

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WA

2017 - 2018

ANNUAL REPORT



We acknowledge that we meet and work on the land of the Nyoongar people. We pay respect to their Elders - past, present, and future - and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play in advancing a more sustainable Western Australia.



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"Nature is not a place to visit. It is home."

- Gary Snyder, Poet

OUR MESSAGE



ABOUT CCWA

The Conservation Council of WA is the state's foremost non-profit, non-government conservation 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 that all Western Australians can look forward to.

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 amazing coastline and unique marine life, 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.



REPORT FROM OUR DIRECTOR

By Piers Verstegen

For the last 50 years, every significant conservation and environmental gain in Western Australia has been achieved because of the efforts of volunteers and communities working together as a voice for nature.



One common feature of these efforts has been the Conservation Council of WA, supporting, representing, and facilitating a cohesive conservation community in this state.

Today, the demand for leadership and advocacy on environmental issues is stronger than ever. However this does not mean that we can simply continue to do what has been done in the past.

The challenges faced by our environment and the communities it sustains are increasingly systemic, with climate change and ongoing habitat loss chief among them.

At the same time, evidence-based policymaking has become an exception in a fragmented post-rational political environment dominated by glib three word slogans. And despite enjoying broad public support, the very ideas of care for nature, or a science-based approach to climate change continue to be highly contested and politicised concepts.

For a peak organisation and its extended community to be effective in this environment requires a strategic approach and a constantly evolving tool box of advocacy, research, campaigning, and community engagement techniques. Engaging the broader community and building alliances is more important than ever, while the need to support and motivate our own community remains a challenging task.

This year has been marked by some significant wins for nature. These include the rejection of mining on the Helena and Aurora Ranges and a damaging canal development at Point Peron. Important progress has been made towards tackling plastic pollution, through the banning of lightweight plastic bags and the development of a 10c container deposit scheme (CDS). The beginnings of a new carbon farming industry has been established in the rangelands, and planning has commenced for new national parks in the Kimberley. In each of these examples, community-led advocacy supported by CCWA has been an essential and central element that has made this progress possible.

While these gains are significant, the challenge of addressing systemic environmental issues, and preventing new threats is ever present.

A sustained focus has been required to prevent the development of one of the world's largest fossil fuel basins by gas fracking, to resist entrenched habitat destruction by clearing, logging and fire, to prevent the industrialisation of Exmouth Gulf, to uphold our state's environmental laws, and to maintain WA's status as a nuclear-free state.



Independent research commissioned by CCWA this year shows that a clear majority of Western Australians are ready to move beyond the traditional case-by-case conflict on environmental issues, instead supporting a more fundamental transition in the state's economy.

Western Australians understand that the jobs of the future will come from renewable energy and clean industries, not fossil fuels. They recognise the need for a transition away from destructive native forest logging, and they are ready to embrace and support strong action on climate change.

With this in mind, CCWA is also developing and delivering significant pro-active campaigns designed to tackle the systemic issues facing our environment. By building community support for action on climate change, and stronger legal protection for our unique wildlife and biodiversity, we aim to deliver enduring longer-term strategic outcomes for our environment and communities.

Once again, we owe a huge 'thank you' to those who continue to give generously to support CCWA. This generosity takes many forms, but it is clear that the gains we achieve are only possible with the outstanding commitment of those in our community including the staff, Member Groups, Executive, supporters, and donors. Under the strong and principled leadership of Professor Carmen Lawrence and the rest of the Executive Committee, the organisation is well positioned to translate this generosity into significant and enduring outcomes for communities and nature.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Prof. Carmen Lawrence

During the past year, the Conservation Council of WA has continued its effective advocacy for better protection of our unique environment.

By supporting Member Groups pressing for protection of precious habitats and natural resources across the state, and through strategic analysis of the key areas for policy reform, CCWA has recruited additional expertise and resources to facilitate our shared objectives.

Over the last 12 months, as Chair of CCWA's Executive Committee, I continue to be impressed with the energy and passionate commitment of so many people to causes as diverse as obtaining a permanent moratorium on fracking in the Kimberley and the Mid West, to the Citizen Science monitoring and protection of the Fairy Tern in the South West. Building on the successful community campaign to save the Beeliar Wetlands – the government has announced that it will seek to officially reserve the area – CCWA is now providing support to the strong community campaign to protect the Greater Brixton St Wetlands, a globally important biodiversity hotspot.



I would like to commend all the volunteers, donors, staff, and the Executive Director, Piers Verstegen for their sustained efforts at lobbying politicians to enact progressive policies on biodiversity protection, sustainable energy and climate change policy, protection of WA forests, commitment to a Nuclear Free WA, and reduction of plastic pollution. Together with local communities, scientists, and activists, CCWA has creatively harnessed legal and financial resources to ensure that these key environmental issues are not sidelined in the public debates about the future of Western Australia. The recently launched Clean State campaign to press for comprehensive policies on climate change and sustainable jobs in Western Australia is a case in point.

All of these activities require careful planning, engagement, and effective communication, as well as fundraising and strategic collaboration with partner organisations. Under Piers Verstegen's indefatigable leadership, and despite the modesty of our resources compared to government and the corporate sector, every major decision which affects the natural environment is assessed and the sector's views communicated to policy makers with a view to achieving optimal environmental outcomes. CCWA's role in ensuring government accountability and responsiveness is now more important than ever, as we confront the cumulative effects of climate change, pollution, and habitat destruction.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to CCWA's operations over the last 12 months – and longer. Whether it is time or money, ideas, or practical support, the contribution of so many volunteers is critical. To the many volunteers and financial donors throughout the organisation – in the Member Groups, in the office, and on the Executive Committee, may I offer my thanks for your dedication and generosity. I would particularly like to pay tribute to the enthusiasm and professionalism of members of the Executive Committee, CCWA staff, and the Director. I know the Executive Committee is as committed as our members are to protecting and enhancing our environment. While we are acutely aware of the growing threats to our natural world, we are also certain that there will be no improvement without the sustained and collaborative efforts of good people and responsive governments.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE ENVIRONMENT BY THE MCGOWAN GOVERNMENT

The McGowan Labor Government was elected with a strong mandate to do better on environmental issues. While some positive policies and decisions over the last year have reflected this, overall there remains significant need and opportunity for greater action on climate change, and stronger protection for Western Australia's unique natural environment.

- The lack of significant policy or action to address climate change and the state's growing carbon pollution is a serious concern and WA has fallen well behind other states in this area.
- The protection of the Helena-Aurora Range from mining, and Point Peron from canal developments have the potential to create genuine positive environmental legacies for the McGowan Government.
- High levels of concern still exists around the potential for gas fracking, industrialisation of Exmouth Gulf, and rapidly rising pollution from the oil and gas industry.
- Genuine progress is being made in the area of waste and recycling, however after nearly a decade of Liberal government neglect this progress remains behind the significant wave of public support in this area.
- Improving protection for wildlife, and addressing ongoing habitat loss due to logging and land clearing present significant opportunities for the McGowan Government. If this action is further delayed, our wildlife and biodiversity will suffer further irreversible decline.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND FOSSIL FUELS

Western Australia is the only Australian state with rapidly rising pollution, due to expansion in the oil and gas sector. We are also alone in having no targets for carbon pollution reduction, or for renewable energy.

With government support for further expansion in offshore oil and gas, and consideration being given to opening up even larger onshore gas basins to fracking, we are facing the prospect of further, and larger pollution increases. Meanwhile there is still no coherent plan for the transition of coal industries in Collie, or for renewable energy development in the electricity sector.

Despite the overall lack of policy on climate change there has been some positive news in this area. The Minister for Regional Development and Agriculture, Alannah MacTiernan has initiated the development of a carbon farming industry in WA, with a number of significant projects already begun. Environment Minister Stephen Dawson has also triggered reviews of pollution controls for LNG projects which we hope will create an opportunity for action in this area. Neighborhood scale trials of battery technology have been announced by Energy Minister Ben Wyatt, and moves to establish a wave energy research facility in Albany are underway.

NATURE AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Western Australia's unique biodiversity is of global significance, however the overall trend is one of ongoing decline of wildlife and ecosystem health as a result of impacts that are not being managed.

The McGowan government is also moving to expand conservation estate with the creation of a new Regional Park in the Peel region and progress towards a Fitzroy River National Park in the Kimberley. In addition, Premier McGowan has indicated a significant new package of parks and protected areas is in development, including new marine and terrestrial protected areas. Each of these areas represent huge opportunities to secure permanent gains for our environment.

Despite an election commitment to strengthen the State's biodiversity laws, the lack of effective legal protection for wildlife habitat outside of parks and protected areas remains a critical problem. Habitat loss due to logging, clearing and burning remains the most significant systemic threat to our state's wildlife and biodiversity, and these impacts remain exempt from the states biodiversity protection act. As a result, endangered species lists are growing, and species continue to move toward higher levels of threat. The lack of funding for biodiversity protection and management measures is also a problem, with the majority of endangered species recovery plans suffering from inadequate resources.

Looking ahead, there are signs that the situation may begin to improve for our biodiversity and wildlife. Environment Minister Stephen Dawson has signalled a review of Biodiversity legislation to take place in 2019 and the review of the Barnett Government's Forest Management Plan presents a significant opportunity for the McGowan Government to undertake badly-needed reforms to native forest logging in WA.

WASTE, POLLUTION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Solid progress has been made this year by the McGowan Government in the areas of waste and recycling, with the Premier and Minister for the Environment indicating strong commitment to action in this area. The ban on single-use plastic bags has been implemented and has been well received by the community. Work is well underway towards the 2019 start-date for a 10c recycling refund scheme on beverage containers, and a new and updated State Waste Strategy has been released for community input. These and other actions demonstrate significant progress towards tackling WA's growing waste issues, however there is a lot of catching up to do after years of inaction by the previous government, and a growing wave of community concern about plastic pollution presents opportunities for the government to be even more ambitious in this area.

Increased funding has recently been allocated to the EPA, and cost recovery measures are included in the budget for water licenses and clearing permits. This will go some way towards easing the chronic under-resourcing of our regulatory agencies. In other areas of environmental regulation, Minister Dawson has initiated a welcome review of the state's policy on environmental offsets.

Four uranium projects which gained environmental approval under the Barnett government remain a concern, and it is still unclear what level of regulatory controls will be applied to these projects if they proceed.

MAJOR PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The McGowan Government inherited a number of problematic development proposals which presented unacceptable environmental impacts and were strongly contested by the community. Positive decisions have been made on several of these. The decision by Minister for Planning Rita Saffioti to disallow a canal development on Point Peron responded to a significant community campaign, and removed a major threat to the environmental values of the area. Similarly, Environment Minister Stephen Dawson upheld the advice of the EPA to prevent iron ore mining on of the Helena and Aurora Ranges (Bungabbin), and has committed to the protection of this area in an 'A class' Nature Reserve.

Recent moves by the McGowan Government towards the protection of the Beeliar Wetlands by rezoning the Roe8 road reserve, and commitments to permanent protection of the area have also been well received by the community.

While these decisions have been positive, the prospect of fracking remains deeply worrying as the McGowan Government prepares to make a decision on the issue. Support for significant expansions in the offshore oil and gas industry threaten to drive carbon pollution higher, and plans for inappropriate industrial development by the oil and gas industry in the the Exmouth Gulf are a major concern.

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OUR PEOPLE



CORE TEAM

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

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



PHOTO: Wendy Morris CREDIT: #MilesTweediePhotography

STAFF

Director - Piers Verstegen
Citizen Science - Dr Nic Dunlop, Kady Grosser, Merryn Prior
Clean State - Anjea Travers
Community Engagement - Sarah English
Community Outreach - Shona Hunter
Data and IT - Gita Sonnenberg
Finance - Inan Ahmed
Frack Free Future - Karen Davis, Katherine Neaves, Monica Fitz
Fundraising - Richard Whitehead
Grants and Sponsorship - Kristine Thomson
Nuclear Free WA - Kerrie-Ann Garlick, Mia Pepper
Participation - Catherine Atoms
Senior Advisor - Kate Kelly

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead, Anthropologist

VOLUNTEERS

Administration - Mariesa Greenwood
Archives - Wendy Morris
Citizen Science - Beatrice Clifford, Carolyn Bloye
Community Campaigns - Bridget Mellor, Callum Synott
Data - Alkira Buti
Events - Sara Boranga
Finance - Chipu Zulu, Kunming Ye

Frack Free Future - Shammanan Rao, Travis
Human Resources - Jenny Gamble
Spring Fest 2017 - Danielle Kinder, Ellie Dittrich, Kavya Koonampilli, Megan Tighe, Natalia Quintanilla, Rocio Uculmana
Stalls - Phil Doring
Tending the Tracks - Alison Goundrey

MEMBER GROUPS

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

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



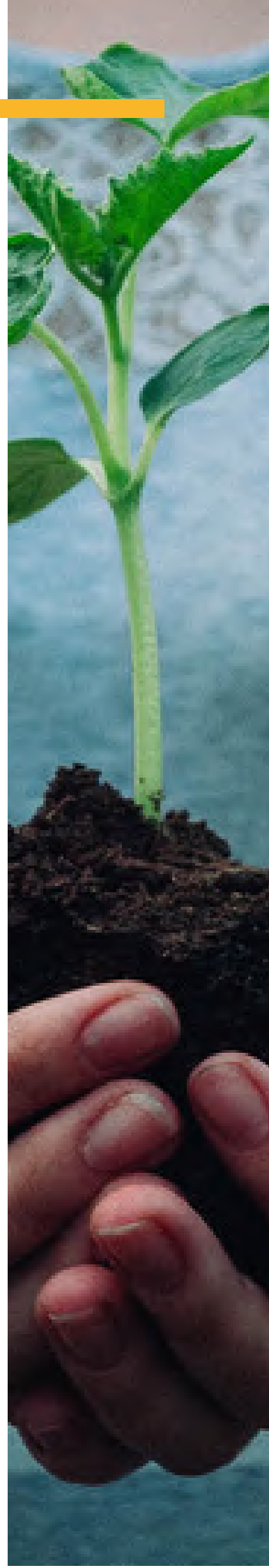
PHOTO: Member Groups at CCWA Awards 2017 CREDIT: Simon Stevens

SPONSORS

We are sincerely grateful to our sponsors from 2017/18, who have helped make so much possible.

Thank you to:

Aquarius Productions Pty Ltd
Australian Ethical Investments
Australian Manufacturing
Workers Union
Bird Life WA
Central Regional TAFE
City of Fremantle
City of Mandurah
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions
DJ Carmichael
Environs Kimberley
Green Skills Inc
Gundurwa Regional Conservation
Association
International Campaign to
Abolish Nuclear Weapons
Just Invest
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Murdoch University
Ninti One Limited
Northern Agricultural Catchment
Council
Patterson Research Group
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
Replants.com
State Natural Resources
Management Office (WA)
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Wilderness Society WA
Unions WA
University of Western Australia
Volunteering WA



OUR COMMUNITY



OUR COMMUNITY

The Conservation Council of WA is powered by our community - individuals and groups across state who stay alert and active to protect our incredible wildlife and environment.



PHOTO: Save Brixton St Wetlands CREDIT: Simon Stevens

It's these people that consistently care that will create the changes we wish to see in the world - action on climate change, protection for our precious places and animals, and a sustainable plan for our future.

It's been a privilege to witness these amazing stories unfold all over Western Australia, as people stand up to protect what matters most to them, gaining the attention of decision makers, the media, and the public.

Facilitated by our Community Engagement Manager Sarah English, we're pleased to see that our inspiring community of change makers has grown by 16,000 subscriptions in the last year, contributing to 60,000 email subscribers and 26,000 social media followers. Some of this growth can be attributed to our new Community Campaigns program, where we support community groups to run their own campaigns. We are also exceeding sector benchmarks with our communications, with consistently high percentages of our audience taking action.

**"Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean."**

- Ryunosuke Satoro, Poet

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS

In response to our community's growing desire to lead and take action on local environment issues, we launched our Community Campaigns program in late 2017.

The program acknowledges people's own passion and expertise on the issues that matter most to them, and compliments their skill set with the strategic advice, resources, and communications support provided by CCWA's professional staff and volunteers.

Since its launch less than a year ago, our Community Campaigns have facilitated more than 10,000 communications to decision makers around local environmental issues, resulting in significant wins for our wildlife and environment.



PHOTO: Paddy Cullen CREDIT: #MilesTweediePhotography

By mid 2018, the program was growing so rapidly that we created a Community Campaign Officer internship program, which provides campaign groups with a skilled and dedicated support person. In return, our Campaign Officers receive trainings, experience, and professional connections in their chosen field.

We're grateful to Bridget Mellor for joining us as our Campaign Officer for the Save Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre community campaign. Run by the iconic WA Gould League, the Centre has inspired over 500,000 young Western Australians to protect our wildlife and environment. In 2017, the McGowan Government announced that its funding would be cut, which would mean the Centre shutting its doors. Shortly after launching our community campaign, we secured a meeting with the Minister for Education Sue Ellery on behalf of the Gould League, and there has been regular contact with the Minister's office since. At the time of writing, we remain hopeful that the Government will restore funding and save the Centre. With 1,000 subscriptions across email and social media, the campaign is still growing.



PHOTO: Bridget Mellor and Prof. Kevin Kenneally

We're also pleased to have Callum Synnott as our Campaign Officer for the Melville Bird Sanctuary and Discovery Centre community campaign. Launched only recently, nearly 1,300 people have signed in favour of building this conservation centre instead of the controversial Alfred Cove wave park. Support continues to grow, and we can only hope the decision makers make the right choice.

Finally, in May 2018 we supported an incredible group of scientists and experts to launch the campaign to Save the Great Brixton Wetlands, and this campaign has since taken on a life on its own.

Thanks to the talented Paddy Cullen, this group has grown to 2,500 subscriptions across email and social media, hosted 20 powerful campaign actions, and secured a truly impressive amount of media coverage. With recent acknowledgements by the EPA of the high level of public interest, we will continue to support the efforts of this creative and courageous group to secure protection for this unique and irreplaceable piece of nature.

We plan to facilitate many more Community Campaigns and Officers in 2018/19, and to continue to grow our capacity to support important locally led actions all over the state.

WORKING WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

As advocates for people and nature, we recognise that we work and live on Aboriginal lands for which sovereignty was never ceded. This means we must respect and have a mandate from the Traditional Owners and cultural custodians of the environment we seek to protect.



PHOTO: Dr Hannes Schoombee, Declan Doherty, Piers Verstegen, Vicky Abdullah, Elizabeth Wonyabong, and Shirley Wonyabong

CCWA recognises that the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people must be a central consideration in any advocacy around conservation and land use, and that cultural heritage and connection to country is an inseparable part of the environment we value.

We also recognise the complex relationship that exists between environmental conservation, economic development aspirations, continuity of culture and community, and Aboriginal custodianship over land.

We make it a priority to consult, and where possible to work closely with Traditional Owners as part of our campaigns and advocacy work. We seek a mandate to speak for country where appropriate, and allow Traditional Owners to guide our efforts to ensure they are respectful of culture and connection to country at all times.

Together with Traditional Owners, in 2017 we launched our Supreme Court Case to challenge the Yeelirrie uranium mine approval, which went against the advice of the WA EPA. If it were to go ahead, the mine would threaten country and culture, and we're committed to supporting Yeelirrie Traditional Owners Shirley and Elizabeth Wonyabong, and Vicky Abdullah, in their long term efforts to protect their community.

We ensured that Aboriginal perspectives were prominent in our 2017 Conference. After Uncle Ben Taylor opened with his thought provoking Welcome to Country, we hosted a valuable workshop on "Preserving Aboriginal Cultural Heritage" with Dr Stephen Bennetts from Friends of Australian Rock Art, and Clayton Lewis from Aboriginal Heritage Action Alliance. We also hosted a panel discussion entitled "Aboriginal Perspectives on Environmental Advocacy", where Uncle Ben Taylor, Aunty Mingli Wanjuri, Clayton Lewis, and Vicky Abdullah were invited to share their perspectives on current environmental issues.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with Aboriginal people in 2018/19, and are deeply appreciative of the knowledge that they generously share with us.

WORKING WITH MEMBER GROUPS

The collective strength that comes from a united and connected membership enables CCWA to be a robust and independent voice for Western Australia's environment.

Our Member Groups are a central part of our vibrant democratic network, and collaborate with other members, contribute to statewide environmental campaigns, shape organisational policy, and access our services and support.

This year we have enjoyed representing and working with more than one hundred Member Groups, covering a wide variety of issues across the state. We also welcome three new Member Groups - Alfred Cove Action Group, Biophilic Cities Perth, and Casuarina Wellard Progress Association Inc.

This is a positive demonstration that the community conservation sector in WA continues to thrive, and community based conservation and sustainability groups continue to see value in membership and affiliation with CCWA.



PHOTO: Piers Verstegen and Kim Dravnieks
CREDIT: #MilesTweediePhotography

PHOTO: Member Groups at our CCWA Awards 2017 CREDIT: Simon Stevens



SPRING FEST 2017

The CCWA LiveLighter Spring Eco Fest 2017 saw thousands of visitors celebrate our wildlife and environment, connect with their community, and explore their options for sustainable living.

Highlights included providing virtual reality headsets to screen Collisions, the Emmy Award winning virtual reality film made here in WA, dances from the Whadjuk Yorgas and Baldja Moort, music from Charlie Mgee of Formidable Vegetable Sound System, and Amy Wild Adventures' popular reptile handling.

Through a wide range of other stalls and workshops, LiveLighter Spring Eco Fest 2017 promoted individual wellbeing, connected communities, and environmental conservation.

We acknowledge the generous support of our naming sponsor Healthway, an initiative of the WA Government's Department of Health, alongside other sponsors Australian Ethical and Ethical Homeloans.

Thank you to our incredible volunteer events team, Danielle Kinder, Ellie Dittrich, Kavya Koonampilli, Megan Tighe, Natalia Quintanilla, and Rocio Uculmana, for making this year's Spring Fest an event to remember!



PHOTO: Kerrie-Ann Garlick the Nuclear Free WA stall

ECO EVENTS 2018

In 2018, we broke with tradition and decided to expand Eco May into Eco Events, so that instead of limiting our promotion of eco-themed community events to the month of May, we would promote them all year round.

This move was in response to the proliferation of conservation and sustainability events hosted year round across the state, and our desire to promote them in a single calendar. Our Eco Events calendar is now available on our Facebook page and website, and is constantly updated as events are discovered or shared with us.

As technology becomes more sophisticated and it becomes easier to find new events, we will continue to expand our Eco Events calendar to serve our community wherever they live in WA.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM 2017

Our Annual Conference and AGM 2017 was held on Saturday 18 November at Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre.



PHOTO: Shona Hunter CREDIT: Simon Stevens

We made the decision to host this significant event at the Centre to help our community gain closure on the traumatic campaign to protect Beeliar Wetlands earlier in the year, which was many people's first introduction to the Centre.

This effort was aided by a session run by Kim Dravnieks and Felicity Bairstow, which included a walking tour to view the regrowth of the cleared area.

Our delegates were particularly engaged during our AGM, the Q&A session with Environment Minister Stephen Dawson, and our progress report on our sector's election priorities - which involved several of our Member Groups taking turns on the microphone.

Many of our delegates remembered Shona Hunter from the Beeliar Wetlands campaign too, and were delighted to see her again - this time in her capacity as a talented caterer with her own business, Hidden Pantry.

PHOTO: Lisa Jane Hills, Felicity Bairstow, Kim Dravnieks, Simon Stevens and Grecian Sandwell



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AWARDS 2017

Our Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday 18 November at Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre.



Kate Kelly was presented with the Bessie Rischbieth Conservation Award for showing incredible fortitude, foresight, leadership, integrity, and determination in her role as Convener of Save Beeliar Wetlands. Kate built an incredible community of support around her group and the campaign and inspired others to step up and take action in so many different ways over a period stretching well over a decade.

The Len Howard Community Group Award went to the Barrabup Conservation Group, for demonstrating outstanding commitment and courage in advocating the protection of the High Conservation Value Barrabup forest from logging. The group has worked tirelessly, voluntarily, and remotely, to draw an impressive degree of attention to the issues.

Thelma Crook was awarded the John Oldham Conservation Employee Award for being a passionate advocate of Landcare in the Peel-Harvey region for almost three decades. She worked as a natural resource officer with the Department of Water and Greening Australia, and has volunteered for the past five years to co-ordinate the annual Shorebird 2020 counts when funding to support these ceased.

The following people were named to the Conservation Council of WA Honours List, for demonstrating a long term commitment to the Western Australian environment:

Dr Eddy Wajon for powerfully campaigning for environmental protection over several decades
Kim Dravnieks for passionately leading Rethink the Link in the Save Beeliar Wetlands campaign
Lisa Jane Hills for successfully challenging businesses and councils to stop helium balloon releases
James Mumme for teaching students to live lightly on the earth, and for his many hours volunteering.
Janet Grogan for her outstanding commitment to keeping GMOs out of our food and environment.
Rebecca Prince-Ruiz for founding Plastic Free July, which is now an international phenomenon.

We were pleased to announce that this year's Young Environmentalist Award went to Correa Driscoll, for putting consistent energy and effort into organising and campaigning within the climate movement across groups.

This year also marked the creation of a new award, the Non-Violent Direct Action Award, which we presented to more than 200 Beeliar Protectors whose outstanding commitment and dedication protected the Beeliar Wetlands in the summer of 2016 to 2017.

Thank you to Simon Stevens for photographing our Awards Ceremony so beautifully, and to all the volunteers who helped make it such a wonderful event!

CITIZEN SCIENCE

By Dr Nic Dunlop

CCWA's Citizen Science program continues to be an important part of our work and the program has continued to expand this year. The program continues to provide valuable new information about the state of our environment, and create unique opportunities to engage and upskill community members in on-ground environmental monitoring and management.



PHOTO: Pygmy possums CREDIT: Kady Grosser

Over the past year, field sampling, analysis, and reporting continued on all our long-term Citizen Science projects, and two new projects were also initiated.

The most intensive work involved completing a State NRM funded project using bush-bird communities to assess ecosystem development in ex-farmland areas which had undergone different environmental restoration treatments as part of the Gondwana Link.

Kady Grosser and Merryn Pryor worked as field officers on this project, coordinating teams of citizen-science observers working through the spring months of 2017. Overall, the field sampling involved 43 volunteers over 162 person days. The results showed that restoration outcomes had improved over time since the first major projects in 2004. In particular, ecological functions were developing much more quickly in restoration conducted using the techniques employed after 2010, and some treatments were now resembling nearby natural reference sites after only 3 to 4 years.

The results from the project were presented at the Festival of Birds Forum in Albany in March 2018, and again at the WA LandCare Network Forum in July. We are currently working with Gondwana Link and Threshold Environmental on a scientific paper.

Similar bird-survey methods, again with volunteer observers, are now being utilised to augment our continuing research program at our Charles Darwin Climate Change Observatory. The Citizen Science Program continued to run its TAFE course on fauna sampling at Charles Darwin Reserve, and also ran a training course for volunteer environmental officers in the WA 4WD Association.

Regular monitoring trips for the Rat Island Recovery Project continued over the period, with ongoing mark-recapture work on several tern species and a rapidly growing colony of White-faced Storm-petrels. In May 2017, the CCWA Citizen Science crew and students and staff from the Batavia Coast Marine Institute carried out a baiting program to eradicate introduced House Mice from the Rat Island cluster. This involved the deployment and monitoring of 1860 bait stations and some selective rebaiting. Monitoring after 3 months did not detect any surviving mice, and no cases of potential secondary poisoning have been observed. Continued monitoring for 2 years will be required before we can declare victory over this pest species.

Our Sentinel Seabirds Project continued, and we have recently published a second edition of the Sentinel Seabirds Guide to try and encourage natural resource managers to employ seabirds as indicators of changes in marine ecosystems.



The WA Fairy Tern Conservation Network functioned very effectively to provide observations on terns marked by our banding team 'the Bandettes', and on movements and breeding activity. The Fairy Tern colony at Rous Head, managed by Fremantle Ports, continued to grow and produce a strong cohort of chicks. The managed site at Rottnest was affected by the extreme rainfall event in January 2018. The constructed Fairy Tern reserve by City of Mandurah was not utilised in 2017-18 but extra measures we have taken are likely to deliver success.

A second edition of the WA Fairy Tern Conservation Guide was published to incorporate much of the new information produced by the Fairy Tern research project, and from the contribution of observers participating in the WA Fairy Tern Network. The Network currently has over 200 participants via email and our Facebook group.

The Citizen Science Program was contracted in February 2018 to carry out a fauna survey of the Chapman River Regional Park, and to develop a Conservation Action Plan. This work will continue into 2018-19.

In January 2018, CCWA established the Tending the Tracks Alliance with TrackCare WA and the WA 4WD Association to engage the off-road community in community-based environmental management. A strategic plan was developed for the coastal off-road region between Guilderton and Dongara, and includes dune rehabilitation projects, educational products, and citizen-science based monitoring activities.

Since May 2018, CCWA citizen scientists have assisted Dr Sam Abraham from Murdoch University by running a sampling program to detect Critically Important Antimicrobials (CIA) in E.coli bacteria in urban bird populations. The results so far have been disturbing, as our wildlife, particularly Silver Gulls, are rapidly being colonised with human strains of potentially pathogenic bacteria, resistant to the antibiotics that are currently our last line of defence against infections. Gaps in our waste management systems and ecological factors are probably implicated. Stay tuned for the rest of this story next year!



PHOTO: Banding Fairy Terns CREDIT: Kady Grosser

Finally, we are indebted to our core group of field volunteers (the Bandettes) including Alison Goundrey, Claire Greenwell, Heidi Nore, Kady Grosser, Kate Born, Kelly Rayner, Lauran Gilson, Merryn Prior, and Tegan Douglas. Beatrice Clifford has contributed by getting our social media and newsletter up and running, and Donna Chapman with her brilliant graphic design.

OUR PRIORITIES



CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY & FOSSIL FUELS



CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is the most significant long term threat to our environment and an issue that Member Groups of the Conservation Council are universally concerned about.



PHOTO: Rise for Climate Rally CREDIT: Simon Stevens

Independent research commissioned by CCWA demonstrates that this concern is also held by the wider community, with nearly 80% of survey respondents concerned about climate change and wanting to see stronger action from government on this issue.

CCWA's advocacy on climate change takes a range of forms. Our primary goals are for the WA government to establish a coherent policy response to climate change, to see pollution from LNG production and other major polluters controlled more effectively, to protect and enhance natural carbon stores, and to prevent new fossil fuel developments (such as gas fracking) which would further add to our states carbon pollution.

We have continued to work with a diverse group of partner organisations on climate change issues through the RenewWA alliance.

"[We are] the last generation that can take steps to avoid the worst impacts of climate change."

- Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

CLEAN STATE CAMPAIGN

Western Australia's total carbon pollution is increasing sharply due to uncontrolled pollution from the production of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for export.

This year, the LNG industry became WA's largest polluter as Chevron's giant Wheatstone and Gorgon developments start to reach full production. These two projects alone are now responsible for more than 25% of total greenhouse gas emissions in WA, further adding to other LNG projects such as Woodside's North West Shelf and Pluto, and Shell Prelude Floating LNG.

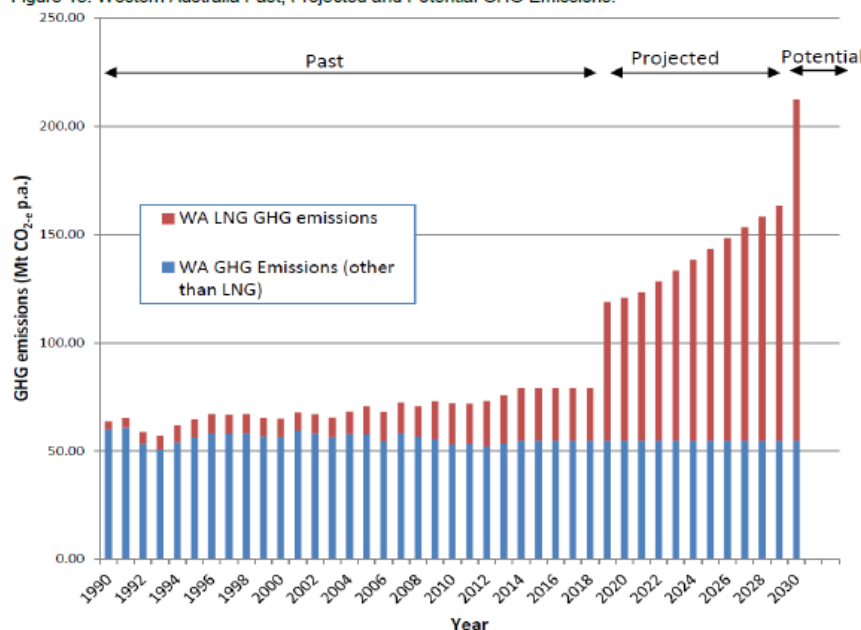


Together, LNG production now produces around 36 million tonnes of pollution here in WA and the sector was recently recognised as the primary driver of Australia's overall pollution growth.

"Increase in emissions was largely driven by the LNG production for export, which the volumes increased by some 25.4 per cent."

- Melissa Price, Federal Environment Minister, October 2018

Figure 13: Western Australia Past, Projected and Potential GHG Emissions.



Source: CCWA.

When the full lifecycle emissions are accounted for (including burning the exported gas overseas) the total carbon footprint from WA LNG mining and export is nearly 200 million tonnes of carbon pollution every year.

This year, CCWA has developed a specific campaign to to raise awareness of WA's LNG pollution problem, and build community support for government action to tackle this issue.



The Ministerial Conditions on carbon pollution from Wheatstone and Gorgon LNG projects are now under review by the EPA, and the Woodside Pluto project is subject to a compliance audit by the DWER.

The Clean State campaign is advocating for the conditions on these projects (which were relaxed or removed during the Barnett Government) to be reinstated and strengthened to require carbon pollution from these facilities to be controlled, reduced, and offset.

If the campaign is successful, it will see the establishment of a very significant carbon farming sector and other clean industries that can produce carbon credits to offset LNG pollution within WA. This will have far-reaching co-benefits including biodiversity benefits and employment creation, especially in regional areas.

The Clean State campaign has only recently been publicly launched but it has already achieved great visibility and support from the community. We look forward to further developing this important campaign in 2019.



PREVENTING GAS FRACKING

The campaign to prevent the gas fracking industry from becoming established here in Western Australia continued to feature significantly in CCWA's advocacy agenda this year.

The McGowan Government responded to campaigning on the issue during the 2017 election by placing a moratorium on fracking subject to an independent inquiry into the practice.

CCWA placed significant effort on engaging the inquiry process to ensure a wide range of expert submissions and large numbers of community submissions supported the need for a statewide fracking ban. This effort helped to generate over 10,000 submissions from members of the public, and thousands of pages of independent expert and scientific input into the inquiry.

During the consultation process we held a major public forum with experts at UWA, and a number of submission writing workshops in communities around Perth in partnership with Lock the Gate.



PHOTO: Fremantle Frack Free Future Group

Significant new research was also commissioned to quantify the potential carbon pollution that would result from fracking in WA, and the results of this have helped build the case for maintaining a Frack Free Future for Western Australia.

As we await the release of the Independent Fracking Inquiry report and the McGowan Government's decision on the issue CCWA has remained active in engaging the community and influencing Members of Parliament to support a ban on fracking. Member for the Kimberley Josie Farrer, Jessica Shaw, Member for Swan Hills and Matthew Hughes, Member for Kalamunda have publicly backed the call for a statewide ban.

Public polling shows that the community is now firmly on our side on this issue and we are hopeful that the McGowan Government will realise that opening up the state for gas fracking is not only environmentally irresponsible but deeply unpopular.

NUCLEAR FREE WA

The 17th of November 2018 marks 10 years since the Barnett Government lifted the ban on uranium mining in WA.

The nuclear free campaign hosted by CCWA is happy to say there are no uranium mines in WA today! We pay tribute to the communities who have stood strong, the support of CCWA, and the stunning country that remains 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 challenging the state environment approval of the Yeelirrie uranium proposal, and on the feasibility and credibility of the Mulga Rock uranium proposal.

Yeelirrie is the subject of an active legal challenge by CCWA and three Traditional Owners in the Supreme Court of Appeals. The case challenges the former WA Environment Minister's approval for the project, which went against advice from the EPA and the outcome of an appeals process, which found that the Yeelirrie project could not be made environmentally acceptable due to the likely extinction of multiple species.



PHOTO: Vicky Abdullah, Piers Verstegen, Shirley Wonyabong, Elizabeth Wonyabong

We believe it is important to challenge this approval and the concerning legal precedent it sets for wildlife across the state.

Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price has recently announced that she will defer her decision on Yeelirrie until after the court case - a strong indication of the significance of the court proceedings and legal questions hanging over the project. The legal challenge has had massive public support, demonstrating the strength of the public interest, with donations to support the case totaling nearly \$50,000 to date. We are deeply grateful to those who have contributed to this important case.

Over the last year, we have increased our campaign community outreach capacity through film nights, Environment Matters, workshops, meetings, and creative community engagement actions like 'Projections at Parliament'. We launched an animation video with generous artistic and creative contributions from our community, co-hosted an educational community tour of the four proposed uranium mines sites in WA, and continued our important connection with the national Australia Nuclear Free Alliance. We have continued our lobbying efforts calling for the government to ensure that the most stringent tests and standards are applied in further assessment of the four uranium projects which WA Labor inherited from the Barnett Liberal Government.

PEACE BOAT

In January, CCWA worked with the Nobel Peace Prize recipient International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and Peace Boat to co-host a major series of events to mark the arrival of the 86th voyage of the Japanese Peace Boat into Fremantle.

During the events, our community heard the emotional and confronting stories of Traditional Owners and communities affected by the nuclear industry, serving as a timely reminder of the importance of our work to keep WA nuclear free, and WA uranium out of the global nuclear cycle.

WALKATJURRA WALKABOUT

The eighth annual Walkatjurra Walkabout was held in August 2018. As part of the walk, CCWA and the Walkatjurra Walkabout organised and hosted a public forum in Leonora to discuss uranium mine proposals, and a proposal to locate a national nuclear waste dump in Leonora - another important focus area for the nuclear free campaign at CCWA.

As always, Nuclear Free WA continues to work closely with Traditional Owners and communities affected by uranium proposals, to bring those voices to the city. The campaign continues with careful planning, engaging and timely communication, well-organised events, effective fundraising, and strategic collaboration with individuals, communities, and organisations from all different sectors, to ensure WA remains nuclear free.

NATURE & WILDLIFE PROTECTION





BIODIVERSITY & CONSERVATION LAWS

For over a decade, the need for stronger biodiversity protection laws have been a top priority for CCWA and our Member Groups, and it has been a significant feature of our advocacy work this year.

With an election commitment from the McGowan Government to strengthen the weak and inadequate laws that were passed by the Barnett Government, we hoped it would be possible to make significant progress on this issue.

Despite significant attempts to engage with the McGowan Government on this issue, the laws remain unchanged, there is no independent oversight or monitoring of biodiversity, and the most significant and serious threats to biodiversity remain largely exempt from the laws.

One thing which we did not anticipate was the deep resistance to change within the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

As a result of CCWA's public advocacy on this issue, there is now a greater public awareness of the lack of protection for the state's wildlife and biodiversity. There have been a number of significant media stories explaining the perilous state of our wildlife and exposing the lack of effective management and protection for endangered species. Thousands of CCWA supporters have also made submissions and taken action to call for stronger protections for our wildlife.

CCWA's focus on this issue is set to continue, as Minister Stephen Dawson has signalled that he will initiate a review of the laws in 2019. It is clear that greater effort will be required by the whole conservation sector to communicate and engage the wider community on this issue if we are to be successful in achieving significant improvements.

SOUTH WEST FORESTS

The management of South West forests is another area where progress has been difficult to achieve this year - despite strong support from the community, significant advocacy by CCWA, and energetic campaigning led by the WA Forest Alliance (WAFA).

CCWA has continued to support WAFA through providing office accommodation for staff and volunteers, policy and media support, and representation to government Ministers and agencies.

Working with WAFA, we identified the mid-term review of the Forest Management Plan put in place by the Barnett Government as a key opportunity to secure improvements to the way our forest is being managed,



PHOTO: Piers Verstegen at WA Forest Alliance Rally in 2018
CREDIT: #MilesTweediePhotography

We engaged our community and a range of independent experts to make submissions to review documenting the unsustainable impacts of native forest logging under this plan.

The review has not concluded, but the lack of involvement of the EPA indicates a concerning lack of independence and rigor in the process. Meanwhile, the Forest Products Commission continues to push for new and longer term logging contracts to be signed and for new logging industries to be developed.

As we head towards 2019, a review of the Regional Forest Agreement may present opportunities for improvement, and allow for the exemption of forest logging from federal environmental laws to be exposed and challenged.



OUTBACK COUNTRY

The vast majority of the state's area and some of our most important ecosystems are covered by Pastoral Leases and Unallocated Crown Land.



PHOTO: Spinifex Pigeon CREDIT: Jim Bendon

Creation of a network of parks and protected areas in the outback has been a key feature of the Create Ranger Parks campaign, and CCWA has been an active participant in that campaign as part of the Partnership for the Outback together with Pew, Bush Heritage Australia, and The Wildflower Society.

With community and stakeholder support for the Create Ranger Parks campaign continuing to build, including from Traditional Owner groups, we are optimistic that the State Government will soon announce a package of parks and protected areas.

Reforming the policy and legal framework governing the management of the remainder of the WA Rangelands is also a high priority of the Partnership, and this presents significant opportunities for improving environmental management and habitat and ecosystem health across very large areas of the outback. Despite commitments from WA Labor and support from the lead Minister, progress toward pastoral lands reform has been slow this year.

CCWA and the Partnership for the Outback has placed a significant focus this year on promoting carbon farming industry in WA, as a means to reduce carbon pollution and improve the environmental management of pastoral lands. Minister MacTiernan has responded to this by taking significant steps to facilitate the industry. 27 carbon projects across 6.3m hectares have now been registered with the Clean Energy Regulator, covering an area about the size of Tasmania. This represents a breakthrough for the creation of a local carbon economy that will see significant co-benefits in biodiversity restoration.

"The McGowan Government is encouraging pastoralists to focus on grazing strategies which promote regeneration of native vegetation and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Carbon farming provides a real prospect that depleted rangelands soil and vegetation can be turned around and productivity restored."

- Alannah MacTiernan, WA Minister for Regional Development, October 2018

THE KIMBERLEY

CCWA continues to maintain a strategic focus on improved protection and environmental management in the Kimberley through the The Kimberley Like Nowhere Else campaign, in partnership with Pew Trusts, Environs Kimberley and The Wilderness Society.

This campaign is working to support the delivery of the McGowan Government's Plan for the Kimberley election commitments including a new Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park, the protection of the Fitzroy River through a new Fitzroy River National Park, and a management plan for the protection and sustainable development of the Fitzroy.

Work on the Buccaneer Marine Park has begun with the initiation of consultation with Traditional Owners and the boundaries of the park are expected to be announced in 2019. A significant milestone for the campaign was the confirmation that state waters around the offshore Adele Island and Beagle and Mavis Reefs would be included in the marine park.

The McGowan Government has also commenced discussions with Traditional Owners on the boundaries of the proposed Fitzroy River National Park that will extend the existing Darrngku (Giekie Gorge) National Park up the Fitzroy and Margaret Rivers and surrounding country. A decision on borders for this park is also expected in 2019.

Progress on the Management Plan for the Fitzroy River has been slower and Government is yet to announce a process for delivering the commitment. The expected next step is the development of a water allocation plan that will be a part of the overall management plan. The campaign is working to ensure water allocations are sustainable and consistent with election commitments to protect the river by creating a buffer zone to protect the National Heritage listed river and wetland areas, and other key areas, from water extraction for irrigation, mining and other uses.

A significant milestone for the campaign was the attendance of four WA State Ministers at a stakeholder meeting in Fitzroy Crossing in March as a first step in consulting communities on the delivery of the conservation commitments for the Fitzroy. Traditional Owners have also since created the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council to represent their interests, and to work towards enacting their 2016 Fitzroy River Declaration that called for river protection and raised concerns about impacts of development.

The campaign has also been working to prevent a proposed 50 gigalitre dam and irrigation scheme on Gogo Station which is currently under assessment by the EPA which has noted the strong public interest in the project in its decision to assess. A draft Public Environmental Review document is expected in 2019.



PHOTO: Perth Sawfish Event CREDIT: Like Nowhere Else



STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF THE PERTH PEEL REGION (SAPPR)

The Perth Peel Strategic Assessment is one of the most significant environmental policy initiatives to have been undertaken in Western Australia.

Aiming to prevent the individual assessment of urban developments that has resulted in the 'death by a thousand cuts' to the Perth Peel region in the past, the assessment has the potential to take a strategic approach to planning for the growth of a city located in a global biodiversity hotspot.

After it has been underway for nearly five years, the SAPPR was put on hold this year while an independent review panel examined the merits of continuing with the process. CCWA helped to convene a significant stakeholder consultation forum to allow input in to this review process from the conservation sector.

We have advocated for the SAPPR to continue, with a number of improvements to the way the process was being conducted under the Barnett Government.

We are confident that the review panel will reflect feedback from our sector and recommend that the McGowan Government continue with the SAPPR.

POINT PERON

The proposed canal and housing development at Point Peron, which had been supported by the Barnett Liberal Government, would have caused serious and irreversible environmental impacts to Cockburn Sound, including the Little Penguin colonies on Penguin and Garden Islands.

Threats include dredging the Little Penguins' feeding grounds in Mangles Bay, increasing fatal boat strikes by introducing an additional 500 boats to the area, and reduced fish numbers due to impacts on water quality.

When community group Hands Off Point Peron raised the alarm in early 2018 that a planning decision was imminent, CCWA partnered with them and other community groups in an urgent campaign to stop the development and save the penguin colonies.

This joint campaign included publishing an open letter from Australia's leading penguin experts, organising a media conference with experts that was broadcast on most major television channels, delivering online and social media campaigning, publishing full page advertisements in Rockingham newspapers, and facilitating over 5,000 people calling and emailing Planning Minister Rita Saffioti.



PHOTO: Sarah English with our newspaper advertisement

These efforts added to the nearly 500 submissions that had already been made against the proposed development during the planning process, and a wide range of scientists, conservationists, fishers, and members of the local community speaking out against the project.

Together with this passionate community, we breathed a sigh of relief when Minister for Planning Rita Saffioti announced that she had rejected the development, and CCWA thanked the Minister for protecting the environment and listening to community sentiment.

CCWA congratulates the tireless local community group, Hands off Point Peron led by Dawn Jecks, who fought so hard for years to see this area protected. Their passion and perseverance paid off, and the example they set continues to demonstrate how local community action to defend the environment is so important. This outcome would not have been achieved without them.

We hope the WA Government will now move ahead to implement the Coastal Park concept that has been developed by the local community as a way to increase tourism and recreation opportunities, while protecting the fragile environmental values of Point Peron for future generations.

EXMOUTH GULF

With its World Heritage values and critical ecological connection to the Ningaloo Reef, the Exmouth Gulf is a high conservation priority for CCWA.

Planned industrial development by the oil and gas industry in the the Exmouth Gulf area are a significant emerging concern and working together with partner organisations CCWA has placed considerable attention on this issue during the year.

There has been an escalation of oil and-gas shipping activity in Exmouth Gulf in 2018, including during the annual humpback whale season. Increases in industrial activity puts pressure on sensitive environments, from noise, pollution and degradation. CCWA continues to work with community groups and other environmental agencies to ensure that better outcomes are sought for conservation values in the gulf.

In the south, the proposed Learmonth Bundling Project is currently undergoing an Environmental Impact Assessment. This project is a major environmental threat to marine life and onshore flora and fauna and CCWA has been supporting the review of its regulatory frameworks.

The Protect Ningaloo campaign has been established this year in partnership with Cape Conservation Group and Australian Marine Conservation Society. The campaign is building community awareness of this new threat to Ningaloo and the Gulf, and working prevent the damaging development from proceeding in this location.

Hosted and supported at CCWA, the campaign has already made significant progress in its first year, creating a significant supporter network, active online presence, and many events and engagements.

We look forward to further building on this groundwork towards a successful campaign in 2019.

PHOTO: Baby Humpback Whale CREDIT: Christopher Michel



WASTE, POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

CCWA's long term focus on improving waste management, environmental regulation and pollution control has continued feature prominently in our efforts this year.

This has included representing the sector on government boards and committees, engaging the media, undertaking research, supporting advocacy by CCWA Member Groups, and facilitating community participation in government decision making.

WASTE & RECYCLING



PHOTO: Sarah English attempting a waste-free grocery trip in 2017

Over the last year, CCWA has invested considerable time and effort in advocating for improvements to waste management and recycling in WA.

Participating in the Stakeholder Advisory Group and Technical Working Groups for the McGowan Government's 10c Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) or beverage containers has been a time consuming but important exercise, as the design of the scheme will determine its ultimate success.

As the beverage industry positions to take control of the scheme, CCWA has represented the interests of the community and the environment to ensure the scheme delivers the best environmental outcomes for both metro and regional WA.

As part of our efforts on waste and recycling, we conducted significant research into community attitudes on the issue this year. The survey conducted by Patterson Research Group shows overwhelming public support for governments to get tough on plastic pollution and do more to support local recycling activity here in WA:

- 74% support bans on the giveaway of plastic drinking straws at bars, cafes, and restaurants.
- 74% of respondents also supported banning plastic packaging that cannot be recycled locally is also a popular option, with also supporting this option.
- 69% of respondents support regulations to mandate that packaging contain recycled content, as a way to drive increased recycling activity.
- 70% support government-assisted local recycling industries rather than shipping waste overseas for recycling (7% support) or burning our waste to create energy (14% support)

These results show that despite the actions being taken by the McGowan Government to ban plastic bags and introduce a CDS, the community is ready to support and embrace stronger action.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Engagement with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process continues to be an important activity for CCWA.

This includes referring projects for assessment, making formal and informal submissions and representation to the EPA, and where necessary lodging appeals against EPA decisions and recommendations where they are out of step with community values.

Assisting the the community to engage with these process is also an important and ongoing part of our work.

In addition to engaging with the EIA on specific development proposals, CCWA continues to advocate for strengthened EIA processes and policies, increased independence, and additional resources for the EPA.

PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES

CCWA continues to advocate for improvements to the way water resources are managed and protected in WA, including through the Water Reform Stakeholder Advisory Group.

A particular focus is to ensure that water allocations are sustainable in the changing climate, and that water quality is protected from industrial and other pollution sources.



REPRESENTATION ON ADVISORY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

REPRESENTATION ON ADVISORY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

One of the critical functions that is provided by CCWA is representing the WA conservation sector on a wide range of different government forums and consultation processes.

Boards, committees and working groups that CCWA has represented the community on during the year include:

- Environmental Protection Authority Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Water Reform Stakeholder Reference Group
- Keep Australia Beautiful Council
- Department of Mines and Petroleum Environmental Liaison Committee
- Consultation forum for the review of the Strategic Assessment for the Perth-Peel Region
- Cockburn Sound Management Committee
- Perth Air Quality Management Committee
- Department of Environmental Regulation Stakeholder Reference Group
- Roe 8 Rehabilitation Working Group



OUR FINANCES

SUMMARY

Thanks to two significant unexpected bequests received during the 2017/2018 financial year, for the first time since 2015 the Council has been able to report a significant surplus at the end of the year.

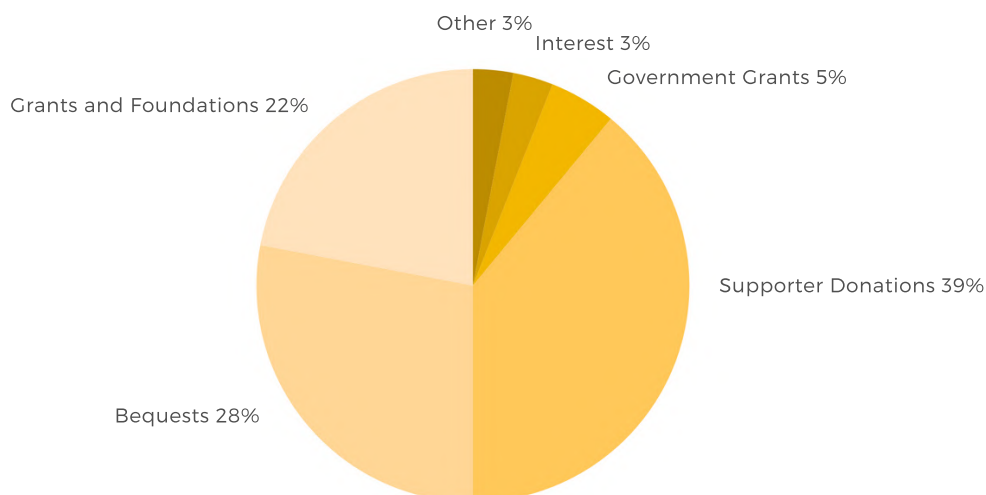
Due to the the far sighted generosity of these bequestors, the Council will be creating a dedicated Bequest Fund which will be invested in an ethical investment portfolio with oversight from the existing Conservation Trust. Dividends from this Fund will provide the Council a modest but reliable source of income to support its operations, while the capital will be preserved for critical needs while adding a level of financial security that the Council has not had in the past.

After three years without any Federal or State government funding, the Council was able to secure modest grant funding from the State government in the financial year 2017/18. This grant funding supports core operational expenditure, and enables CCWA to more effectively consult and represent the sector in a variety of ways that are important to CCWA and the State Government.

INCOME

The Council's Consolidated Surplus for the financial year that ended on 30th June 2018 was \$754,353, largely due to the two unexpected and unbudgeted bequests received during the financial year.

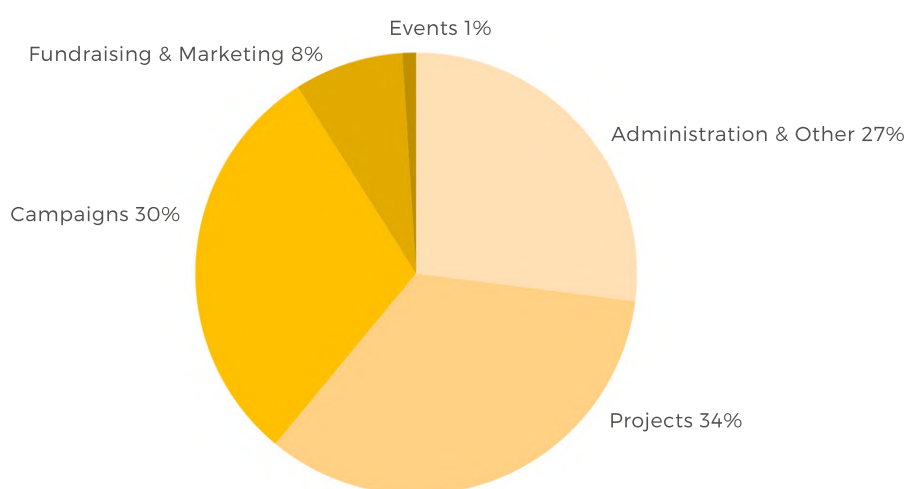
The Council and Trusts consolidated income for the Financial that ended on the 30th of June 2018 was \$2,695,119, 39% of which was from donations, 28% from bequests and 22% from non-government grant funding and foundations.



EXPENDITURE

Consolidated Expenditures for the year was \$1,940,766. 34% was spent on projects, 30% on community engagement and advocacy, and 27% on operational expenses and fundraising.

Considerably less was spent on fundraising compared to the previous year - 8% of annual expenditure in 2017/18 as opposed to 15% of annual expenditure in 2016/17. The Council continues to explore new and innovative methods of fundraising, like crowdfunding and peer to peer fundraising, leveraging the reach and impact of the Council's community engagement and social media.



The Council and Trusts consolidated financial position remains strong with Consolidated Reserves at \$1,737,141 and Cash Holdings at the end of the financial year at \$1,053,012.

THANK YOU

The Conservation Trust of WA

Thanks to our generous donors, strongly performing ethical investments, and effective oversight by the Conservation Trust and Investments Committee, the Conservation Trusts Endowment Fund has continued to grow steadily. At the end of the financial year 2017/18 the reserves stood at \$1,101,742 – an increase of 7% from the previous year.

Thank you to our generous community

CCWA's achievements during the year would not have been possible if were not for the tremendous contributions from our generous and farsighted supporters, private donors, bequestors, sponsors, and regular monthly supporters. We are deeply grateful for those people in our community who invest in the protection of our environment and a more sustainable future. We are confident that partnering with CCWA provides outstanding and enduring impact for every dollar that is donated.

