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ABOUT CCWA

The Conservation Council of WA is the state's foremost non-profit, non-government conservation and climate organisation.

CCWA has been an outspoken advocate for conservation and a sustainable Western Australia for fifty years, working directly with the government, media, industry, community groups, and political parties to promote a more sustainable WA and to protect our natural environment.

Through advocacy, community engagement, policy development, science, and on-the-ground projects, we help create a sustainable future for Western Australia that we can enjoy for many years to come.

As WA's peak environmental group, we represent more than one hundred Member Groups throughout the state, as well as tens of thousands of individuals.

We connect with and amplify the voice of this growing network, which covers diverse aims and interests – from promoting renewable energy to the protection of native bushland and wildlife.

CCWA works to promote a clean economy that provides opportunities without polluting the ecosystems that support us or destroying the culture and beauty that inspires us. We work to protect our wild places and ensure that unique wildlife can thrive in their natural habitat.

CCWA works with communities and individuals to build skills, empower groups, and strengthen voices at a local level. We also combine the strength of our network to tackle critical environmental challenges at a much larger scale.

From the rugged far north of the Kimberley to the green forested South West, to our world-class coastline and unique marine life, the CCWA speaks for the protection and conservation of all nature in WA.

Whether protecting icons such as Ningaloo Reef, creating new National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, or saving old-growth forests, our work leaves an enduring legacy for future generations.



Through advocacy, community engagement, policy development, science, and on-the-ground projects, we help create a sustainable future for Western Australia that we can enjoy for many years to come.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

This year the Council has increased our strategic focus on climate change and carbon pollution and this issue has now become the dominant theme in our advocacy agenda.

As a new wave of public awareness about the climate emergency resonates across the world, we have seen unprecedented activity on this issue here in WA. Together with our diverse network of supporters, allies and member groups, I am proud that CCWA has played a significant role in leading and shaping debate on this issue – at times leading from the front and at other times in ways that are less visible but equally important.

CCWA's initiatives to develop a new voice for climate action, to reveal the impact of WA's biggest polluters, and to promote the benefits of action are having an impact. As it should, our advocacy is testing entrenched systems of power and for the first time, the inevitability of oil and gas expansion and the power this industry holds over our governments is being seriously questioned.

In a place where the media and political environment is so heavily influenced by WA's biggest polluters, progress on climate action was never going to be easy, predictable or straightforward. Despite these challenges, our efforts have helped make this a major issue in WA and as a team we are clear that this is the most important work we can be doing at this time.

The amazing group of staff and volunteers at CCWA has undergone significant change and growth over the past year. As always it is incredible and humbling to work with such dedicated and talented people every day, and to witness what can be achieved by a small committed group.

The Protect Ningaloo campaign has grown and relocated to a separate office, now under the auspices of the Australian Marine Conservation Foundation. Kristine Thomson created and filled a new position to deliver events and community engagement with the assistance of Lotterywest.

Several new positions have been created as part of the Clean State project including Chantal Caruso in a research and policy role and Luke Sweet in communications. Maggie Wood has joined us as CCWA's Communications and Engagement Manager, and a new Operations Manager position has been created with Melissa Wheeler demonstrating the value of this position to the Council.

CCWA's Citizen Science team continues to achieve great results and forge new partnerships under the guidance of Nic Dunlop and a growing team of staff and volunteers. We also acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by Sarah English, Kate Kelly and Jeremy Tager and thank them for their efforts towards the protection of our environment.

Piers Verstegen
Director

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The last year has seen the Conservation Council of Western Australia consolidate its financial position, enabling more research to be funded and additional support to be provided for lively and effective advocacy, community engagement and education on key environmental challenges, most notably climate change.

At the same time, CCWA has been able to assist and support member groups and the broader community in efforts to protect WA's threatened habitats, plants and animals, helping to raise awareness of the urgent need to give priority to environmental objectives – efforts to protect Ningaloo, Fairy Terns, WA forests, the Brixton Wetlands, Burrup rock art, Dalyellup bushland and Gelorup possums to name a few.

It has also been possible ensure that major decisions affecting the environment are subjected to close scrutiny and analysis, and where other efforts have been exhausted, to seek remedy for poor environmental decisions through the judicial system.

As chair of CCWA's Executive Committee, I continue to be very thankful for the energy, enthusiasm and persistence of the many people in our community committing their time and resources, and for their success in achieving results for which future generations will be very grateful –

the decision by the State Government to refuse land for a wave park development on our precious river foreshore and the protection of Point Peron being recent examples.

While, together with the traditional owners we were disappointed by the failure of our legal challenge against the Yeelirrie uranium mine approval, our efforts to protect the wildlife and cultural values of this area will continue.

I would like to commend all the volunteers, donors, staff, and our dedicated Executive Director, Piers Verstegen for their sustained and generous efforts in the service of WA's unique, but threatened environment. Their contribution is more important than ever, as we face environmental emergencies on massive scales. We have been particularly fortunate in the last 12 months in having generous donors support our efforts towards addressing these systemic and complex challenges.

I would also like to thank my fellow Executive Committee members for providing their time and expertise to ensure that CCWA is strong and effective in its environmental advocacy.

**Professor Carmen Lawrence
President**

OUR PEOPLE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Prof. Carmen Lawrence (President)
Tim Barling (Vice President)
Lou Charlet (Hon Treasurer)
Jason Parish (Hon Treasurer)
Caroline Perks (Hon Secretary)
Prof. David Harries
James Eggleston
Jill Downard
Paul Jarvis
Vicki Mountain

COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES

Prof. Carmen Lawrence (Chair)
Jason Parish (Hon Treasurer)
Lou Charlet (Hon Treasurer)
Peter Ewing
Philip Jennings
Sue Graham Taylor

VOLUNTEERS

Our work would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of our many wonderful volunteers. We are so grateful for your effort and tireless service towards the work we do together.

CURRENT STAFF

Piers Verstegen (Director)
Inan Ahmend (Finance Manager)
Melissa Wheeler (Operations Manager)
Maggie Wood (Communications & Engagement Manager)
Kristine Thompson (Community Engagement & Events Coordinator)
Sara Boranga (Events Coordinator)
Dr Nic Dunlop (Manager – Citizen Science)
Judith Brinkley (Assistant Project Coordinator – Tending the Tracks Alliance) Alison Goundrey (Project Coordinator- Tending the Tracks Alliance)
Tania Douthwaite (Community Campaigner – Protect Ningaloo Campaign)
Kerrie-Ann Garlick (Campaigner – Nuclear Free WA)
Kady Grosser (Project Coordinator – Monitoring NRM outcomes)
Gita Sonnenberg (Business Analyst)

Chantal Caruso (Research and Policy Analyst – Clean State)
Anjea Travers (Campaigner – Clean State)
Luke Sweet (Digital Campaigner – Clean State)
Ben Lawrence (Research Analyst – Clean State)

OTHER STAFF SERVING DURING 2018/19

Jarrold Tan (Campaigner – Clean State)
Sarah English (Communications & Engagement Coordinator)
Jeremy Tager (Campaign Manager - Protect Ningaloo Campaign)
Kate Kelly (Senior Adviser)
Mia Pepper (Campaigner – Nuclear Free WA)
Merryn Pryor (Project Coordinator - Microplastics)

MEMBER GROUPS

We are fortunate to work with more than 100 Member Groups from all over WA.

350 Perth	Frenchman Bay Association	Rockingham Environment Centre (Naragebup)
Aboriginal Heritage Action Alliance	Friends of Australian Rock Art	Roleybushcare Inc.
Albany Community Environment Centre	Friends of Bold Park Bushland	Safe Climate Perth
Alfred Cove Action Group	Friends of Brixton St Wetlands Kenwick	Save Beeliiar Wetlands
Alliance for a Clean Environment	Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park	Sea Shepherd Australia - Perth
Animal Rights Advocates Inc	Friends of Korella Bushland	Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals
Australia Cuba Friendship Society (WA Branch)	Friends of Moore River Estuary	South Coast Environment Group
Australian Marine Conservation Society	Friends of Paganoni Swamp	South West Environment Centre Inc (SWEC)
Australian Network for Plant Conservation	Friends of Porongurup Range Inc	South West Forests Defence Foundation
Australian Youth Climate Coalition	Friends of Star Swamp Bushland Inc	Speleological Research Group Western Australia Inc. (SRGWA)
Avon Valley Environmental Society Inc	Friends of Stratton Bushland	Stop the Toad Foundation
Balingup Friends of the Forest	Friends of The Bluff	Sustainable Energy Now (SEN)
Bassendean Preservation Group	Friends of The Earth Southwest WA	Sustainable Population Australia Inc. (SPA)
Bindaring Vision	Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise	Sustainable Transport Coalition of WA
Biophilic Cities Perth	Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland	Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group Inc.
BirdLife Australia WA Inc	Friends of Wireless Hill	The Black Cockatoo Preservation Society
Blackwood Environment Society	Friends Of Yellagonga Regional Park (Inc)	The Frenchman Bay Association
Bridgetown-Greenbushes Friends of the Forest	Guilderton Community Association	The Rottne Society
Bunbury Bushwalking Club Inc	Hands Off Point Peron Inc	The Wilderness Society WA
Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre	Inventors Association of WA	Trillion Trees
Canning River Residents Environment Protection Asn (CREPPA)	Jarrahdale Forest Protectors	UN Association Of Australia (WA)
Cape Conservation Group Inc	Joondalup Community Coast Care Forum	Urban Bushland Council WA
Carbon Neutral Ltd	Lake Mealup Preservation Society	WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group
Care for Hedland Environmental Association Inc	Leighton Action Coalition	WA Naturalists' Club Inc
Casuarina Wellard Progress Association	Local Environmental Awareness Forum (LEAF)	Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association
Citizen Climate Lobby	Margaret River Regional Environment Centre Inc	Waterbird Conservation Group Inc.
Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor	Nature Reserves Preservation Group Inc	Western Australian Speleological Group
Darling Range Wildlife Shelter	Nest Egg Foundation	Western Region Environment Network
Denmark Environment Centre Inc	Northern Agricultural Catchment Council	Wetlands Conservation Society
Doctors for the Environment (WA)	Peel Preservation Group Inc	Wildflower Society of WA Inc - Armadale
Eco Faeries	Peel-Harvey Catchment Council	Wildflower Society of Western Australia Inc
Ecocean	People for Nuclear Disarmament	
Environment House	Perth Advocates for the Earth (PAFTE Inc)	
Environmental Defender's Office WA Inc	Perth Bushwalkers Club (PBW) Inc	
Environs Kimberley Inc	Pilbara Wildlife Carers Association Inc	
FoodWatch WA	Pollution Action Network	
FRAGYLE INC	Port Kennedy LCDC	
	Quinns Rocks Environmental Group	
	Rethink Perth Freight Link Alliance	
	River Conservation Society Inc	





SPONSORS

Thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting our events and campaigns over the past 12 months.

Lotterywest

NRM WA

Studio N

Replants

Apacé Aid Inc Nursery

Create Ranger Park

Harpers Food Market

Peel Harvey Catchment Council

Pipin Drysdale

Perth Waldorf School

Mountford Wines and Tangletoe Cidery

Windfall Wine Estate

City of Swan

Angela Rossen

Switch your thinking

BioPack

City of Perth

City of Armadale & Switch your thinking

City of Mandurah

City of Swan

Town of Vincent

Houtman Abrolhos Islands Association

CCWA Citizen Science

COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM

At CCWA we are powered by community, and we understand the power of people and communities working together for a sustainable future. This year, we were grateful to receive support from Lotterywest and other sponsors for our community events.

Annual Conference 2018

Our Conference and AGM were held in November 2018 at the Perth Waldorf School in Bibra Lakes.

The beautiful bush setting of the Waldorf School spoke to the theme of the Conference - Biophilia, a love of life and living things, inspired by biologist Edward Wilson's biophilia hypothesis, which proposed that nature is essential for human beings' emotional wellbeing.

Community Conservation Awards 2018

Our annual awards celebrate the incredible volunteer achievements of community conservation groups and individuals throughout the year.

In 2018, the prestigious Bessie Rischbieth Conservation Award went to Brian Moyle, for this tireless dedication to the protection of Western Australian environment over several decades, and especially recognising his central role in the successful campaign to protect the Helena and Aurora Ranges (Bungalbin) from mining.

Other award winners included:

- The Friends of Mary Carroll Wetland
Len Howard Community Group Award
- Kristy Vogel
John Oldham Conservation Employee Award
- Bella Burgemeister
Young Environmentalist Award

In addition several people were added to the CCWA Honours List including:

- Allison Dixon
- Donna Chapman
- Jane Hammond
- Kerrie-Ann Garlick
- Sonny Rolfe
- Stewart Seesink

‘Climate Change and You’ Forums

CCWA hosted seven ‘Climate Change and You’ forums hosted across the metropolitan area from Two Rocks to Mandurah. We aimed to provide an opportunity for people to access climate scientists and specialists to further understand how climate change impacts the environment and what this means for communities.

Forum panels comprised some of Western Australia’s most respected scientists and experts - including WA Chief Scientist Dr Peter Klinken, WA Scientist of the Year Professor Peter Newman, IPCC report contributing authors, as well as senior climate scientists and other specialists from the University of Western Australia, Murdoch University, Curtin University, the Oceans Institute UWA, and Doctors for the Environment.

Mid-year Conference: Conservation in a changing world

We also held a successful and well-attended mid-year conference focusing on how to best address environmental issues in a rapidly changing world.

A focus of this conference was nature conservation in a changing climate, connecting with new and different audiences and understanding environmental policy and law.

Environment Matters Forums

CCWA’s ‘Environment Matters’ seminar series explore different conservation and sustainability themes and issues in front of a public audience. CCWA’s proven and popular Environment Matters model brings together experts and stakeholders from government, industry, and community to discuss environmental issues and challenges in a forum where members of the public can participate and contribute to the conversation.

This year we have hosted three successful forums: The Incredible Abrolhos Islands; Plan for Our Parks; and How can WA’s native forests help solve climate change?

ADVOCACY AND IMPACT

Climate change and fossil fuels

This year CCWA increased its strategic focus on climate change and it has been by far the dominant theme in our advocacy agenda.

This is appropriate and necessary given it is by far the most significant and urgent environmental issue we face. Western Australia is responsible for a disproportionate and growing contribution to the problem and as the state's foremost environmental advocates, CCWA has a clear responsibility and mandate to address this.

With the launch of the Clean State project in August 2018, CCWA established a new voice for action on climate change in Western Australia. The Clean State project promotes positive action to address our largest pollution sources in ways that can generate thousands of new jobs and other opportunities for West Australians.

At the time of launching the Clean State project, there was relatively low public awareness about the role of WA's gas export industry in driving up Australia's national emissions, or the massive impact this industry is already having on our global climate and national efforts to reduce pollution. The LNG industry was taking its social license for granted, expansion seemed inevitable, and it was difficult to see how any serious traction could be gained on the issue.

Twelve months on, Clean State has attracted interest from a wide community including philanthropists, academics, businesses and many others, and the project has grown to take on its own distinct identity.

An updated policy approach on climate change from the State Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) was a significant milestone during the year and has played a powerful role in changing the narrative on the issue in the eyes of the public, for government and for business and investors. The State Government responded with a significant first step – by setting the WA's first Paris-compliant carbon pollution reduction target for 2050 – a tentative but significant step towards closing the policy gap between WA and other states on this issue. Consultation is underway for a statewide climate change policy, new voices are emerging on the issue every day, and our own community is becoming powerfully united on the problems that must be addressed.

Meanwhile there is growing public awareness and concern about WA's biggest polluters and their plans to dramatically expand WA's highly polluting LNG industry. For the first time, the inevitability of this is seriously challenged around barbecues and boardrooms. CCWA is rigorously engaging in the assessment and approvals process for these projects while working to influence the outcomes in a multitude of other ways. As we head into 2020, this issue will continue to be a major focus for CCWA and our community.



Nature and wildlife protection

Wildlife protection and clearing laws

New wildlife protection laws for Western Australia has been a long-term priority for CCWA and was the subject of significant engagement with the Minister for the Environment and Department of Biodiversity, conservation and Attractions in the previous year. As it became clear that the McGowan Government had little appetite to follow through on its election commitment to strengthen the Barnett Government's Wildlife Conservation Act, it became obvious that a more significant community campaign and a more amenable Parliament would be necessary to get traction on this issue. Given the focus on climate change, this issue has taken a lower priority; however it remains a strategic focus that the Council will have to revisit in the future.

Slightly more progress has been made on the issue of native vegetation clearing this year, with the Minister and DBCA working on a package of improvements to the state's Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations. We are waiting with anticipation to see what changes will be proposed to address the issues that CCWA and other groups have been raising for many years.

New National Parks for WA

It was very pleasing to see that the McGowan Government this year committed to the protection of five million hectares of new national parks as part of Premier McGowan's priority statement for his Government and the Plan for our Parks initiative. CCWA has played an active role with the Create Ranger Parks campaign, which was a major driving force behind securing this historic commitment from the McGowan Government. Following the announcement, CCWA has been engaged with the DBCA

on the consultation process for which areas will be protected and we have assisted community groups and Member Groups to have input into this process to ensure that special places worthy of protection are considered as part of this initiative. The focus of the Plan for our Parks is the ex-pastoral leases that are already owned by the State Government and have been earmarked for conservation for over a decade. Finalising the protection of these areas will be a major step forward for the conservation of WA's unique biodiversity and cultural values and will provide a much-needed boost to communities through new jobs in managing this expanded conservation estate and from the visitors they will attract.

Supporting our community to defend nature

Supporting community campaigns and other ongoing efforts to protect natural values and places remains an important part of the Council's work in defense of nature and wildlife.

As always, CCWA has lent important support and capacity to a range of local place-based campaigns and community efforts, including:

- WA Forest Alliance and the campaign to end logging of native forests
- Protecting the Gelorup Corridor from Main Roads Bunbury outer ring road proposal
- Protecting the Swan River from an inappropriate wave park,
- Supporting the Save Perth Hills campaign
- Continuing and growing the Protect Ningaloo campaign
- campaigns to protect the Kimberley and the Fitzroy River from inappropriate development

Waste management and recycling

Waste management and recycling have continued as an important area of advocacy and activity for CCWA.

Participation in the McGowan Government's Container Deposit Scheme Stakeholder Reference Group has provided an opportunity to influence the development of this scheme to ensure it delivers ambitious targets for recycling and is delivered in a way which is equitable and accessible. While there have been some wins through this process, we were disappointed that the tender for establishing and running the scheme was awarded to a consortium led by the beverage industry, Containers for Change. This means that our community will have to remain engaged and vigilant into the future to ensure that the environmental outcomes of the scheme remain the priority, rather than preserving profits for beverage companies. The roll-out of the scheme will commence in June 2020 and there will be opportunities for community groups to participate and benefit from the scheme.

Other advocacy on waste and recycling has included CCWA representation on the Waste Advisory Group established by the Minister for the Environment, supporting community campaigns to ban single use plastics and balloon release by local governments, and engaging our community to make submissions to the McGowan Government when there has been consultation on waste and recycling and policy.

Nuclear Free WA

This November marks 11 years since the ban was lifted on uranium mining in WA, yet WA still remains thankfully nuclear free.

With the uranium price low, the Kintyre and Wiluna uranium proposals are not moving forward and so we have concentrated our efforts on Yeelirrie and the Mulga Rock uranium proposals.

Over the past two and a half years, Yeelirrie has been the subject of an active legal challenge by CCWA and three women of the Tjiwarl native title holder group, in the Supreme Court of Appeals. Although the legal challenge against the mine approval was unsuccessful and disappointing, the case demonstrated an undeniable need for WA's environmental laws to be urgently reformed and strengthened. The Yeelirrie decision case confirmed our worst fears - that it is legally admissible for a Minister to sign off on a project against the advice of the EPA and in the knowledge that it would cause the extinction of multiple species.

We continue our push to have the Mulga Rock uranium project re-assessed due to significant changes that Vimy Resources have made to their original proposal which carry different environmental risks and change significant aspects of the project.

Over the last year we continued community outreach through public forums, environment matters, workshops, meetings and creative community engagement actions. We co-hosted a camp at Yeelirrie that brought people from around Australia to show support to the Traditional Owners and learn more about the land, the people and the proposed uranium industry in WA.

We also continued our important connection with the national Australia Nuclear Free Alliance and the Australian Conservation Foundation. As always, the nuclear free campaign continues to work closely with Traditional Owners and communities affected by uranium proposals, and to support their voices in decision making about their country.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

CCWA's citizen science program continues to be a major element of our work and this year was no exception with a busy schedule of projects, events and field trips throughout the year

Spring and summer of 2018-19 was a ground-breaking season for our Fairy Tern Network, understanding the movements and population structure of the threatened Australian Fairy Tern. A nearly constant stream of records came in from our observers all around the south-west and mid-west. With PhD student Claire Greenwell as the focal point our understanding of this species, and the actions required to protect it, grew exponentially. More recent data from the network has indicated that we still have much to learn. As well as our banders (the Bandettes) and our observers the work of the network has been embraced by the Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies with land / water management responsibilities in areas where Fairy Terns aggregate and reproduce.

Two major State NRM funded projects kicked off in early 2019. One led by Kady Grosser is rolling-out CCWA Citizen Science ecological monitoring services to other conservation

NGOs including Gondwana Link (and their contributing land owners), Bush Heritage Australia, Greening Australia and Carbon Neutral. It is anticipated the project will, when completed in March 2020, have engaged over 100 skilled and trainee observers in over 5000 hours of data collection. Much of the sampling has focussed on measuring ecosystem development and biodiversity impacts in multi-species carbon plantings and complex restoration treatments using bird communities as indicators.

The second project, Tending the Tracks, is a partnership with WA's peak 4WD associations and involves education and environmental remediation projects in the off-road hotspot in the coastal region north of Perth. This project has been ably coordinated by Alison Goundrey.

We have continued our routine sampling in our long-term projects in now very familiar places. In addition, we have been assisting the bacterial resistance laboratory at Murdoch University to test gulls, pigeons and seabirds for anti-biotic resistant, human strains of *Escherichia coli*. The results are very sobering and will be published soon.

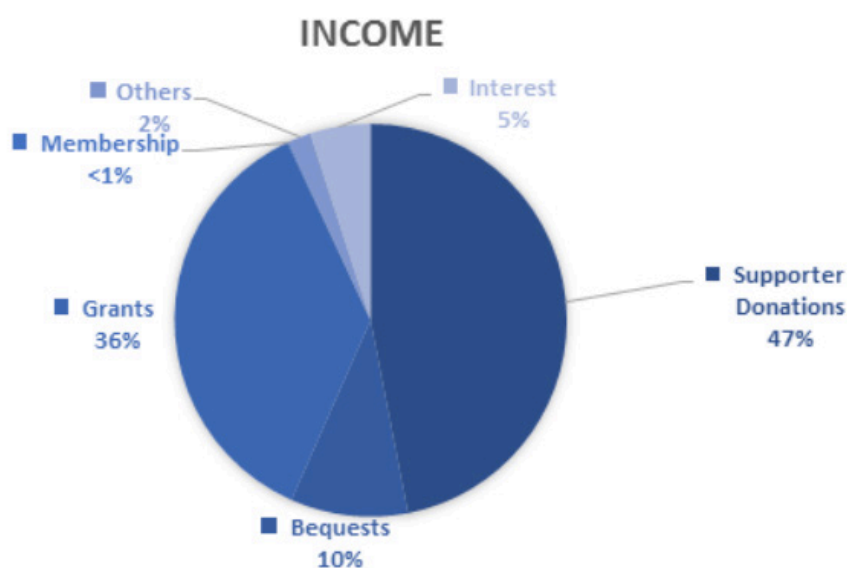


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

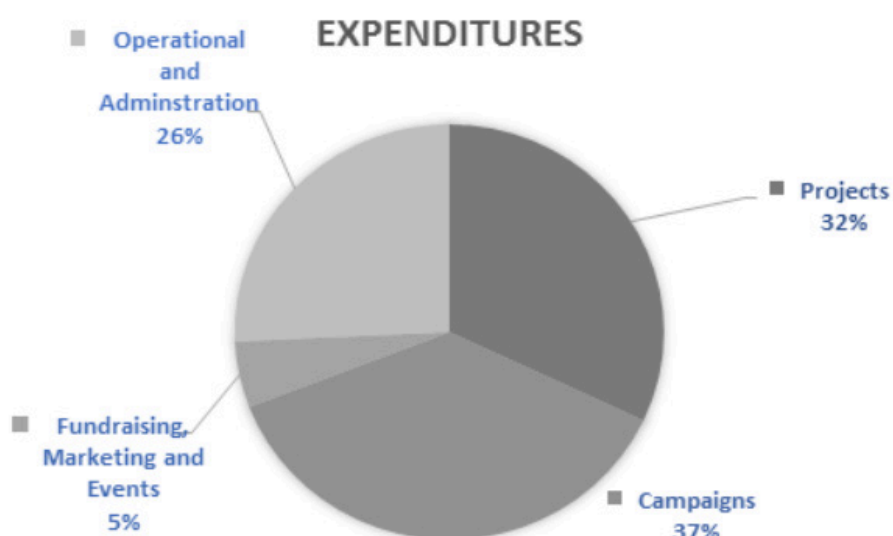
For the year ending 30 June 2019

Consolidated Income and Expenditures

The Council's Consolidated Income for the year was \$2,532,343. The largest fraction of this income was received from our generous donors representing 47% of total income for the year. 36% was received from grants and project income, comprising trusts, foundations and government grants.



The Council's Consolidated Expenditure for the year was \$2,176,679. 32% was spent on projects, 37% on the Council's campaigns and advocacy and 26% on operational and administration expenses.



The Council and Conservation Trust generated a Consolidated surplus of \$355,664 for the financial year 2018/19.

The Conservation Trust of WA

The Conservation Trust of WA is CCWA's tax-deductible endowment fund. 5% of all tax-deductible donations are retained in the Trust Endowment Fund, which is managed under ethical investment by Justinvest on behalf of the Trust Committee.

During the 2018/19 financial year the value of the Conservation Trust equity increased by 14% compared to the previous year, from \$1,101,742 to \$1,251,990. This includes growth in the value of investments and contributions to the Trust from fundraising of \$41,590 this financial year.

Conservation Trust investments portfolio performance compared with benchmark

During the 2018/19 Financial Year, the Trust investment portfolio grew in value by 8.85% compared with the 'moderate' benchmark of 8.15% growth for the period. Since inception in August 2017, the trust endowment fund has grown by 20.2% to date - an outperformance of 3.5% compared with 'moderate' benchmark over this period.





www.ccwa.org.au