



Conservation Council SA
THE VOICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION

A healthy, biologically rich and environmentally sustainable South Australia.

OUR PURPOSE

To act as the voice for the environment in SA representing 60+ member groups with 90,000 combined members.

OUR VALUES

GREATER PURPOSE

We strive to walk a path of wisdom, balance, integrity and shared purpose.

STRONG & HEALTHY

We are free to choose rather than react by being financially independent and powerful.

HOME & HUB

We are a welcoming and nurturing centre for environmental action in South Australia.

INSPIRING PEOPLE

We attract, empower and inspire people to take action, drawing on the wisdom and expertise of our diverse member base.

CREATIVE & DARING

We are adaptable and responsive and act with creativity, boldness, bravery and fun.

60+ MEMBER GROUPS
WITH **90,000** COMBINED MEMBERSHIP



KEY AREAS OF INFLUENCE:

- REPRESENTING THE SECTOR TO POLITICIANS AT FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNCIL LEVELS
- GO-TO SOURCE FOR MEDIA COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENT ISSUES
- CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION WITH MEMBER GROUPS
- EXPERT EVIDENCE-BASED SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY
- REGULAR MEETINGS WITH ENVIRONMENT MINISTER AND OTHER KEY DECISION-MAKERS
- FACILITATING SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NATURE ALLIANCE
- MURRAY-DARLING CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
- CAMPAIGNING IMPACT AND MOVEMENT BUILDING
- APPOINTING REPS TO GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (E.G. PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL AND SA PASTORAL BOARD)

OUR KEY THEMES:



Since 1971, the Conservation Council of South Australia has been committed to protecting, restoring and conserving our unique and beautiful natural spaces, and promoting a truly sustainable future for our state.

As the peak body for SA's environment, we are backed by 90,000+ people from more than 60 member groups across the state. Our role is unique and essential.

We speak for our environment, advocating solutions to government, engaging with the community and informing through the media.

We're not associated with any political party, but we play an active part in our democratic system, encouraging all political leaders to improve their policies and performance on environmental issues.

Together we are a force for nature.

PEAK BODY

From making key submissions on the critical issues that affect our environment to shining a light on our state's nature champions with the annual SA Environment Awards, Conservation SA represents the environment sector as its peak body. As a snapshot, in 2022-23:

WE REPRESENTED

- SA Nature Alliance (facilitation and support)
- Peak Body Forum with SA Premier Peter Malinauskas
- Premier's Climate Change Council
- Greater Adelaide Environment Network
- SA Pastoral Board
- Waste Reference Group
- Single-use Plastics Taskforce
- Places You Love Alliance management committee
- USG Sustainable Development Forum

WE ADVISED

- State of the Environment Report
- State Landscapes Strategy
- Murray-Darling Basin Five-Point Vision
- Northern Water Supply Project
- PIRSA on fishing and aquaculture policy work

WE SUPPORTED

- Action to defend SA's protest laws
- Nature Festival
- Australian Permaculture Convergence
- Heaps Good Planet
- SA Grassroots Ecosystem (SAGE)

WE PRESENTED

- 26th annual SA Environment Awards
- Online Forum with Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek
- Tree Law Forum with Minister Nick Champion
- Creating Positive Change Fellowship program
- *Together We Can* climate action book tour
- Three-state *Life and Death for the Murray* Roadshow (phase 1)
- Planning and Infrastructure Roundtable with Minister Champion
- SA's first Community Climate Panel

JUST A FEW OF OUR ACTIONS AND WINS IN 2022/23

SEP LAUNCHED THE CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE FELLOWSHIP SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR SA CHANGEMAKERS	OCT HELD A BOOKED-OUT COMMUNITY TREE FORUM WITH EXPERT SPEAKERS AND PLANNING MINISTER NICK CHAMPION	FEB RELAUNCHED REEF RAMBLES, PART OF OUR AWARD-WINNING CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM REEF WATCH SA	JUN CO-HOSTED A PACKED ENVIRONMENT FORUM IN ALDINGA WITH TWS, NCCSA AND BIRDS SA	APR LAUNCHED SA ENVIRONMENT MAGAZINE, OUR NEW QUARTERLY E-MAG ON NATURE AND CLIMATE ISSUES	MAY HELD SA'S FIRST COMMUNITY CLIMATE PANEL TO INFORM 2023'S CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS	JUN WON THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT MIRNU WIRRA IN THE SOUTH PARKLANDS FROM PROPOSED POLICE HORSE BARRACKS
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At a stunning ceremony on World Environment Day (5 June), Conservation SA presented the 26th annual SA Environment Awards.

- The winners were:
- Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection: Dr Sarah Wheeler
 - Green Adelaide's Pelzer Prize: James Smith
 - Conservation Science Prize: Dr Anthony Cheshire
 - Innovation Award: Dr Mary Retallack
 - Leif Justham Young Achiever Award: Rhys Abbott
 - Working Together Award: Kangaroo Island Feral Pig Eradication Scheme

The 2023 Inductees into the SA Environment Hall of Fame were Pam Catcheside, Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch, Maureen Christie, Neville Bonney, Enid Robertson (awarded posthumously).

PRESENTED BY CONSERVATION SA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Ngadlu Kurna miyurna tampinhi.

Conservation SA's offices and our home The Joinery sit on Kurna Country.

We show our respect to the Traditional Owners whose lands and waters we engage with across South Australia.

SOME OF OUR 2022-3 PROJECTS

REEF WATCH SA Our award-winning citizen science program Reef Watch SA – now in its 26th year – was relaunched in Feb with a new team (Char Nitschke, Nathan Janetzski and James Tilly) and program of our ever-popular Reef Rambles. We ran 13 public Rambles with more than 100 participants, introducing a new generation of South Australians to the wonders of our reefs.	ADELAIDE SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE Presented by Conservation SA and Green Adelaide, the Adelaide Sustainability Centre had another fantastic year as a community hub, connecting 1,100+ people through 45 events on sustainability and environment in 2022-23. Volunteers are at the heart of the centre, contributing more than 359 hours supporting events, admin and on-ground functions.	COMMUNITY CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS This year, we worked with DemocracyCo. and South Australians for Climate Action to kickstart the country's biggest community climate consultation process – right here in SA – with phase one in May: A 50-person panel of diverse South Australians gathering to advise on the process. The state-wide Community Conversations will take place in late 2023.	THE JOINERY Our home and hub has had another big year as the front door for the environment. As well as offering venue hire and office space for community, business, environment and social organisations, the Joinery also hosted performances and exhibitions during Adelaide Fringe and SALA Festival, and offered guided tours as part of the 2022 SA Nature Festival.	CHANGE FELLOWSHIP In Oct-Nov 2022, we ran the <i>Creating Positive Change Fellowship</i> , a new 8-week program for South Australians passionate about climate action and nature protection to develop practical skills and confidence to make a difference. Expert presenters included Robert Simms MP, journalist Tori Shepherd and Kaurna Elder Uncle Tamaru Smith.
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PROTECTING ADELAIDE'S TREE CANOPY Another huge year for our campaign to protect Adelaide's tree canopy included a powerful comparison report on bushfire exemption laws, submission writing workshops, community outreach events and actions to save irreplaceable local trees on Victor Harbour Rd, Brighton Rd, Dudley St, Glynburn Rd and at the proposed Crows oval in Thebarton.	SAVE ST KILDA MANGROVES Since the St Kilda Mangroves Alliance formed in 2021 we have worked to ensure best practice remediation is put in place for the recovery and long-term health of this globally significant area. This year we facilitated production of the St Kilda Mangrove Community Vision in response to the area's disastrous dieback of mangroves, samphire and salt marsh.	DEFEND OUR PARKLANDS: MIRNU WIRRA When plans were announced for a police horse barracks at Mirnu Wirra (Park 21W) in the southern Park Lands, we stepped in to protect it alongside concerned citizens, Traditional Owners and environment groups. After a strong campaign that included two rallies and a huge community response, the Police Commissioner announced an alternative site in April 2023.	HEALTHY MURRAY-DARLING BASIN As Murray-Darling Basin Plan turned 10 in 2022, we joined with Conservation Councils across the Basin to form the Murray-Darling Conservation Alliance. Together we have coordinated the movement to protect our rivers, from advocating with Federal politicians to connecting community and experts with the <i>Life and Death for the Murray-Darling</i> roadshow.	NO KIMBA NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP After more than a decade, the campaign to block plans for a nuclear waste dump in Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula reached a head this year. We continued to stand behind the Barngarla people as they took their fight to the Federal Court, amplifying their voices and offering events and connection points for community to support this critical campaign.
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SOME OF OUR 2023 CAMPAIGNS

OUR LEADERSHIP

This will be my last Annual Report after 10 years at the helm of the Conservation Council of SA.

Throughout this time, I've always felt an extraordinary privilege to work with so many great people who care about nature and climate, and this year is no different.

And while I've always been impressed by the enormous breadth and scope of the work that we do on behalf of our members and the wider community, I'm especially proud of what we have been able to achieve this year.

There have been many successes and campaign wins this year, which has kept a spring in our step. And all of this has been achieved on a shoestring budget by a small number of skilled and passionate staff and volunteers.

As the climate and biodiversity crises quicken, and those who profit unfairly from the current system fight ever harder to squeeze any profits that remain, the age-old eNGO struggle for funding and financial survival continues.

I finish off this, my final report, with an extra big thank you to each and every person I've had the great pleasure to work with over this year and the previous nine.

CCSA couldn't do what we do without our generous supporters and many project partners, our Board, the representatives of our member groups, and especially our wonderful team of staff and volunteers who always go above and beyond.

It has been an enormous privilege to be at the helm of such a vital organisation through such an important time of change.

I wish each and every one of you the best of luck as you continue to fight the good fight.



CRAIG WILKINS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We want to express our deep gratitude for the trust you've placed in us as co-interim presidents, roles we've assumed with both humility and a keen sense of responsibility.

It has been a remarkable year for our organisation, marked by significant wins and the familiar challenges we face together.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our dedicated Board members past and present for their unwavering support and guidance. Despite our limited experience in these roles, your wisdom has been a guiding light, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such committed individuals.

This year has been a testament to our collective efforts in addressing the climate and biodiversity crises. As we navigate the complexities, we are acutely aware of the work that lies ahead.

Together, we all have the chance to build on our successes, learn from our challenges, be increasingly strategic about how we leverage our unique position and role in South Australia and strengthen our community.

We are committed to working hard, building a strong board, developing a robust strategy that reflects the aspirations of our members and ensures that we grow stronger together.

The Conservation Council South Australia's progress is a reflection of our collective dedication, and we are honoured to be a part of it.

We look forward to working more deeply with the membership and everyone concerned about climate and nature in South Australia to increase our impact.



DAVID BACON AND JULIE HOLLOWAY
INTERIM CO-PRESIDENTS

OUR FINANCES

In 2022–23 financial year, the Council realised a deficit of \$44,200.

The result was better than our budgeted deficit by \$19,000, contributed by improved revenue from various categories and cost savings. Some of the categories with improved revenue include Rental income (up \$12,000), with the application of new accounting standards on donations and sponsorships continue having a positive impact on our project revenue.

Our fundraising revenue dropped slightly by \$5,000 compared to last year. This is in addition to \$3,000 being held on the balance sheet for the depreciation of our Joinery solar panels (funded by our generous supporters).

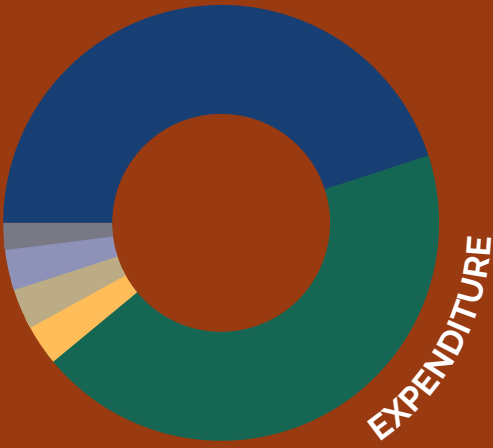
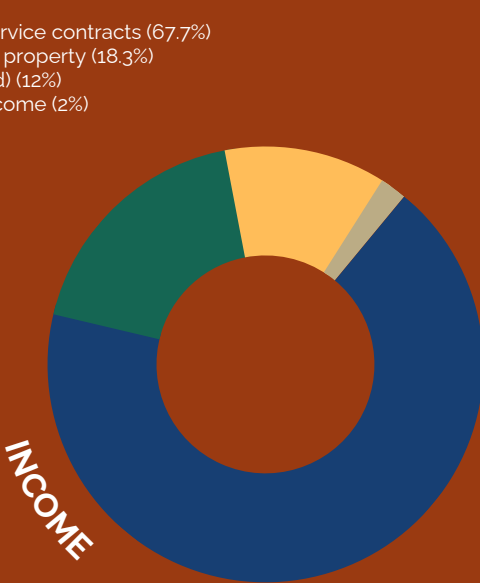
Total revenue decreased by \$152,300 in comparison to 2022 revenue, contributed by a \$163,000 decrease in project grants and service contracts income.

Despite the lower revenue, cost savings realised across various expense categories, resulted in an overall reduced loss compared to both budget and last year results.

Our balance sheet remains strong with Net Quick Assets of 1.51, although lower than 2021–22 ratio. The reduction in the ratio was due to an increase in current liabilities mainly Trade Payables and Project funds received in advance.

FIND FULL AUDITED FINANCE REPORT AT CONSERVATIONSA.ORG.AU

- Project grants and service contracts (67.7%)
- General income incl. property (18.3%)
- Public fund (Gift Fund) (12%)
- Other non-project income (2%)



- Project grants and service contracts (45%)
- Employees and consultants (44%)
- Other (3%)
- General operating (3%)
- Property (3%)
- Communications (2%)

ALLIANCES



OUR PEOPLE

BOARD



DAVID BACON
INTERIM
CO-PRESIDENT



JULIE HOLLOWAY
INTERIM
CO-PRESIDENT



KUNTAL GOSWAMI
TREASURER



MICHAEL CORNISH
DIRECTOR



HUGO HOPTON
DIRECTOR



ANNE NUNN
DIRECTOR



SUE RICHARDSON
DIRECTOR



TAHLIA TAYLOR
DIRECTOR



VANESA DURAN
SECRETARY (FORMER)

STAFF

CRAIG WILKINS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MARK ANDERSON
GENERAL MANAGER

ANDI BROWN
FACILITIES AND
OFFICE MANAGER

KIRSTY KLOSE
RELATIONSHIP
MANAGER

CHAR NITSCHKE
WATER CAMPAIGNER

ERIN SAUTTER
ADELAIDE SUSTAINABILITY
CENTRE COORDINATOR

KATE SUTCLIFFE
COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER

JOANNA WELLS
TREE CAMPAIGNER

TONI ZAMMIT
FINANCE OFFICER

With thanks to expert consultants Rhys Abbott, DemocracyCo., Nathan Janetzski, Gabe Kelly, Josephy Mkandala, Tom Morrison and James Tilly, and wonderful volunteers Sally Francis, Dawn Klose, Margaret Capel and Stuart Chandler.

MEMBER GROUPS

Adopt A Spot
Aldgate Valley Landcare Group Inc
Aldinga Bay Coastcare Inc
Anti Nuclear Coalition
Australian Association for Environmental Education SA
Australian Centre For Sustainable Development Research & Innovation (ACSDRI)
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Electric Vehicle Association
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (SA Group)
Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
Australian Plants Society (SA Region) Inc
Australian Youth Climate Coalition SA
Bike Adelaide
Birds SA
Brownhill Creek Association Incorporated
CEDAMIA
Cheltenham Park Residents Association Inc
Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network Australia

Clean Bight Alliance Australia
Community Alliance SA Inc
Eco-Action KI
Economic Reform Australia Incorporated
Extinction Rebellion SA
Field Naturalists Society of SA
Fishers for Conservation
Fossil Free SA
Friends of Gulf St Vincent
Friends of Parks
Friends of the Earth Adelaide Inc
Friends of Willunga Basin
Gawler Environment & Heritage Association Inc
Greening Australia (SA)
Landcare Association of SA Inc
Landscape Partnerships Inc
Limestone Coast Protection Alliance
National Trust of South Australia
Nature Conservation Society of SA
North East Hills Environmental Conservation Association
Nuclear Operations Watch Port Adelaide

Orienteering SA Inc
Outdoors SA
People for Public Transport
Permaculture Association of SA Inc
Port Adelaide Residents Environment Protection Group
River, Lakes & Coorong Action Group Inc
SA Genetic Food Information Network Inc
Scientific Expedition Group Inc
St Agnes Bushwalking & Natural History Club
Sustainable Communities SA Inc
Sustainable Population Australia SA Branch
Tennyson Dunes Group
Toyota Landcruiser Club of Australia (SA)
The Wilderness Society (South Australia) Inc
Trees For Life
Vegetarian & Vegan Society (VegSA) Inc
Walking SA
West Mallee Protection Group
Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association
Wombats SA
Zoos SA