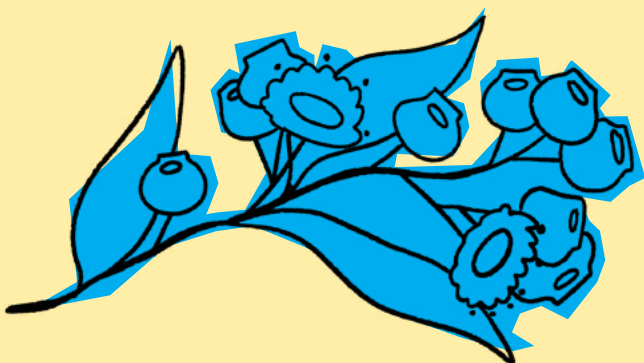
programs. Thank you to our amazing business and community partners for your contributions and solidarity.

Thank you to our community of regular donors; your ongoing support means we can plan for the future with confidence. And thank you to everybody who has chipped in online and in-kind at key moments throughout the year; none of our work would be possible without you.



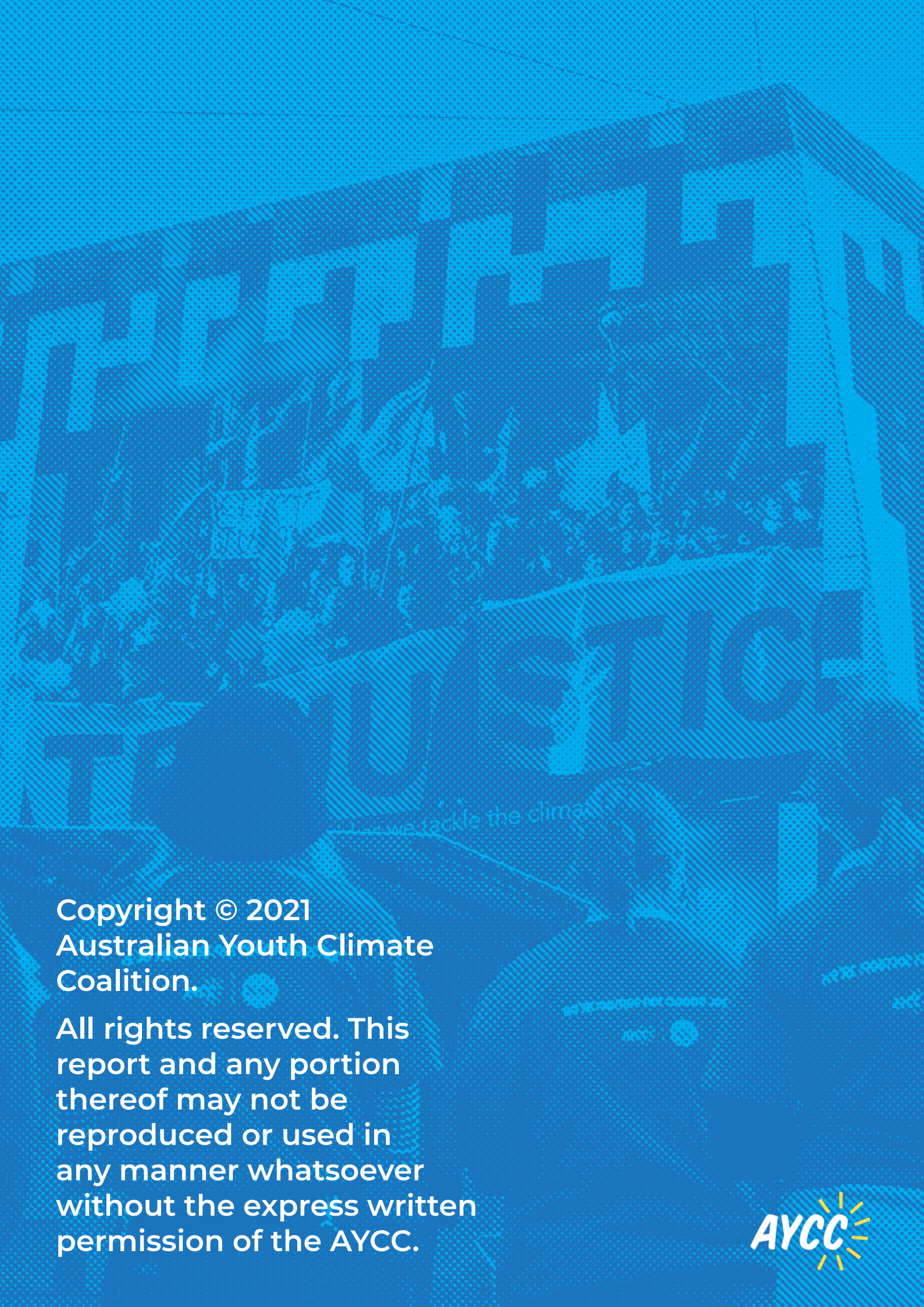
**Thank you to our most generous supporters,
who make so much of what we do at AYCC
and Seed possible.**

ACME Foundation; Judy Avisar; Deborah Chemke; Caroline Le Couteur; Diversicon Environmental Foundation; Dr Mark Diesendorf; The Duggan Foundation; Peter Elliston; David Evans; Fairer Futures Subfund; Graeme Wood Foundation; Grow Corp Foundation; Hubertus PA Jersmann; The Kimberley Foundation; Madden Sainsbury Foundation; Sue Mathews and Mark Burford; Morris Family Foundation; Prof. Andrew Parkin; Purves Environmental Fund; Maxwell J Smith; Brian Snape AM; Foundation for Young Australians; Thrills; Dr Bronner's Australia; Groundswell Giving; Vicki Olsson; Pool of Dreams, a part of Community Impact Foundation; The Water Dragon Endowment, a part of the Community Impact Foundation; Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation; Environmental Justice Australia; Scratch Pet Food; PK Gold Family Foundation; Annamila First Nations Foundation; Gemma O'Brien; Koorabup Trust; ACF.



A NOTE FROM SEED

Whilst Seed is now a registered charity, we are in the process of securing DGR status to be able to receive tax-deductible donations. During this time, we look forward to continuing to work in collaboration with the AYCC. If you wish to support our work, please get in touch: donate@seedmob.org.au



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