

Darebin Climate Action Now – Annual Report 2025

Introduction

It gives us great pleasure to present our report for 2025. We hope you enjoy reading about the incredible range of activities we tackled during the year, such as setting up a new home electrification advisory service, film screenings, art exhibitions, submission writing, conversations with residents and students and working hard to influence our elected representatives at the local, state and federal levels of government. If any of our activities are of interest to you, please join us!

Campaigning for the Federal Election May 2025

Cooper Candidates Climate Forum



As part of our activities in the lead-up to the Federal Election in May this year, DCAN's MP Engagement working group organised a Climate Candidates' Forum at Span Community House in Thornbury. The forum was moderated by Professor John Wiseman, with a full house of

approximately 80 people attending. All candidates with climate policies were invited to attend the forum, and Ged Kearney (ALP), Tara Burnett (Greens) and Kath Larkin (Victorian Socialists) accepted. Each candidate talked about why they were seeking to represent the seat of Cooper and what actions they would take on the climate emergency if elected.

A video recording of the forum can be found on DCAN's [YouTube channel](#).

Guidance to Voters

DCAN also distributed a questionnaire to all candidates and developed online voting guidance material based on their responses as well as their party's commitments on climate. We also worked with Vote Climate to produce guidance material for the Senate. Our voting guides were widely distributed through social media and also given out by volunteers at locations like train stations. We received very positive feedback from voters about the information we provided.

Climate Choir Melbourne at Fairfield Village



During the run up to the federal election, DCAN invited the Climate Choir to sing climate songs at Fairfield Village. Several DCAN supporters are members of the choir and took part in the singing while other DCAN volunteers gave away 80 'No More Coal and Gas' fence signs. The choir uses humour

and catchy tunes to communicate the urgent need for voters to think about climate change when they vote. The choir welcomes all newcomers.

Meetings with local state and federal MPs

In our quest to influence governments at all levels to take urgent climate action, regular catch-ups with our local state and federal MPs are core business for DCAN.

State

In our meetings with state MPs, Kat Theophanous, Member for Northcote, and Nathan Lambert, Member for Preston, we have covered topics including: congratulating the state government on its Energy Upgrade Program; explaining DCAN's new initiative on home electrification; expressing our concerns about the Viva Gas terminal; drawing attention to the recommendations of the Climate Resilience Inquiry; our concern at continued native forest logging and recreational shooting; and our strong opposition to the Wollert Incinerator.

We also put forward a proposal to shift the daily gas connection charge from renters to landlords to create a real incentive for rental providers to disconnect from gas rather than putting the burden on renters. We were pleased to see that both Ms Theophanous and Mr Lambert have raised some of these issues in their speeches to parliament as a result of our meetings with them. Both our State MPs have spoken appreciatively about DCAN's work in Parliament (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

Federal

Issues raised in meetings with Ged Kearney, Member for Cooper, have also covered a large range of topics, including: the International Court of Justice ruling regarding states' climate obligations; the need for a strong, ambitious emissions reduction target for 2035; the need for a separate drawdown target; and setting a deadline/date for the end of fossil fuel exports.

We also put forward questions regarding the status of several gas and coal projects, the limitations of the Safeguard Mechanism, and the need for federal government support for Victoria's first offshore wind auction. We were pleased to receive feedback from Ms Kearney's office on the issues we raised and will continue to follow up on these at future meetings with her.

We have also written to Ms Kearney on many issues. Most recently we wrote to her about our concerns at the serious shortcomings of the proposed amendments to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) which is due to be presented to Parliament shortly. We have also raised these issues with Victorian Senators.

Rapid response - new coal and gas announcements



DCAN is part of a national network of climate groups that participate in peaceful, rapid response actions such as snap rallies outside the offices of Federal MPs in response to government announcements of new or expanded coal and gas projects.

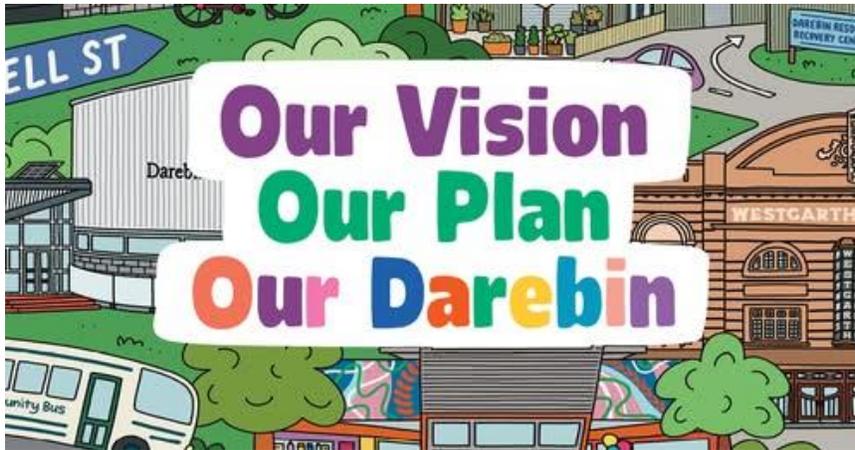
50 very angry DCAN supporters turned up outside Ms Kearney's office in May to protest the government's approval of Woodside's massive North West Shelf gas project. We called on Ms Kearney to publicly condemn the decision and take action to convince her colleagues that it must be reversed.

A second rapid response was called after the approval of the Glencore Ulan coal mine's expansion, attended by over 20 people. The expansion of the Glencore Ulan coal mine will produce 41,000,000 tonnes of carbon pollution, fuelling even more climate disasters.

DCAN supporters also attended a large gathering outside the office of Sarah Witty, MP for Melbourne, as part of a national action calling for stronger national emissions reduction targets.

Local Council working group

The main focus of the working group this year was providing detailed feedback on Council's *Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029* and its annual plan and budget.



After spending two years helping to develop the *Darebin Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030*, we were alarmed to see that key actions of the plan appeared to be left out of the Council's planning documents.

We discovered that no budget allocation had been made to ensure the timely implementation of an important initiative of the Climate Emergency Plan – targeted support for household electrification and energy efficiency measures for low income households and renters. As a result of pressure from DCAN and the community, Darebin Council agreed to allocate \$200,000 to the new program which will help speed up household electrification, especially for low income households.

The working group has also been busy meeting with the Mayor, new CEO and Councillors to explain the work of DCAN and identify areas for future collaboration.

Electrify Your Home

One highlight for the year was the establishment of a free one-on-one advisory service for Darebin residents wishing to electrify their homes. The service offers help to residents who are unsure where to start, need help understanding energy bills, or want guidance on appliance choices and solar installations.

The advisory service is provided by DCAN volunteer, Graham Moore, who is a retired Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of Melbourne.



A practical information **guide** has also been set up on the DCAN website to complement the advisory service and help residents transition away from gas towards an efficient all-electric home.

Since commencement, 17 people have booked appointments and over 150 people have

accessed the online guide. Graham has also had dozens of conversations at “electrify” events and the Seniors Expo at Preston market.

Community Outreach working group

Six years of Chalking, Talking and Picking Up Litter



This working group has now 'chalked' up six years of activities along the St Georges Road Bike Path. DCAN volunteers meet weekly for an hour on the bike path between Miller Street and Merri Parade tram stops, to have conversations with passers-by about climate issues, hand

out information flyers with suggestions for climate actions, chalk climate messages on the path and pick up litter.

The group picks up an average of 4 shopping bags of litter on each occasion. The litter is then sorted, counted and logged on the LitterWatch Victoria app which has been recording litter since late 2020. The data is then used by the state government to develop policy and legislation to reduce litter, especially single use plastic and plastic packaging.

The data also contributes to the litter data collected by Merri Creek Management Committee, providing a snap-shot of the range of litter that is dropped in neighbouring streets which then makes its way via storm water drains into the Merri Creek and hence into the bay. In 5 years the group has logged 128 litter surveys exceeding logging by any other group that picks up litter for the Merri Creek Management Committee.

After their chalking, talking and litter-collecting activities, the group adjourns to a local café for a well-earned coffee and a chat which provides an important opportunity for social connection and community building.

Information stalls



Another way DCAN engages with the community is through stalls. In 2025 these included stalls at the Darebin Volunteer Expo, the Seniors Expo at Preston market, the Preston Library electrification talk, and eight stalls at the Melbourne Polytechnic as part of Activities Week in

Preston, Epping, Fairfield and Collingwood. Many meaningful conversations occur with each of these stalls. For example, students and teachers at the Polytechnic were very interested in the single induction cooktop we brought along.

Film Screening - Corals' Last Stand



DCAN hosted a screening of the documentary *Corals' Last Stand* in August 2025 to a packed audience in the Thornbury Picture House. The film delivered a powerful message about Scott Reef's natural wonders and the real

risk posed to it by the extension of Woodside's North West Shelf gas project in the Browse Basin.

Guest speaker Mitch Pope from the Australian Marine Conservation Society answered questions about the [campaign](#) to save Scott Reef and encouraged those attending to get involved in the campaign.

People attending the screening were welcomed by Climate Choir Melbourne who also drew a crowd from passers-by in High Street Thornbury.

Special viewing of art exhibition



DCAN arranged a special viewing of an art exhibition and talk by artist Megan-Jane Johnstone. Megan's exhibition, *As In Nature*, explores the ways in which human activity has influenced the climate and the environment. The aim of her work, Megan explained, is to "evoke wonder, deepen appreciation and encourage awareness in a time of environmental urgency."

Solidarity with First Nations



First Peoples have worked tirelessly over many generations to preserve a healthy and sustainable environment and are often at the forefront in the fight against destructive coal and gas mines.

DCAN wholeheartedly supports First Peoples in their journey to Treaty and Truth-telling.

It was a privilege for DCAN supporters to be amongst thousands of people welcoming the last leg of the Walk for Truth to Parliament House in June and to witness

the handing of a message stick to the Deputy Premier calling for Treaty.

DCAN was one of 22 groups who wrote an open letter to the Premier supporting the first Treaty Bill to enter Parliament, and we are delighted that the Bill has now been passed.

Communication & Social Media working group

This year we extended our social media presence to Instagram and Blue Sky. These platforms join a growing social media presence for DCAN which includes a Facebook page, a Facebook group, YouTube channel and website. DCAN's monthly newsletter, the DCAN Dispatch, is sent to our 1295

supporters. We also communicate with supporters through bulk emails on a range of topics, events and campaigns.

The working group meets monthly to review the previous month's posts and plan the month ahead. Using the analytical tools provided by the different platforms has given us some valuable insights; for example, one of the most popular times for our readers to view our material is late evening!

Given the growth and importance of our social media presence we have developed a set of guidelines to provide clarity about the aim of our communications work, the respective roles involved, trusted media sites and how to avoid common pitfalls.

Letter Writing working group

The small DCAN letter writing team has continued to work with the much larger and highly successful Lighter Footprints letter-writing group. The DCAN team has achieved publication of over 200 letters on climate-related topics, from Atlas Network to Net Zero, and everything in between. Our letters have appeared in every Australian state and territory, in both city and national dailies and regional weeklies. We believe this supports a national culture of climate activism. We welcome and support new letter writers.

Working with other networks and groups



**CLIMATE
ACTION
NETWORK
AUSTRALIA**

Throughout the year DCAN continued our proactive membership of Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) Awesome Grassroots network. This network meets fortnightly and provides a critical

opportunity for communication between groups across Australia as well as information-sharing, planning and coordinating campaigns.

This year DCAN Convenor Ann Sanson and Deputy Convenor Jane Morton attended CANA's annual strategy planning workshop held in Tasmania, along

with 115 other attendees from 73 organisations. Increasing numbers of human rights and aid organisations have joined CANA over the past few years in recognition that action on climate is essential for supporting social justice and human rights. There was also very strong representation from First Nations.

Some of the topics discussed included: activities before and during COP 31 (Conference of the Parties) if it is held in Adelaide, making big polluters pay, increasing engagement with communities such as coal towns, addressing fossil fuel exports and Scope 3 emissions, multi-cultural connections and support for First Nations campaigns.

Following on from the workshop, Jane has led a campaign to add a third goal, "Protecting and restoring nature, led by First Nations peoples", to CANA's two proposed goals of phasing out coal and gas exports and ensuring a fair and just transition.

It is now too late for emissions reductions alone to restore a safe climate. Recent scientific studies have shown that protecting and restoring forests, oceans, and other ecosystems can provide large-scale cooling as well as carbon drawdown. To date, 33 groups have supported the call for this third goal. CANA will finalise their strategy in coming weeks.

Submissions

DCAN volunteers again put in a massive effort to put together submissions on a wide variety of topics:

- Browse CCS - Full environmental assessment needed for Browse Carbon Capture and Storage project - Feb 2025
- DEECA Building Electrification – Regulatory Impact Statement - Feb 2025
- Victorian Climate Change Strategy - Apr 2025
- Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029 & related documents - May 2025
- Submission to Senate Select Committee on Information Integrity on Climate Change and Energy - Sep 2025
- Submission to the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) Gas Networks in Transition - Oct 2025

- Submission on the DCCEEW Discussion Paper on the Implementation Plan for Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030 - Oct 2025

Please see DCAN's [resources](#) page for links to each of the submissions.

Nation Builder working group

Nation Builder is the software that underpins DCAN's website, membership database, newsletter and our emails to supporters. Work throughout the year included regular data cleansing (reducing duplicates and errors in membership details), reviewing and updating web pages, swapping IT tips and upskilling. We also review analytical reports to gauge the popularity of web pages and newsletter articles.

New Members working group

DCAN welcomed 121 new supporters signing up throughout the year. Of these, 93 signed up at a stall or event and 28 signed up via the website. All new supporters are added to our mailing list to receive DCAN's monthly newsletter. 26 of the new supporters who indicated they were interested in becoming involved in DCAN's activities also received a personal follow up phone call. This has resulted in five new, very welcome faces with fresh ideas joining DCAN's monthly meetings. A process has now been put in place for all new supporters to receive a phone call as soon as possible after signing up. It is expected that this will result in even more supporters being involved in DCAN's activities and monthly meetings.

Thank You!

Thank you to all members of the DCAN Monthly Meeting Group, our volunteers and supporters. We look forward to continuing our work with you in 2026 and campaigning to achieve a safe climate future.



DCAN acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of this land, and that their sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. DCAN commits to working alongside First Nations People as we chart a shared path toward a sustainable future.