

Conservation Council of Western Australia Annual Report

2024–2025



**Conservation
Council of WA**

CCWA respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk People of the Noongar nation, along with the Traditional Owners of all Countries where it works. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. CCWA seeks to always walk alongside our Aboriginal partners, recognising their continued connection through land, sea, culture, and community.



Contents



04	Foreword from the President and the Executive Director
07	CCWA Board and Indigenous Advisory Board
08	Our team
09	Our organisational structure
10	Our members
12	Our programs
13	Citizen Science
16	Nature
19	Fossil Fuels
22	Better Climate
24	Policy and Research
26	Media and social media
28	Events
32	Our partners
33	Our funders
34	Financials

Foreword from the President and the Executive Director

The unprecedented environmental challenges of 2023/24 continued this year with no respite. The year was marked by both a severe marine heatwave with coral bleaching in the north of the state, and by state and federal approval of the North West Shelf extension to 2070. Together, these events highlight the dual pressures confronting our environment: the escalating impacts of climate change and the continued prioritisation of extractive development over environmental protection.

These pressures have been compounded by policy setbacks. The passage of the Environmental Protection Amendment Bill 2024 further diminished the independence of the EPA, while the withdrawal of the Climate Change Bill has left Western Australia as the only state with rising emissions and no 2030 reduction target.

Yet 2024/25 also demonstrated the power and progress of community advocacy. It was a year of both state and federal elections, where the environment and climate were clearly shown to matter deeply to many. In both elections, the electorate of Fremantle – and the work done by Environs Kimberley, the Lock the Gate Alliance with support of a range of environmental groups – showed the power of community campaigning.



“At the heart of our work are our people: our members, staff, board, and supporters who care for nature, the places we love, and the places that make life possible.”



Significant swings against incumbent Labor members reflected strong advocacy against gas expansion, and fracking, and for environmental protection.

Likewise, the End Forest Mining Alliance, with its numerous town hall meetings and submissions, showed the strength of community sentiment in demanding an end to mining in the Northern Jarrah Forests.

CCWA continues to build resilience and capacity within the organisation and our member network, at both governance and operational levels. We now have strong governance structures, a new strategic plan, improved operational processes, and a full complement of staff within our organisational plan. We have completed stage 1 of our constitutional reform process and plan to complete the next stage in the next financial year..

A testament to our resilience is that through two elections, the North West Shelf extension approval, and the End Forest Mining Alliance, we have transitioned across three executive directors while continuing our advocacy work uninterrupted. A big thank you to Jess Beckerling, Mia Pepper, and Matt Roberts for making this possible. For Matt, it was a baptism of fire into the new role – one that he managed with a light touch, providing a steadfast and grounded presence.

Our Citizen Science program, supported by strong community collaboration, continues to grow in reach and impact. And we hope that the collaborative development of Back from the Brink : a Protection Agenda for Nature will provide a strong basis for future advocacy work.

I think about organisational work in terms of culture, processes, and outcomes. And culture for me means people and values. At the heart of our work are our people: our members, staff, board, and supporters who care for nature, the places we love, and the places that make life possible.

Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen our relationships and communication with our member bodies, recognising that our work must encompass local and regional advocacy while addressing the threats posed by those lobbying at state and federal levels to weaken environmental protection and drive an extractive agenda.

Finding ways of supporting each other is important. CCWA is strongest when we work together respectfully and collaboratively.

Having laid down the foundations for a stable organisation, the next year will be focused on what this organisation needs to become to meet the unprecedented challenges before us. We thank you all for your ongoing support.

Dr Richard Yin
Board President

Having stepped into the Executive Director (ED) role in the final month of the 2024/25 period, I want to echo Richard's thanks to Jess Beckerling as the previous ED, and to Mia Pepper, who served as acting ED, to allow a smooth transition for the team. Both have done so much to make CCWA what it is today. I am also lucky to work with an excellent group of people who are here to make sure we keep our environment firmly on the broader agenda and make the changes we so sorely need in the years ahead.

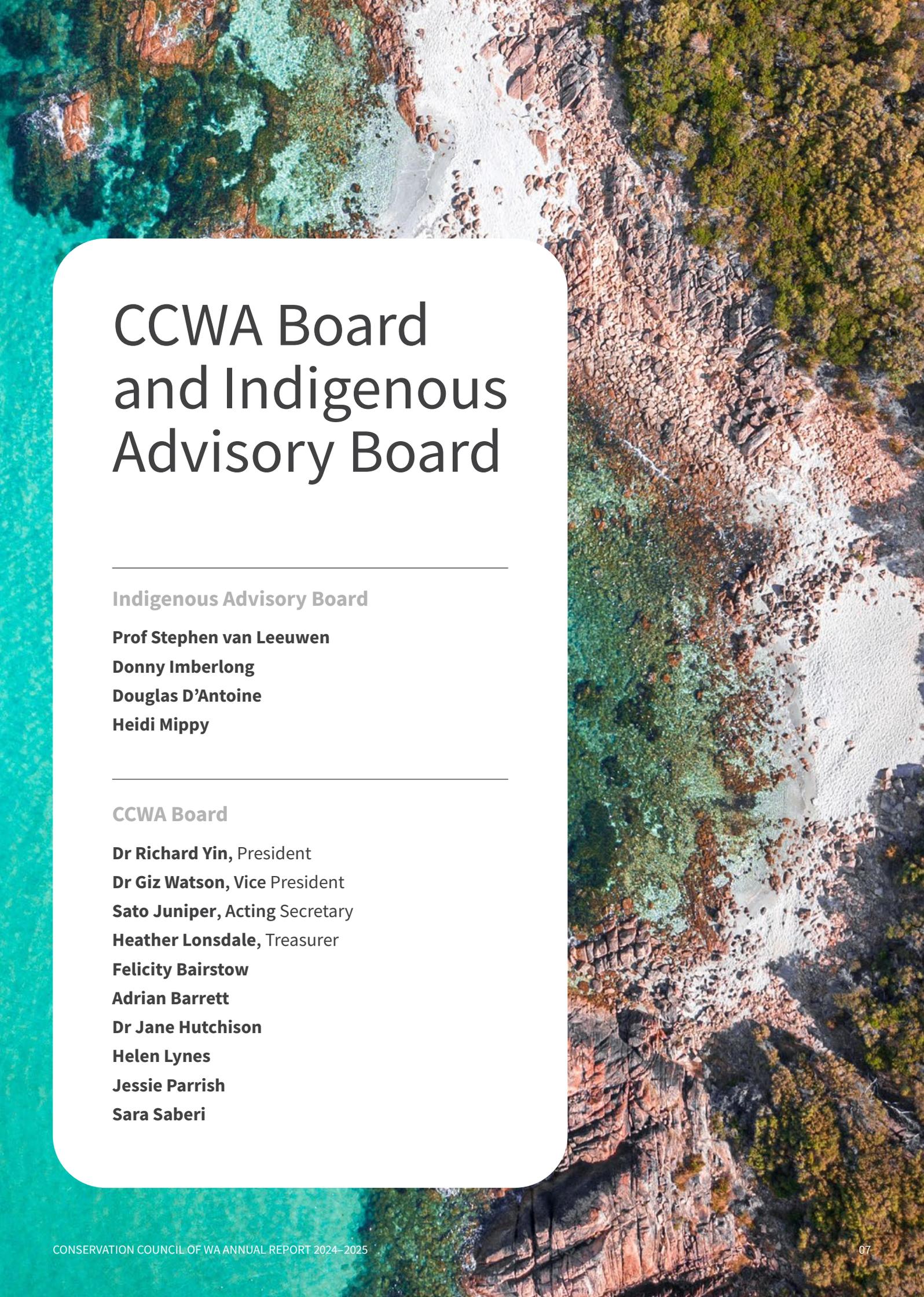
The irony of working in this space is that it can feel like every year things get a bit worse. So, we reach towards words like despair or unprecedented, as we see more flora and fauna shuffle down the column from endangered to critically endangered. Those of us who have been around CCWA for a while know this feeling well. Yet what I've been reminded of in my short time here is the hope that comes from collective action. The CCWA team is dedicated and incredibly smart – and they work hard every day to shift where we are to where we want to be. The volunteers, members, and supporters all give me that same hope – because we want a different future and we won't go quietly in this resource-extraction state.



The coming year has already begun with a full agenda. The environment is not yet on the minds of those who wield power in this state – but they haven't reckoned with our collective action yet. We will make sure that changes. So, thank you for signing up and signing on when asked – there will be more to come, and I look forward to working with you all on that journey.

Matt Roberts
Executive Director





CCWA Board and Indigenous Advisory Board

Indigenous Advisory Board

Prof Stephen van Leeuwen
Donny Imberlong
Douglas D'Antoine
Heidi Mippy

CCWA Board

Dr Richard Yin, President
Dr Giz Watson, Vice President
Sato Juniper, Acting Secretary
Heather Lonsdale, Treasurer
Felicity Bairstow
Adrian Barrett
Dr Jane Hutchison
Helen Lynes
Jessie Parrish
Sara Saberi

Our team

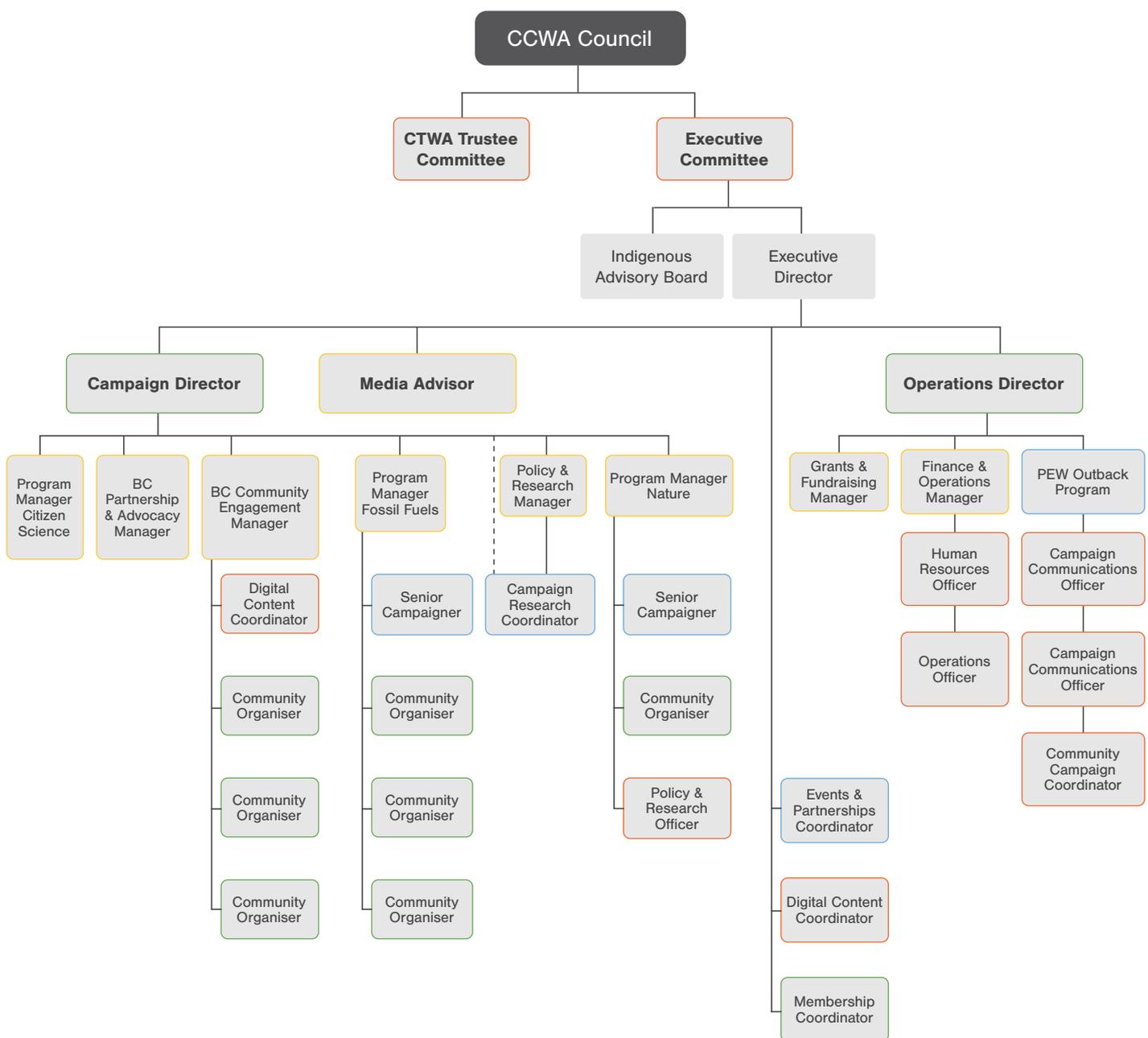
Executive Team

- **Matt Roberts**, Executive Director (part year)
- **Mia Pepper**, Campaign Director/Acting Executive Director (part year)
- **Mark South**, Operations Director (part year)
- **Jessica Beckerling**, Executive Director (part year)

Staff

- **Matthew Berry**, Partnership & Advocacy Manager, Better Climate
- **Sara Boranga**, Events and Partnerships Coordinator
- **Greta Carroll**, Senior Campaigner, Nature/Fossil Fuels
- **Anna Chapman**, Program Manager, Fossil Fuels (part year)
- **John Cooke**, Media Advisor
- **Paul Dielesen**, Campaign Communications Officer, WA Protected Areas (PEW)
- **Kelly Duckworth**, Policy and Research Manager
- **Binu Ekanaike**, Community Organiser, Fossil Fuels
- **Sonya Elek**, Community Organiser, Nature/Fossil Fuels
- **Sarah English**, Community Engagement Manager, Better Climate
- **Paul Goonting**, Finance and Operations Manager
- **Stella Gray Broun**, Campaign Communications Officer, WA Protected Areas (PEW)
- **Rhiannon Hardwick**, Program Manager, Nature
- **Eloise Hogg**, Policy and Research Officer/Community Organiser, Nature
- **Liam Lilly**, Program Coordinator, Fossil Fuels/Campaign Research Coordinator
- **Gerard Mazza**, Program Manager, Fossil Fuels (part year)
- **Katherine Neaves**, Senior Campaigner, Nature
- **Kia Nelson**, Community Campaign Coordinator, WA Protected Areas (PEW)
- **Milly O'Brien**, Community Organiser, Better Climate
- **Belinda O'Brien**, Community Organiser, Better Climate
- **Victoria Pavy**, Community Organiser, Fossil Fuels
- **Caitlin Rule**, Digital Content Coordinator
- **Kelly Sheldrick**, Program Manager, Citizen Science
- **Gill Sheridan**, Relationships Manager (part year)
- **Suzannah Stanford**, Community Campaign Coordinator, WA Protected Areas (PEW)
- **Tahlia Stolarski**, Digital Content Coordinator, Better Climate
- **Dylan Storer**, Membership Officer (part year)
- **Isabella Tripp**, Community Organiser, Clean State (part year)
- **Heidy Verweij**, HR Officer (part year)
- **Maria Williams**, Grants and Fundraising Manager

Organisational Structure





Our members

CCWA represents 85 member groups across Western Australia, reflecting the diversity of the landscapes they protect – from the pindan woodlands and turquoise waters of the north to the forests of the South West, along our vast coastline, and across ancient Gondwana lands.

Many of these groups are long-established – the oldest celebrated its 101st birthday in 2025. Most began by sharing knowledge about WA’s unique flora and fauna or as grassroots collaborations to protect local bushland, and all are united by a deep commitment to WA’s irreplaceable natural environment.

As the pressures on nature continue to increase, the work of our member groups is more important than ever – defending nature, informing communities, and holding decision-makers to account. Their resilience, passion, and dedication continue to make a tangible difference, with many important conservation wins across the state.

▶ 85 member groups

▶ 15000 individuals

Member groups (A-Z)

- Albany Community Environment Centre
- Australian Marine Conservation Society
- Australian Network for Plant Conservation
- Balingup Friends of the Forest
- Bassendean Preservation Group
- BirdLife Australia WA
- Black Cockatoo Preservation Society of Australia
- Blackwood Environment Society
- Bridgetown Greenbushes Friends of the Forest
- Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre
- Cape Conservation Group
- Carbon Positive Australia
- Care for Hedland Environmental Association
- Cocanarup Conservation Alliance
- Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor
- Darling Range Wildlife Shelter
- Denmark Environment Centre
- Doctors for the Environment Australia
- Dwellingup Discovery Forest Defenders
- Ecocean
- Environment House
- Environs Kimberley
- Friends of Australian Rock Art
- Friends of Bindaring Wetland Bassendean
- Friends of Bold Park Bushland
- Friends of Melville Bird Sanctuary
- Friends of Moore River Estuary
- Friends of Paganoni Swamp
- Friends of Porongurup Range
- Friends of Star Swamp Bushland
- Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park
- Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland
- Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park

- Gondwana Link
- Grandparents (WA) for Climate Action
- Green Skills
- Hands Off Point Peron
- Invasive Species Council
- Jarrahdale Forest Protectors
- Joondalup Community Coast Care Forum
- Lake Mealup Preservation Society
- Leighton Action Coalition
- Local Environmental Awareness Forum (Esperance)
- Mandurah Environment and Heritage Group
- Margaret River Regional Environment Centre
- Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council
- Nature Conservation Margaret River Region
- Nature Reserves Preservation Group
- Northern Agricultural Catchment Council
- Nuclear Free WA
- Peel Preservation Group
- Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
- Perth Bushwalkers Club
- Perth Hills Climate Change Interest Group
- Port Kennedy Land Conservation District Committee
- Preserve Gnarabup
- Quinns Rocks Environmental Group
- Rockingham Regional Environment Centre
- Save Beeliar Wetlands
- Save the Nullarbor
- Sea Shepherd Australia
- South Coast Natural Resource Management
- South West Environment Centre
- South West Forests Defence Foundation
- Sustainable Energy Now
- Sustainable Population Australia
- Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group
- The Alliance for a Clean Environment
- The Frenchman Bay Association
- The Rottne Society
- The Wilderness Society WA
- Toodyay Friends of the River
- Toodyay Naturalists' Club
- Urban Bushland Council WA
- WA Naturalists' Club
- Waterbird Conservation Group
- Western Australia Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group
- Western Australian Forest Alliance
- Western Australian Speleological Group
- Wetlands Conservation Society
- Wildflower Society of Western Australia



Our programs

The 2024/25 year was a whirlwind for CCWA programs, our members, supporters, and partners.

We mobilised against attacks on our state nature laws, we stood up against the dangerous decision to approve the extension of the North West Shelf gas hub, the Federal Coalition plans for nuclear power in Collie, Alcoa's expansion plans for bauxite mining in the Northern Jarrah Forest and much more.

We held out hope for a strong Climate Bill in WA and long-awaited Federal EPBC (nature laws) reforms. Both were watered down and then undermined by political power plays from the WA state government, backed by industry interests.

During the state and federal elections, we worked to help voters understand how their vote could support nature and climate protection. Polling later reflected a significant increase in support for environmental issues.

Amidst these peaks and troughs, our Citizen Science program delivered incredible on-the-ground research and training, bringing together academics, nature lovers and students, making new discoveries, building capability, and deepening community connection to nature.

Meanwhile, the Policy and Research team continued to cover significant ground responding to projects ranging from carparks and sand mines to nuclear-powered submarines; participating in stakeholder roundtables and appeals meetings and senate inquiries. This team has also secured some of the clearest wins in the organisation: from uncovering documents through FOI, to prompting the EPA to accept third party referrals and securing stronger environmental conditions through appeals. Their work is often unseen but immensely important.

At times this work has been grueling but the program teams, dedicated volunteers, and member groups have not missed a beat – taking every opportunity to take a stand, demonstrate our collective power, and push back on damaging decisions and policies.

We have made some real progress across the programs to identify and understand where CCWA can be most effective: finding better ways to support the environment movement, demonstrate political power, and influence the policies and decisions that matter most for protecting nature and climate.

Mia Pepper
Campaign Director



Our programs

Citizen Science

CCWA's Citizen Science program gives communities across WA hands-on experience in a wide range of conservation projects: from seabird monitoring to bat surveys and habitat restoration. By working with scientists, students, volunteers, and community groups, the program improves understanding of local ecosystems, empowers communities, and helps protect WA's native species and biodiversity.

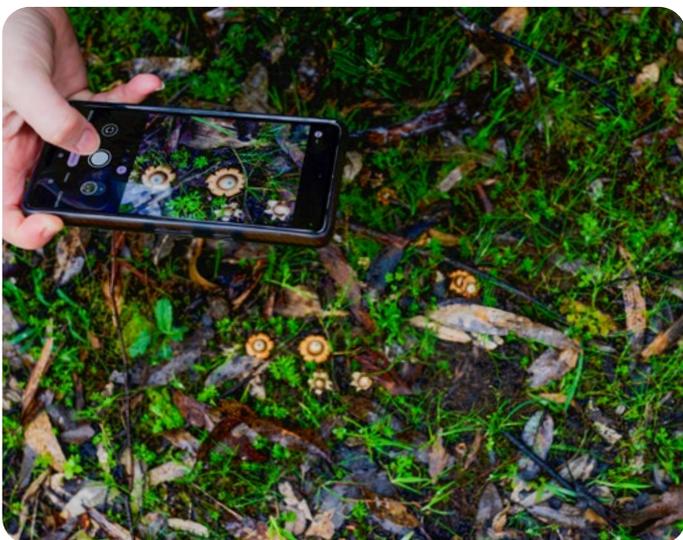


The success of our Citizen Science program – led by a team of one, Citizen Science Program Manager Kelly Sheldrick – continues to rely on the incredible support and participation of volunteers, community groups, and partner organisations. These relationships are essential to delivering meaningful environmental outcomes.

Highlights from the year include:

Little Penguin project, Penguin Island

Delivered with support from a State NRM grant and led by Murdoch University conservation biologist Dr Erin Clitheroe, this project saw the installation of new nest boxes and mist-cooling stations, as well as completing habitat maintenance to support the local Little Penguin population.

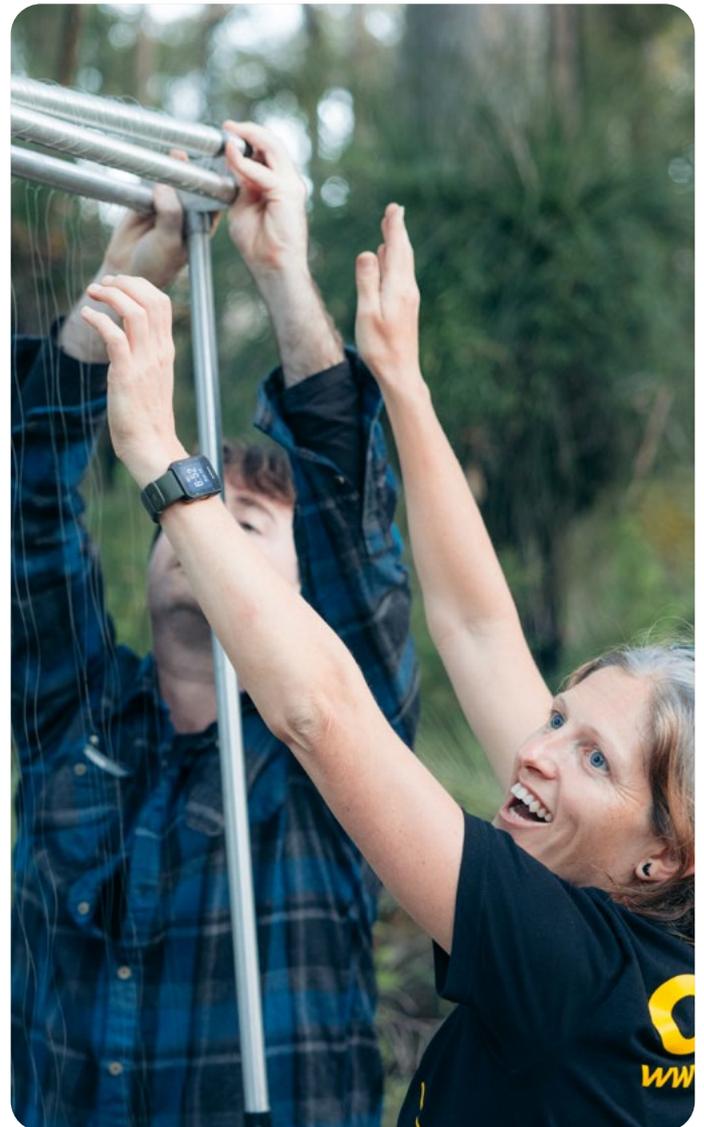


Christmas Island fundraising event

To commemorate the extinction of the Christmas Island Pipistrelle, Kelly ran the Christmas Island Marathon dressed as a bat on 25 August, raising funds for summer bat surveys in the South West. We also hosted the island's first-ever Bat Night, attracting over 90 attendees, making it the island's most well-attended nature event to date.

Monthly bat box monitoring

Ongoing surveys continued at Canning River Regional Park in collaboration with the City of Canning. An additional three sites are now monitored by trained citizen scientists.





Balijup sanctuary annual fauna monitoring

In partnership with Green Skills Denmark, over 20 volunteers assisted in fauna monitoring of quenda, possums, phascogales, bats, and birds at Balijup Sanctuary.

Summer bat surveys

Trapping surveys across 24 sites identified eight bat species, supported by 86 volunteers. Results were presented to several community groups, as well as at the International Bat Research Conference and the Biodiversity Conference. Publications from these projects are currently in progress.



Urban and regional bat surveys

A series of bat acoustic surveys were run in partnership with the City of Wanneroo and DBCA, involving 67 participants. Across 12 sites, 23 acoustic surveys were completed. Early results show Gould's wattled bat (*Chalinolobus gouldi*) as the most recorded species in urban areas, contrasting to surveys carried out further south where Southern Forest Bats (*Vespadelus regulus*) were more frequently recorded.

The Citizen Science Program continues to grow in reach and impact, driven by strong collaborations and community passion for nature.

- Delivered 30 community talks and events
- Hosted 5 citizen science interns
- Participated on the judging panel for the Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science
- Supported the annual Great Southern Bioblitz

Our programs

Nature

The Nature program is dedicated to protecting and restoring WA's biodiversity. Over the past year, as the team has grown and the program has become more established, our work has evolved to address the political and environmental challenges we face. This includes campaigning for stronger laws, supporting grassroots action, and developing a positive vision for biodiversity protection through *Back from the Brink: A Protection Agenda for Nature*.



Election period mobilisation

In the lead-up to the state and federal elections, the program distributed over 700 cockatoo and bushland placards and launched a digital forest-focused scorecard. Collaborating with the Urban Bushland Council, member groups, and other community partners, we elevated the Save the Black Cockatoos campaign and highlighted the environmental reforms needed ahead of the state election. Three casual organisers supported the *Federal EPA Now!* campaign through yard sign and flyer distribution, door-knocking, phone banking, and community events.



Protection agenda for nature

The Nature program launched *WA at the Crossroads: A Protection Agenda for Nature* at the CCWA Conference in November 2024. Developed collaboratively with the Defend WA's Nature Alliance, the report sets out a positive vision for biodiversity protection. Since its release, the program has engaged with government departments and ministers to refine and advance key policy recommendations.



Movement support and alliance building

The program has strengthened collaboration across the environmental movement, partnering with member groups and community organisations on campaigns and policy advocacy. This includes work with Preserve Gnarabup, Save the Nullarbor, Save Rockingham's Little Penguins, Save the Black Cockatoos Coalition, BirdLife WA, Save Our Sandalwood, and Stop the Banksia Road Sand Mines.

The team has been a member of the End Forest Mining Alliance, working with WA Forest Alliance, Wilderness Society, LEAP, Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance, NRPG, Paddy Pallin, Dwellingup Discovery Forest, Peel Environmental Protection Alliance, Doctors for the Environment Australia, ACF Community Perth, and Jarrahdale Forest Protectors. This alliance focuses on stopping further clearing of WA's South West forests for mining and securing their protection in reserve areas.

The Nature program coordinated the WA Nature Alliance campaign, contributing to seven public events, including two major actions with over 200 participants each. A joint advertising campaign with the Australian Marine Conservation Society reached new audiences through newspaper, social media, and a Mitchell Freeway billboard.

This year, CCWA joined Bush Heritage, WA Forests Alliance, Wildflower Society of WA, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, and Pew Charitable Trusts to form the WA Better by Nature Alliance. The Alliance builds public support and secures long-term commitments to protect WA's iconic landscapes.

Through public outreach, communications, and stakeholder engagement, the Alliance builds on the success of the WA Government's Plan for Our Parks, highlights private land conservation, and champions Aboriginal-led initiatives and innovative partnerships. Activities have included engagement with park users, Aboriginal organisations, tourism operators, land managers, and broader communities across WA, strengthening the collective voice for conservation, and driving action to protect WA's landscapes for future generations.

Collective advocacy and lobbying efforts included:

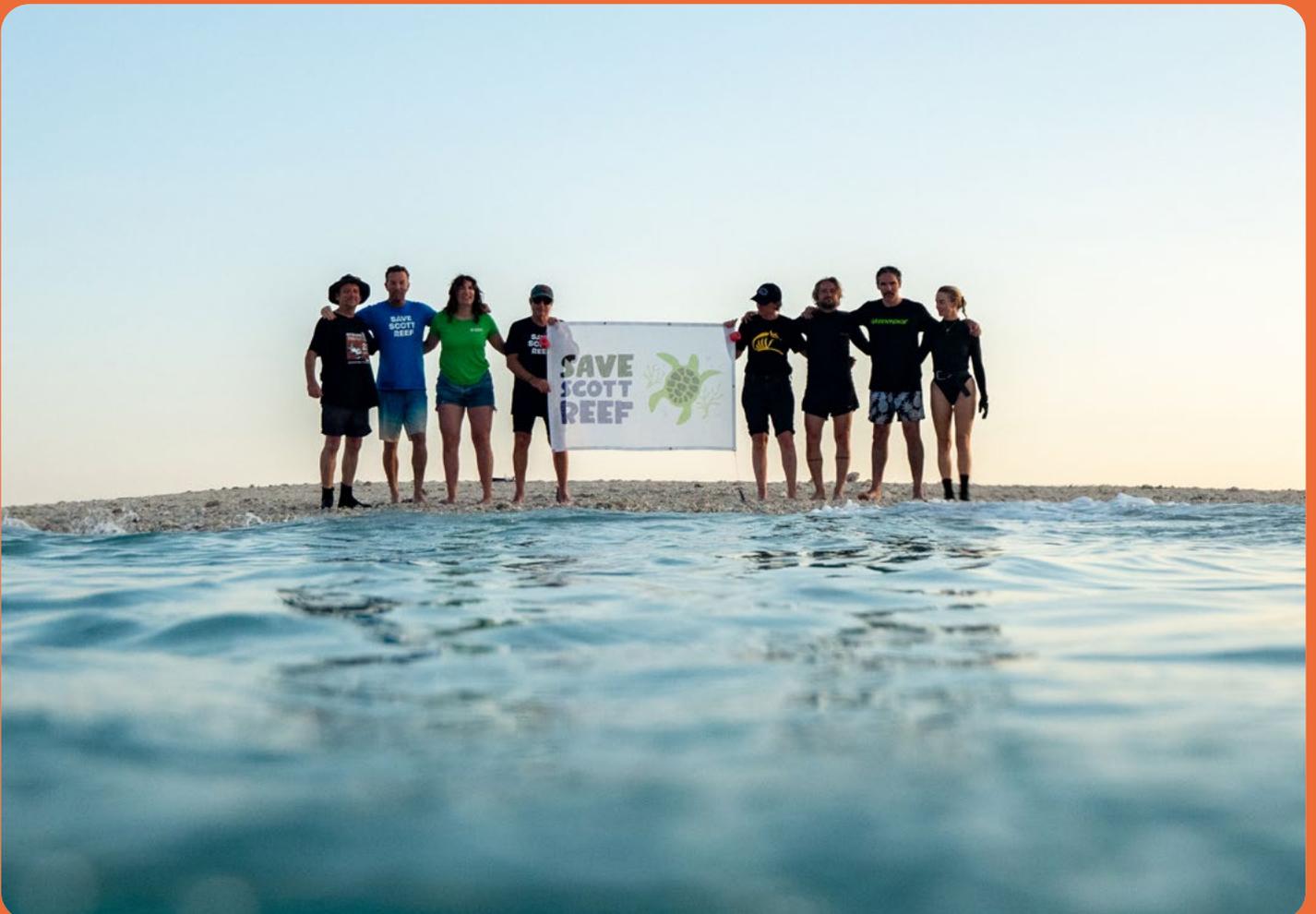
- Sent 3,000 supporter emails to state and federal decision-makers
- Sent more than 130 letters to MPs from CCWA
- Met with ten federal and seven state MPs
- Coordinated advocacy at four governmental workshops ahead of the Environmental Protection Amendment Bill 2025
- Provided communication and policy research support to Stop the Banksia Road Sand Mines' campaign, leading to the proponent dropping the application to clear 11.6 hectares of Banksia Woodlands south of Perth.



Our programs

Fossil Fuels

The Fossil Fuels program campaigns to highlight the risks fossil fuel expansion poses to WA's climate and natural environment, while challenging the social licence of the fossil fuel industry. The team combines evidence-based advocacy, policy engagement, and community collaboration to support a transition toward a cleaner energy future.



Over 2024/25, the team worked with partner organisations and grassroots groups to build upon community opposition to new gas projects and raise awareness of their impacts on climate, nature, and cultural heritage.

The campaign against Woodside's Burrup Hub remained a key focus. State and Federal approvals for the North West Shelf project highlighted the influence of the gas industry and the policy challenges in addressing climate change. Ahead of the approval CCWA published an open letter in The Australian, signed by more than 70 scientists and experts, and coordinated a 500-person rally at WA Parliament House. Following the decision, CCWA supported community actions at MP offices across the state and at Woodside headquarters, engaging hundreds of Western Australians.

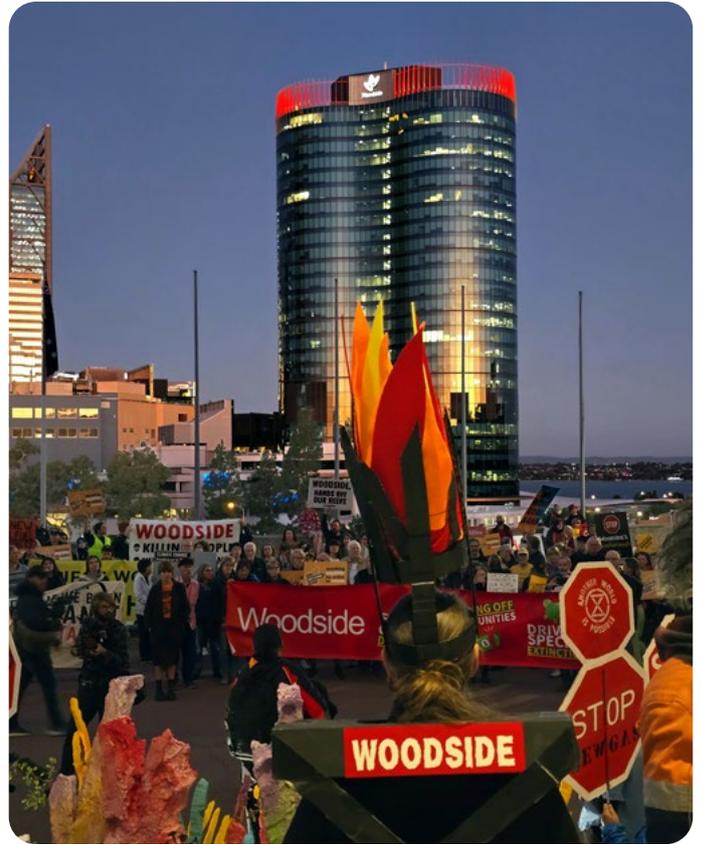
The Browse gas project, which would supply the North West Shelf processing facility and threaten marine ecosystems at Scott Reef off the Kimberley coast, has not yet received environmental approvals. The WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) received a revised proposal this year, following a previous version deemed "unacceptable." CCWA and our partners facilitated over 17,500 public submissions opposing the project, commissioned scientific research on Scott Reef, and met with the EPA to present evidence of environmental risks. The EPA has indicated the revisions do not substantially alter the proposal.

CCWA also joined with Greenpeace Asia Pacific, The Australian Conservation Foundation, the Australian Marine Conservation Society, and Environs Kimberley to form the Save Scott Reef Alliance. The Alliance has made joint representations to state and federal politicians and coordinated national protest actions.



As part of this work, CCWA facilitated a visit to Scott Reef for prominent Western Australians, including author Tim Winton, musician John Butler, and marine biologist Brinkley Davies, to observe the area's unique marine ecosystems and the risks posed by gas exploration. Filmmaker Jane Hammond joined the trip and, in collaboration with CCWA, produced Corals' Last Stand, a social impact documentary highlighting Scott Reef's ecological significance. The film has since been screened internationally, presented to policymakers in Canberra, and shared with communities across Australia, demonstrating CCWA's commitment to using creative storytelling to broaden engagement with environmental issues.

CCWA also continues to support the grassroots climate movement, facilitating six Go Beyond Gas community groups that run regular events, outreach activities, and meetings with decision-makers. Together with partners including Environs Kimberley and Lock the Gate, the team continues to advocate for stronger protections and an orderly transition away from fossil fuels.



Our programs

Better Climate

The Better Climate program is focused on driving a transition to renewable energy in Western Australia that is fast, fair, and nature friendly.

Over the past year, the team has engaged with community, unions, industry, and government representatives, convening webinars and workshops to bring together the diverse voices shaping WA's energy future. Representation at national forums has included participation in the Renew Australia for All alliance launch in Canberra, meetings with state and federal MPs, and speaking on panels at events such as the Smart Energy Council's WA Renewables and Clean Exports Summit.

The program has worked collaboratively with partners to co-launch several key reports:

- Forging Our Future – outlining opportunities to cut climate pollution by transforming the steel industry.
- States of Transition – assessing how Australian states and territories are progressing on renewable energy.
- WA Can't Wait – detailing the economic benefits of establishing a domestic decommissioning industry.

In the lead-up to the state and federal elections, the team hosted forums in Curtin and Bullwinkel, where hundreds of people heard from candidates. A pre-election policy platform was also released, alongside voter engagement activities such as climate scorecards, polling booth outreach, and coordinated signage across key electorates.





Following the elections, attention turned to policy engagement and public submissions at both state and federal levels.

Campaigns reached more than 100,000 people across social media, with over 8,000 email subscribers and hundreds of community members taking direct action by contacting MPs or contributing to policy consultations.

Priority issues included advocating for an ambitious 2035 climate target, the release of the National Climate Risk Assessment, and ensuring strong community benefits from renewable energy projects.

In the year ahead, the Better Climate program will continue to advocate for a just and sustainable economy for Western Australia – one where people and nature thrive together.

Policy and Research

The Policy and Research team ensures CCWA's advocacy is informed, evidence-based, and effective. By monitoring government and industry consultative processes, the team provides expert submissions on a wide range of development and policy proposals and represents CCWA's interests in key decision-making forums.





In 2024/25, the team strengthened CCWA’s influence in environmental policy by contributing to appeals, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) referrals, and government consultations, and by providing strategic advice and operational support to other CCWA programs and member groups. This included guidance on offsets policies, appeals processes, and proposed amendments to the EPA.

Policy and Research also represented CCWA at workshops, conferences, and parliamentary hearings on issues such as AUKUS and nuclear regulation, as well as continuing to advocate for strong environmental governance through its roles on the Cockburn Sound Management Council (statutory body), EPA Stakeholder Reference Group, and Container Deposit Scheme Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Over the past year, Policy and Research made **101 submissions to government consultative processes**, covering 12 agencies, on a broad range of proposals including mining, oil and gas, land clearing, renewables, anti-nuclear, waste, urea, hydrogen, and policy development.

Major submissions included:

- Mining Regulations Amendment 2024
- Westport
- Nature Positive Bill
- Worsley Mine Expansion
- Removal of Oil and Gas Property in Commonwealth Waters guidance
- Waste Strategy
- Sustainable Ocean Plan
- Valhalla Gas Exploration (fracking)
- Nullarbor Hydrogen Proposal
- Gnarabup Tourism Development
- Smiths Beach Project
- Browse to NWS
- AUKUS
- Future Gas Strategy

Appeals

Policy and Research lodged **19 appeals** with the Office of the Appeals Convenor and met with the Convenor to discuss 16 of these. This process allowed CCWA to influence ministerial decision-making, resulting in strengthened environmental conditions for several projects.

Government consultations and EPA referrals

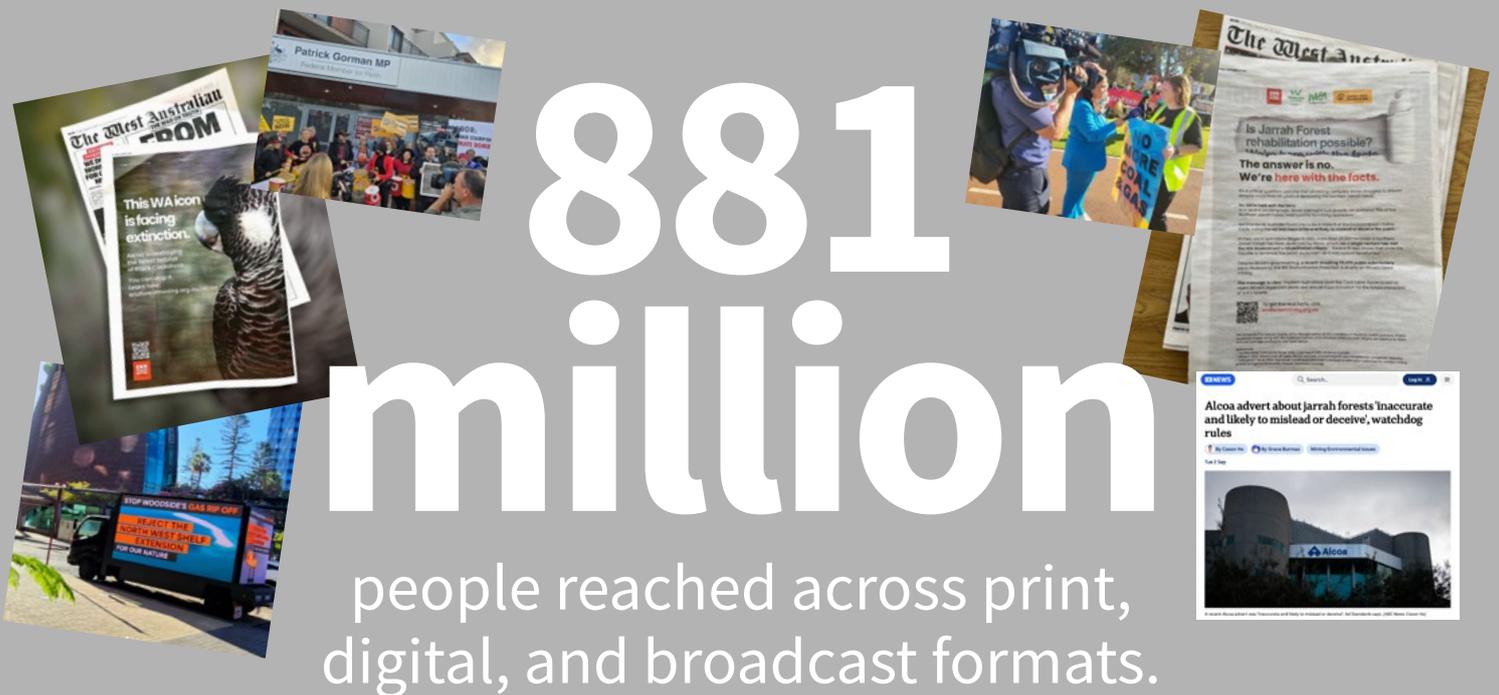
The team was actively involved in direct consultations with agencies including the EPA, DWER, and DBCA on policy development, legislative changes, and future strategy. Policy and Research referred three projects to the EPA under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, with one proceeding to further review.

Media

There has been a sustained and strong increase in media coverage of CCWA activities over 2024/25 which has significantly boosted the organisation's profile. This coverage has focused on our work in the areas of climate, nature, citizen science, and fossil fuels expansion.

Over this period, CCWA has continued to build a credible and strong voice across the Australian media landscape, generating ongoing interest from journalists and social commentators seeking comment from Executive Directors Jess Beckerling, Mia Pepper (acting), and Matt Roberts as thought leaders on environmental issues.

The top categories of media activity have included Woodside's North West Shelf decision and Browse assessment process and Alcoa's mining expansion proposal in the Northern Jarrah Forest. High profile news stories have also covered the EPBC reforms and stronger nature laws, the WA EPA Vogel-McFerran Review, State and Federal Election commentary, and Chevron's contamination on Barrow Island.



881 million
people reached across print, digital, and broadcast formats.

2,660

Media stories attributable to CCWA

2.25m

Total daily reach

Social media

Percentage increase or decrease
in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24

Instagram

	Reach	Engagement	Follows
	+599%	+95%	+183%
	+2,800%	+277%	+3,500%

Facebook

	Reach	Engagement	Follows
	+683%	+152%	+53%
	+1,400%	+187%	+63%
	+6,900%	+948%	+32%
	+408%	+132%	-22%

Events

In 2024/25, CCWA brought people together through a diverse calendar of public events that inspired action, built community, and celebrated the power of environmental advocacy. Across conferences, forums, film screenings, and our annual awards night, more than 1,000 attendees joined us to support our campaigns, deepen their knowledge, and strengthen the movement for nature and climate.



Environment Matters

Our Environment Matters forums continued to be a cornerstone of community engagement, addressing critical environmental issues and mobilising public discussion.

Topics included:

- WA's Nature: From Crisis to Action – exploring the state's biodiversity crisis and CCWA's new Nature Program.
- Birds of a Feather: Saving the Black Cockatoo – spotlighting efforts to protect these iconic species.
- Fighting Fire with Fire – calling for an independent review of WA's prescribed burning practices amid growing community concern following the region's longest recorded drought.

Each forum brought together scientists, stakeholders, Traditional custodians representatives, and community members to share knowledge and envision a more sustainable future for Western Australia.

Special screenings

We hosted a series of environmental film screenings that sparked connection and dialogue, including:

- Climate Changers – featuring Tim Flannery, exploring the leadership needed to confront the climate crisis.
- Corals' Last Stand – a social impact documentary highlighting the fight to protect Scott Reef, launched in Leederville and Fremantle.



CCWA Annual Conference 2024 – Nature First

Our 2024 Annual Conference was our biggest and most inspiring yet. Held at The Wetlands Centre Cockburn, it brought together Aboriginal leaders, researchers, campaigners, and community members united by a shared goal: to put nature at the heart of decision-making.

The program covered a wide range of topics, from climate resilience and wetland restoration to clean energy, mapping tools, and WA's contribution to the global 30x30 conservation targets.



Highlights included:

- Nature's Storytellers yarning circle, where Aboriginal leaders shared cultural perspectives on caring for Country.
- Panels on advocacy resilience, conservation success stories, and tools for local action.
- A dedicated space for CCWA member groups to connect, share, and collaborate.

The conference celebrated our community's collective strength and commitment to driving systemic change for nature and climate.

It was supported by funding partners Lotterywest, City of Cockburn, Perth NRM, and Murdoch University.



30th Community Conservation Awards

Held alongside the conference sundowner, the Awards recognised the dedication, courage, and innovation of WA's environmental champions.

Honourees included:

- Bessie Rischbieth Award: Prof Anne Poelina
- Community Group Award: Torbay Catchment Group
- Conservation Employee: Adam Peck
- Sustainable Business: Hazel Law (The Curated Wardrobe)
- Volunteer of the Year: Diane Evers
- Young Environmentalist: Jacquie Bicanic
- Science Award: Dr Grey Coupland
- Direct Action Award: Disrupt Burrup Hub
- CCWA Honours List: Liam Lilly, Diana Corban, Dr Carole Peters, and Genevieve Hanran-Smith

End-of-Year Celebration

We celebrated our shared achievements and commitment to the year ahead with a community gathering at Perth City Farm. The event was a reminder that together, we are a powerful force for nature and climate action in Western Australia.



Our partners

Partnerships and collaborations are at the heart of CCWA's work, helping us to grow the environmental and conservation movement in Western Australia. By sharing knowledge and resources and taking collective action, we strengthen our ability to respond to challenges and advocate for meaningful policy and systems change.

- Australian Steel Institute
- Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union
- Australian Citizen Science Association
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Australian Marine Conservation Foundation
- Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- Capes Foundation
- City of Canning
- City of Wanneroo
- Climate Solutions
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Doctors for the Environment Australia
- Electrical Trade Union
- Environs Kimberley
- Friends of Australian Rock Art
- Green Skills Inc
- Greenpeace
- Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance
- Lock the Gate Alliance
- Maritime Union of Australia
- Murdoch University
- Parents for Climate
- Shire of Yalgoo
- Smart Energy Council
- Stop the Banksia Road Sand Mines
- Sustainable Energy Now
- Teachers for Climate
- The Australia Institute
- The Wilderness Society
- UnionsWA
- University of Western Australia
- Urban Bushland Council
- WA Council of Social Services
- WA Forest Alliance
- WA Local Government Authority
- Wilson Inlet Catchment Council



Our funders

CCWA's work is made possible through the generous support of our donors, community groups, grants, trusts, foundations, and bequests. This support has been instrumental in enabling our campaigns and programs to protect Western Australia's environment.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who share our commitment to safeguarding nature and advancing a clean energy future.

- Australian Citizen Science Association
- Boundless
- City of Cockburn
- Groundswell Giving
- Lotterywest
- Perth NRM
- The Bupa Foundation
- The Koorabup Trust



Financials

Financial statement summary

Statement of profit & loss and other comprehensive income

<i>Year ending 30 June 2025</i>	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
INCOME		
Fundraising	3,041	1,528
Grants	1,929	848
Other Income	302	110
Total Income	5,272	2,486
EXPENDITURE		
Workforce	2,667	1,959
Operations and campaigns	1,821	549
Other Expenditure	474	382
Total Expenditure	4,962	2,890
PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	310	(404)

Financial statement summary cont.

Statement of financial position

<i>Year ending 30 June 2025</i>	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
ASSETS		
Current assets	6,501	4,007
Non-Current assets	365	442
Total Assets	6,866	4,449
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	2,622	480
Non-current liabilities	333	385
Total Liabilities	2,955	865
NET ASSETS	3,911	3,584
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	3,784	3,474
Reserves	127	110
TOTAL EQUITY	3,911	3,584

Auditor's report



Independent Audit Report to the members of Conservation Council Of Western Australia Inc.

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Conservation Council Of Western Australia Inc. (the Charity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements and the responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Charity is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

1. giving a true and fair view of the Charity's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
2. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Basis for opinion

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

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

Emphasis of matter - basis of accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial report, which summarises material accounting policies. The financial report is prepared to assist the Charity in meeting the requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Charity and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Charity. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the responsible person and those charged with governance

The responsible person is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the responsible person determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible person is responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible person either intends to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Charity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report(continued)

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit. We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



Daniel Papaphotis CPA Registered Company Auditor
- 410503
Francis A Jones Pty Ltd
154 High Street
Fremantle WA 6160

Date: 24 September 2025



**Conservation
Council of WA**