



ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NT

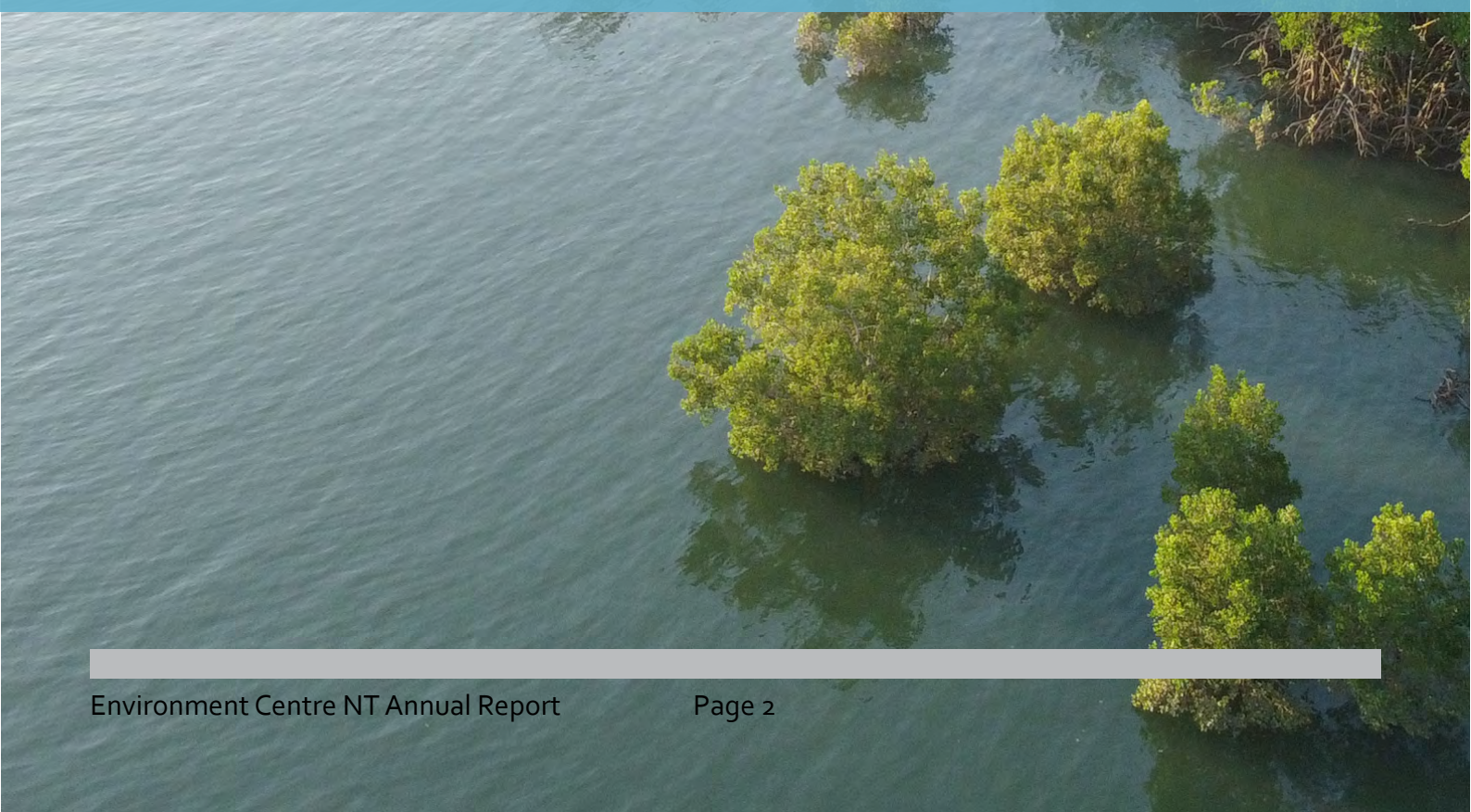
Annual Report

2021 - 2022



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Larrakia People, on whose land we meet, live and work. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge Australia's First Nations were self-governing in accordance with their traditional laws and customs, and they never ceded sovereignty of their lands, seas and waters.



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Convenor's Report

Congratulations to all members, staff and supporters of ECNT for a great year. ECNT has been active on many campaigns as highlighted elsewhere in this Annual Report. We have also had a year of consolidating some of the changes that have occurred over several years. Over this time, staff numbers have grown and the reach of our operational activities has expanded significantly. The Board has focused on higher-level planning, policy setting, financial oversight, and risk management while our staff, led by our Co-Directors have focused on the operational matters.

Our Co-Directors have been pivotal to these changes and to the function of ECNT, with their feet firmly in both camps of strategic direction and operational matters. This year we have had a significant change with a transition from two Co-directors to one Executive Director. Our Co-Directors Shar Molloy and Kirsty Howey have worked incredibly well as a team over the last two years. Shar has made the call to move on and provided the Board with many months forewarning to facilitate the transition. Kirsty has stepped forward to take on the role of Executive Director, supported through the appointment of Skei Batton as our Finance and Office Manager. Shar has made a magnificent contribution to looking after the environment of the NT. At a recent farewell function there were many comments about the great contribution Shar has made and the legacy she is leaving behind. Five years ago when Shar arrived ECNT had far less capacity than today. Shar has overseen a period of growth and expansion in campaigns, staff, financial support and impact. She has also brought a collaborative approach full of compassion and understanding, while having a vision for a better future for the landscapes and peoples of the Territory. The Beyond Zero Emissions "10 Gigawatt Vision" Report and ECNT's award-winning "Repower NT" Campaign illustrate Shar's vision of an alternative future. More recently the Barossa Campaign and collaboration with Tiwi People illustrate an approach based upon respect and trust. Thank you Shar for your outstanding contribution and we wish you well in your future endeavours.

The Barossa Campaign reminds me of two matters I want to raise. The first being an acknowledgement to our staff and the Tiwi People for their commitment to standing up and being counted. The impact of this work has extended far outside the Territory with elevation of concern about the future of gas in the Territory to a National and International level. Secondly ECNT has adopted the Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander solidarity commitments. ECNT is committed to building a relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and engaging and working respectfully with these peoples to uphold climate justice.

I thank all the Board members. They are part of the team of volunteers who generously contribute their time and expertise to ECNT. The ECNT will best be able to serve the interests of members and the environment, if the composition of the

Board reflects both the diversity of the broader community and includes members with a broad range of skills. I encourage all members to consider nominating for a Board position; it is a great way to contribute to ECNT.

I also wish to thank the numerous members, staff, other individuals and organisations who have supported and collaborated with ECNT. The time contribution, the financial support, the collaboration, the spreading of ideas and messages have all been crucial to addressing our vision of "A thriving natural environment and a sustainable future for all Territorians".



David Liddle, Convenor

Executive Director's Report

To our Supporters and Friends,

We know that the Northern Territory's nature is like no other place, and is intrinsic to our collective identity as Territorians. Yet unprecedented threats to our nature, including through climate change and industrial scale development, are putting this at risk.

It may sound like an exaggeration, but we think that the Northern Territory is at a fork in the road like never before in its history. The choice about what kind of future we will have is truly existential.

At ECNT, we have been honoured to be leading the fight for a thriving natural environment and sustainable future for all Territorians, against the grain of the constant push for extractive development in northern Australia. We want a future where the Northern Territory's nature thrives, and we think Territorians do as well. In fact, this year we conducted a survey that showed a whopping 83% of people surveyed by ECNT rated the Territory's natural and cultural values as extremely important to them, yet 78% did not believe the natural values they love most are adequately protected. We know that politicians are out of step with the concerns and wishes of everyday Territorians.

We are leading numerous campaigns, supporting and inspiring tens of thousands of people to take action to protect our environment. We have courageously held decision-makers and industry to account: in the courts, in politicians' and bureaucrats' offices and on the streets. We've been a constant force in local and national media, engaged communities on the ground from Borroloola to Katherine to Pirlangimpi, exponentially increased our social media presence, all the while never losing sight of our valued volunteers, supporters, and members who are the beating heart of our organisation.

Of particular note is the incredible success of the Stop Barossa Gas campaign. Our campaigner Jason Fowler partnered with First Nations leader Antonia Burke and Tiwi Traditional Owners to win a Federal Court case which stopped an offshore gas development north of the Tiwi Islands. This carbon bomb could generate hundreds of millions of tonnes of emissions, and cause significant impacts to Tiwi Sea Country. Stopping the drilling was an extraordinary event of national and indeed international significance.

ECNT also bravely took on then Resources Minister Keith Pitt in the Federal Court over his decision to grant \$21 million of taxpayer money to a fracking company, and won. We've worked with Borroloola community members to ensure that Glencore's McArthur River Mine was front and centre in the Australian Government's Juukan Gorge Inquiry report, leading to an unprecedented apology from the company. We've appeared on ABC's Four Corners highlighting the poor state of the NT's mining regulation. We've campaigned with partners and community members to highlight the threats posed by the cotton and fracking industries, which could damage our iconic

ivers, aquifers and floodplains. We've also raised the alarm on the increasing rates of deforestation in the Northern Territory, and are leading a campaign to reform the Territory's nature laws so that our stunning landscapes can be protected. And that barely scratches the surface of what we've achieved this year. We've never been more effective, or trusted by the community.

It's truly been a team effort to achieve all we have in the last year. Thank you to our incredible staff who have made the wheels turn (furiously, it must be said!): Jason Fowler, Naish Gawen, Jess Black, Allana Brown, Rebecca Parker, Jodie Minton, Skei Batton and Rowan Hayward. Our board – led by NT conservation legends Deb Hall, and now Dave Liddle - has been an incredible source of support and counsel. Deb Hall's steadfast leadership of the organisation as Convenor for many years until she stepped down in November 2021 was extraordinary. Andy Peart and Louise Harrison also deserve special thanks for the wonderful nature-based events they have organised for ECNT.

We are grateful to our donors, big and small, who have seen the importance of the work that ECNT is doing and have generously provided us with the financial resources we need. That includes everyone from larger philanthropic organisations, to our Territory Guardians who regularly chip in small amounts to help us do what we do best. We also work with numerous partners, in the Territory, nationally, and internationally, who have contributed to the success of our work and campaigns.

If one person deserves to be singled out, it's our wonderful Shar Molloy. Shar's empathy, passion and wisdom in leading the organisation so capably for over 5 years has put us in the position we're in now. She will be dearly missed, but her legacy is lasting.

Thank you for your support of ECNT and its vision. If you'd like to join us in our mission, please do get in touch! Stay safe and well,

Kirsty Howey, Executive Director



Vision



A thriving natural environment
and sustainable future
for all Territorians



IMPACT SNAPSHOT

100%

INCREASE IN
INSTAGRAM
REACH

88%

INCREASE IN
FACEBOOK
REACH

170

MEDIA
STORIES

58

POLICY
SUBMISSIONS

4541

NATURE
CAMPAIGN
SIGN UPS

351K

TWITTER
REACH

OUR WORK

Climate

In May 2022, we saw the “climate election”, where voters made clear at the ballot box their frustration at a decade of climate inaction. We’ve reached a political tipping point, and the power of the climate movement has never been stronger.

However, the Northern Territory Government, backed by federal subsidies, is pursuing plans to “gas-fire” our economy. These plans include fracking the Beetaloo Basin, which will increase Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions by up to 20%, and to establish gas-fired industrialisation of Darwin Harbour via pipelines and petrochemical plants. Offshore, Santos is pushing ahead with its highly polluting Barossa project, against the wishes of Tiwi Traditional Owners.

Our “No New Gas” campaign aims to join the dots for Territorians, to show that climate action in the Northern Territory means politicians saying no to the three proposed major gas projects in the Northern Territory: the Beetaloo and Barossa gasfields, and gas-based manufacturing at Middle Arm in Darwin Harbour.

In 2021-2022 at ECNT we:

- *Won proceedings in the Federal Court challenging Resource Minister Keith Pitt’s decision to grant \$21 million of taxpayer funds to Imperial Oil and Gas to accelerate gas exploration in the Beetaloo Basin;*
- *Supported Tiwi Traditional Owners from the Jikilarawu clan, and Larrakia Traditional Owner Tibby Quall, to proceed with a landmark lawsuit against two South Korean finance organisations who intend to fund Santos’ Barossa project, securing international exposure to the Barossa project;*
- *Supported Tiwi Traditional Owners from the Munupi clan to commence – and win - proceedings in the Federal Court challenging the offshore gas regulator’s approval of Santos’ drilling operations for the Barossa project, including facilitating the “On Country” evidence for the hearing at Pityamirra Beach on the northern tip of Melville Island;*
- *Supported Tiwi Traditional Owners visit Federal Parliament to meet with politicians to voice their concerns about the impacts of Santos’ Barossa project on Tiwi Sea Country*
- *Launched our “Love Darwin Harbour” campaign aimed at raising local awareness of Northern Territory Government plans to build a set of petrochemicals factories at Middle Arm in Darwin Harbour;*
- *Commissioned a major report by a US environmental scientist which showed shocking impacts from the proposed petrochemical complex at Middle Arm;*
- *Been at the forefront of the federal campaign to stop federal funding of the Middle Arm petrochemicals complex without a cost benefit analysis or environmental impact assessment being undertaken;*
- *Continued our advocacy around climate impacts of fracking the Beetaloo Basin at the Beetaloo Senate Inquiry and in the media, including holding the Northern Territory Government to account with respect to the implementation of the Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory;*
- *Continued our successful Climate Conversations program, aimed at engaging the community to speak up to politicians and decision-makers to take action on climate.*

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

[Aussies taking Korea to court](#)

March 22, 2022 - news.com.au

[Remote Australian Islands to determine future of offshore drilling](#)

September 8, 2022 - Wall Street Journal

[Tiwi Islands traditional owners win court challenge](#)

September 21, 2022 - ABC

[Plans to industrialise Middle Arm could cause ‘significant’ health impacts](#)

April 13, 2022 - ABC

[Greens threaten to withhold Senate support over \\$1.5 billion Darwin industrial hub](#)

October 21, 2022 - ABC

[Petrochemicals expert report warns of human health risks](#)

July 29, 2022 - ABC

[Climate activists win in NT gas field case](#)

December 23, 2021 - West Australian, AAP

[Court rules Morrison government grant to develop gas field in Beetaloo Basin invalid](#)

December 23, 2021 - The Guardian

[Path to government in 2024 is turning green](#)

August 27, 2022 - ABC

SPOTLIGHT

Stop Barossa Gas



We are immensely proud of our work in partnership with Tiwi Traditional Owners to raise the alarm about Santos' proposed Barossa offshore gas project, 100km north of the Tiwi Islands.

If approved, Barossa could produce the most carbon intensive LNG in Australia, potentially the world. Adding to the processing emissions, the Barossa gas field has very high levels of CO₂ (16-20%), which would be vented into the atmosphere. It could also put Tiwi Sea Country at risk through drilling and pipeline construction, with oil spill modelling showing potentially catastrophic impacts for the Tiwi Islands in the case of an accident.

We have engaged, and then partnered, with Tiwi people to understand and oppose the this project, which culminated in two sets of landmark court proceedings.

The first of these was an attempted injunction attempting to stop the financing of the Barossa project by two South Korean finance organisations. Tiwi and Larrakia elders provided cultural evidence of the importance of their sea country.

In June 2022, Tiwi Traditional Owner Dennis Tippakalippa filed proceedings in the Federal Court challenging NOPSEMA's approval of Santos' proposed drilling environment plan. They claimed they had not been consulted about this plan. On 22 August 2022, history was made when Munupi Traditional Owners presented evidence to the Federal court about their cultural connection to Sea Country at Pityamirra Beach on the northern tip of Melville Island, closest to the Barossa gas field. ECNT played a critical role, supporting to set up the "bush court" on the remote northern beaches, arranging solidarity actions on Larrakia country, and accompanying Tiwi Traditional Owners on a visit to Federal Parliament to raise their concerns about this devastating project.

This work culminated in a groundbreaking win for the Tiwi people, with the Federal Court finding that the environment plan was invalid. Santos stopped drilling, delaying this project by some months. The case has garnered local, national and international media attention and has "changed the story" about the social licence of offshore gas projects in Australia, particularly when it comes to consulting First Nations people.



OUR WORK

Water

Water is our most precious resource and is essential to all life. The Northern Territory's interconnected ground and surface water systems, including our magnificent free-flowing rivers, are unparalleled for their beauty, abundance and ecological and cultural values. They also underpin the Territory's economy, social and cultural life through the creation of jobs and sustenance of livelihoods.

However, there are numerous threats and challenges to the water of the Northern Territory. There is significant and longstanding water insecurity in remote Indigenous communities, including due to the fact that drinking water is unregulated and unprotected in these places. Climate change is significantly impacting our water resources, and the viability of life in the Northern Territory, including from harsher and longer droughts, erratic rainfall and increased evapotranspiration. The Northern Territory is proceeding with plans for large-scale industrial development which will take billions of litres of additional water from already stressed systems, including for cotton, fracking, pastoralism, petrochemicals manufacturing and mining.

Through our "Territory's Nature: it's worth protecting" campaign, and in collaboration with partners on other campaigns such as the "Territory Rivers" and anti-fracking campaigns, we have led the charge in the Northern Territory to protect the Territory's water. We have educated and mobilised the public about key threats to our rivers, floodplains and savannas (including from irrigated agriculture, pastoralism, fracking and mining) and the importance of protecting them.

In 2021-2022 at ECNT we:

- Commenced our "Territory's Nature: it's worth protecting" campaign, which aims to establish lasting governance foundations for long term integrated protection of the Territory's water and savannas;
- Continued our "Territory Rivers" Keep 'Em Flowing" campaign with Pew Charitable Trusts, which aims to secure long-term protections for our free-flowing Territory Rivers;
- Been at the forefront of the campaign to save the Roper River, by raising the alarm in the media about a succession of dangerous water allocations in the catchment, including overturning a 10 billion litre per year groundwater licence at Larrimah;
- Led campaigning around the Northern Territory Government's increasing use of water allocation rules that permit "water mining" of Northern Territory aquifers, which could have catastrophic impacts on Territory Rivers;
- Highlighted the risks posed by floodplain harvesting, including at the proposed "Ord 3" development at Keep Plains on the NT/WA border;
- Partnered with other organisations on the campaign to stop the grant of the largest groundwater extraction licence in the Northern Territory's history at Singleton Station;
- Visited communities whose water will be affected by fracking, cotton, mining and pastoralism, including Katherine, Mataranka, and Borroloola;
- Played a role on various Committees, including the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee, NT Farmers Water Reference Group, and the Northern Territory Government's Surface Water Harvesting Steering Committee.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

[NT agricultural water licence revoked](https://www.7news.com.au/nt-agricultural-water-licence-revoked)
7news.com.au

[Perceived conflicts and secretive governance risks NT's most precious resource](#)
August 21, 2021 - NT News

[NT government negotiated change in water rules allowing Singleton Station licence to proceed](#)
November 11, 2021 - ABC

[Roper River will 'disappear', traditional owners say, as government considers massive water allocation](#)
February 8, 2022 - ABC

[NT water licence grants 'unsustainable' as fears grow for tourism, pristine rivers](#)
June 14, 2022 - ABC

[Pastoralists and traditional owners meet NT environment minister over water security fears](#)
July 15, 2022 - ABC

[Lucrative Mataranka water licence, which opened floodgates of scandal, quietly renewed in full](#)
September 12, 2022

[NT Government warned by its own advisor against water allocation changes, impacts on Roper River](#)
September 27, 2022 - ABC

[Northern Territory government was warned raising industry water allocation could threaten major river](#)
September 29, 2022 - The Guardian

[Pastoralists, traditional owners, environmental groups, call for moratorium on NT water licences](#)
October 15, 2022 - ABC

SPOTLIGHT

Save The Roper



ECNT has been at the forefront of community organising in Katherine, Ngukurr and Mataranka around threats to the Roper River posed by mining, fracking and cotton. These communities are currently mobilised like never before to “Save the Roper”, and are successfully applying pressure locally and nationally through political lobbying, grass-roots organising and media exposure to save this iconic free-flowing river from the threats that these developments pose.

In June 2021, ECNT had a huge groundwater licence overturned in the Roper catchment near Larrimah (to NT Land Corporation), the first time this has ever occurred, on the basis that the licence would be unsustainable because it used the so-called “Arid Zone” rules, which permit extraction of up to 80% of an aquifer’s storage.

This was followed up in August 2022 by a story exposing the perceived conflicts of interest and governance concerns around the granting of this licence, and another in November 2022 which exposed poor governance and decision-making around the Singleton Station water licence following an FOI lodged by ECNT.

In January 2022, ECNT was instrumental in breaking a story about unsustainable surface water licence applied for by an ilmenite mine in the Roper catchment, resulting in the proposed allocation being slashed in half when the licence was eventually granted.

From June 2022, ECNT has worked with community members and organisations to speak out against plans to change water allocation rules to facilitate more water for fracking, cotton and mining using the “Arid Zone” rules in the Roper catchment. These concerns have been reported in local and national media, resulting in Water Minister Lauren Moss visiting community members in Mataranka to respond to these concerns directly.

In October 2022, and following a freedom of information request, ECNT broke a major story suggesting that the Northern Territory Government ignored advice from its own scientists that suggested that proposed use of the Arid Zone rules could cause the Roper River to run dry by reversing the flow of the aquifer that discharges into it.

ECNT’s campaigning has led to a coalition of environmental organisations, pastoralists, Traditional Owners and community members calling for a moratorium on water licensing in the region.

OUR WORK

Biodiversity

The Northern Territory's nature is exceptional on a local, national and international scale. Nature is an indivisible part of life, and therefore all Territorians have a responsibility for its conservation, now and for future generations.

Yet the unique nature of the NT is under threat on multiple fronts. Multiple threatening processes such as weeds, pests and changed fire regimes are causing serious impacts on our wildlife and ecosystems. Mammal populations are in sharp decline, with many at risk of extinction. In 2021, research revealed that three of the Northern Territory's ecosystems – the tropical savanna, the arid zone and its coastal mangroves – in fact meet the criteria of "collapsing".

Land clearing is increasing in the NT. Land clearing is currently the greatest threat to biodiversity in Australia. Clearing native vegetation destroys habitat for native animals, fragments the wider ecosystem and can contribute to the spread of invasive weeds and feral animals. There are significant development pressures in the Northern Territory which could entail unprecedented levels of native vegetation clearance, including the development of the onshore shale gas ("fracking") industry, the replacement of native vegetation with exotic pastures to supply the beef industry, plans for up to 200,000 hectares of large-scale broadacre cropping (primarily cotton) and a projected increase in large-scale solar projects. The primary focal point for this development pressure is the pastoral estate, which makes up approximately 45% of the Northern Territory's landmass, and is (largely) subject to co-existing native title rights and interests.

Through our "Territory's Nature: it's worth protecting" campaign, ECNT has led the response to this threat, holding decision-makers to account and galvanising wide public opposition to industrial scale development and land clearing. We are leading the charge to reform our nature laws so that the Territory's nature can be protected for future generations.

In 2021-2022 at ECNT we:

- *Started our campaign for next-generation nature laws in the Northern Territory, under the banner of our "Territory's Nature: it's worth protecting campaign";*
- *Conducted a survey of 600 Territorians about how they value nature, and the need to protect it through legislative reform;*
- *Held numerous stakeholder and public meetings to galvanise support for reform of the Territory's nature laws;*
- *Worked with partners and thousands of community members to petition Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek to save a newly-arrived flock of endangered Gouldian Finches at Lee Point in the Darwin suburbs;*
- *Revealed in the media that the Northern Territory's rates of land clearing have increased by 300% in just 4 years;*
- *Secured the first ever referral of a pastoral land clearing application under the NT's environmental assessment laws, for a 10,000 hectare cotton development by a Murray Darling Basin cotton farmer at Ucharonidge Station in the Beetaloo Basin;*
- *Engaged the community to write thousands of submissions opposing numerous applications for land clearing across the Northern Territory's pastoral estate;*
- *Made complaints about 4 instances of alleged illegal land clearing in the NT, two of which are under investigation;*
- *Raised the alarm about the environmental impacts of the proposed Ord 3 irrigated agriculture development;*
- *Partnered with Environmental Justice Australia to advocate for reform of the Territory's nature laws, and to hold decision-makers to account with respect to broadscale land clearing.*

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

[Cotton plans for the Barkly Tablelands referred to EPA in a first for NT land clearing](#)

September 8, 2021 - ABC

['Water isn't endless': the controversial plan to extend irrigated agriculture in NT's tropical savannah](#)

April 11, 2022 - The Guardian

[Land clearing proposal by NT EPA could increase greenhouse gas emissions, environmentalists warn](#)

July 29, 2022 - ABC

[Tanya Plibersek's 'first big test' could be saving this endangered species habitat](#)

July 1, 2022 - yahoo!news

[Endangered Gouldian finch returns to Lee Point, prompting campaign to stop Defence Housing Australia development](#)

September 24, 2022 - ABC

[Why pictures of this bird are being posted around Aussie city: 'Bad look'](#)

September 8, 2022 - yahoo!news

[Natasha Fyles cautious on Canberra's move to review Lee Point housing development](#)

September 8, 2022 - NT News

[Tanya Plibersek urged to save Gouldian finches from NT defence development](#)

September 5, 2022 - The Guardian



SPOTLIGHT

Nature Laws Survey

Over 8 weeks in July and August 2022, the Environment Centre NT canvassed the community and key stakeholders about the need for improved nature protections in the NT.

We had extraordinarily high engagement on this issue with over 600 Territorians spending nearly 200 hours completing our nature protections survey. The results are compelling: **Territorians know that the nature they love is at great risk and they want politicians to stand up and do something about it.**

83% rated the Territory's wildlife and natural and cultural values as being 'Extremely Important' to them personally. 'Healthy biodiversity and native wildlife populations' was selected as one of the most important values of the NT by the grand majority of respondents. 525 respondents said that the Territory's amazing natural values are a very strong influence on their decision to stay and live in the NT.

Over **86%** of survey participants are worried about broadscale land clearing as a threat to the NT's nature, particularly across our tropical savannas.

78% of respondents do not believe that the natural values they love most are adequately protected. Sadly, most people believe that the Territories nature is in decline.

It is clear from the strong engagement we had through this survey that Territorians truly love the NT's unique nature and do not believe it is protected adequately. People understand that our precious wildlife and ecosystems are under increasing pressure and they know that the NT is a laggard when it comes to strong environmental regulation.

The Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction in Australia without native vegetation laws – specific legislation to manage habitat loss from tree clearing. Broadscale tree clearing is recognised as the leading cause of biodiversity loss in Australia and around the world. Broadscale tree clearing is increasing in the Northern Territory and we do not have an adequate regulatory framework in place to properly manage this threat.

93% of respondents believe it is important that the NT enacts best-practice legal protections, like a new 'Biodiversity Act' or Nature Laws. But not only do Territorians want real action from the government on this issue, they also want their voices to be heard.

The Environment Centre NT is calling for cross-party support and a commitment to best-practice nature laws by the next Territory election in August 2024.

OUR WORK

Mining

Campaigning on mining has formed the basis of ECNT's work since our formation in 1983 to oppose uranium mining in Kakadu National Park. Fight for better regulation and management of mining in the Territory is in our DNA.

In the last few years, ECNT has been successful in advocating for best practice mining regulation and holding Government and industry to account when they fall short of this standard.

ECNT recognises that the problems with mining stem from a fundamentally inadequate regulatory regime, and we are putting pressure on the NT Government to follow through their commitment to overhaul mining laws. This includes extensive media coverage on mining in the Territory: from exposing the lack of transparency in the sector, to raising the alarm on pollution of local waterways, to calling the Government out for backflipping on the inclusion of the mining industry in their chain of responsibility legislation.

Now, more than ever, it is crucial that ECNT continues our work on mining in the Territory. We need to fix the regulatory mess and address the damage caused by mining here.

In 2021-2022 at ECNT we:

- *Worked with Borroloola community to advocate for better environmental outcomes at Australia's most toxic mine, McArthur River Mine;*
- *Supported Traditional Owners give evidence to the Federal Parliament's Juukan Gorge Inquiry, resulting in McArthur River Mine being singled out for its egregious treatment of Traditional Owners;*
- *Continued our Supreme Court case in partnership with Jack Green and Josie Davey Green, challenging the Northern Territory Government's decision to slash the security bond for McArthur River Mine;*
- *Exposed the failings of the Independent Monitor for McArthur River Mine;*
- *Exposed water pollution at a lithium mine near Darwin, including lodging a complaint with community members;*
- *Appeared on ABC's Four Corners program on critical minerals mining, discussing lithium mining in the NT;*
- *Worked with Ngukurr community to successfully oppose the allocation of billions of litres of water from the Roper River for an ilmenite mine;*
- *Worked to expose the pollution of the Towns River by Nathan River Resources in breach of their waste discharge licence;*
- *Called the Northern Territory Government out for backflipping on the inclusion of the mining industry in new chain of responsibility laws.*

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

[Full report into McArthur River Mine released](#)

April 4, 2022 - NT News

[McArthur River Mine environment report states river in good health but risk of levee wall failure not part of review](#)

May 4, 2022 - NT Independent

[McArthur River Mine representatives sat on government tender panel that chose new independent monitor](#)

May 4, 2022 - ABC

[NT government rejects Glencore bid to build toxic dump near sacred site](#)

February 16, 2022 - The Guardian

[NT government reduced scope for monitoring McArthur River Mine, documents reveal](#)

August 30, 2021 - ABC

[NT government proposed even lower McArthur River Mine security bond, FOI documents reveal](#)

October 13, 2021 - ABC

[Digging In: Why powering a green future means more mines](#)

May 9, 2022 - ABC Four Corners

[The rush to renewable energy means a new mining boom](#)

May 9, 2022 - ABC Four Corners

[NT farmers worried about the race to renewables and lithium exploration in the Top End](#)

May 24, 2022 - ABC

[NT government abandons plan to include mining industry in new environmental laws](#)

August 11, 2022 - ABC

[Mining company Nathan River Resources fined \\$340,000 for releasing contaminated wastewater into river in NT](#)

October 19, 2022

[Roper River will 'disappear', traditional owners say, as government considers massive water allocation](#)

February 8, 2022 - ABC

SPOTLIGHT

McArthur River Mine



Since the launching of the court case in February 2021 over the Territory Government's decision to reduce the McArthur River Mine's security bond, we have continued our years-long partnership with the Borroloola community to achieve a series of unprecedented outcomes.

We assisted the community to give powerful evidence to the Federal Government's Juukan Gorge Inquiry in person in Borroloola, and then in Darwin. Due to overwhelming public and media pressure, Glencore apologised to Traditional Owners over a "legacy of sadness" at the mine and committed to enter into negotiations with Traditional Owners.

We ensured that, amid the national debate about cultural heritage following the destruction of sacred sites at Juukan Gorge, McArthur River Mine was singled out in the final report as a case study of poor regulation.

Glencore have now commenced the undertaking of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with Traditional Owners at the mine site.

Following our work with Borroloola community, Minister Chansey Paech made a high profile decision to protect sacred sites in the interests of Traditional Owners rather than mine operators – the first time this has happened in the mine's history. The Minister rejected Glencore's bid to review the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority's decision, requiring the mine to seek authority certificates for their planned expansion.

ECNT has been a strong voice monitoring the Independent Monitor for the mine. A report by UNSW and the Environment Centre NT in 2021 found that the Independent Monitor is lacking effectiveness. Later in 2021, an FOI request made by ECNT revealed that the funding and scope for environmental monitoring had been drastically reduced. When a new Independent Monitor was selected, ECNT revealed that Glencore was on the panel.

We ran a successful public forum in Darwin on the legacy of mining in the Territory, at which 100 attendees heard from Jack Green and Josie Davey Green and Dr Kirsty Howey. By the end of this year, we will see the new draft legislation for mining regulation in the Territory, and in February 2023 our McArthur River Mine case will finally be heard by the Supreme Court.

OUR WORK

Policy

At ECNT, improving environmental policy and law are a vital part of what we do. We are grateful to the Northern Territory Government for its ongoing support of our policy work.

In the 2021 to 2022 financial year, we revolutionised the way we work on environmental policy, consistent with our organisational purpose of inspiring and supporting the community to take action that protects the environment. Our view is that the most robust and trusted environmental policy is informed by the public, and supporting our community to engage in policy and environmental decision-making has been the primary focus of our policy work.

ECNT made 55 individual submissions on a variety of environmental policies, legislative amendments, and individual projects. This is an extraordinary level of output for our organisation, representing hundreds of hours of work. Key submissions included:

- Submission to the NT Parks Masterplan consultation paper;
- Submission on the Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets policy;
- Submission on the McArthur River Mine groundwater extraction licence;
- Submission on Core Lithium's BP33 underground mine;
- Submission on the NT Strategic Water Plan Directions Paper;
- Submission on the NT Draft Circular Economy Strategy;
- Submission on the Santos Darwin Pipeline Duplication Project referral;
- Submission on the Draft Pastoral Compliance Framework;
- Submission on Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct referral to the NTEPA;
- Submission to Minister Tanya Plibersek regarding the proposed development at Lee Point.

However, we are perhaps most proud of the way in which our community has participated in, and driven change to, the Northern Territory's environmental policies. Thanks to our work engaging our supporters, thousands of Territorians emailed submissions to decision-makers on areas as diverse as water licensing, mining reform, land clearing applications and climate policy.

We also formed our "Community Action Group", composed of our most committed and engaged supporters, who meet monthly and write engaged, informed and articulate submissions that are tangibly impacting policy-making. Their achievements have been nothing short of extraordinary. To give just a few key examples, our community effectively advocated to:

- Achieve the first ever referral to the NTEPA of a pastoral land clearing application, with respect to a 10,000 hectare cotton development at Ucharonidge Station in the Barkly region;
- Stop the inclusion of "indirect offsets" in a key climate policy, the NT Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets Policy. This would have allowed industry to incorrectly claim they had "offset" their greenhouse gas emissions by claiming that research into future technologies, such as unproven capture capture and storage, were an offset;
- Reduce the amount of water allocated to an ilmenite mine, which proposed to extract billions of litres of water from the Roper River;
- Stop proposed changes to the Water Act that could have wound back transparency, trust and robustness of our already weak water laws;
- Ensure that the indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the entirety of Santos' proposed offshore Barossa project are fully assessed by the NTEPA in its assessment of a new pipeline in Darwin Harbour which forms a part of this controversial project;
- Convince Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek to review the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act approval for the Lee Point development following the arrival of a flock of Gouldian Finches at the site in May 2022;
- Ensure that the terms of reference for the strategic environmental assessment for the controversial Middle Arm petrochemicals hub in Darwin Harbour included provisions for a health impact assessment, following the community mobilising around potential impacts to air quality and human health posed by the hub.



SPOTLIGHT

Our Team



ECNT Executive Director Kirsty Howey has over 15 years of experience in environmental law, research and practice in the Northern Territory. She was a native title, land rights and environmental lawyer for over a decade, including acting as instructing solicitor for traditional owners in landmark legal proceedings challenging the approvals of McArthur River Mine.

She has a PhD from the University of Sydney investigating the intersection between Indigenous institutions, the environment, the state and development in northern Australia, and has published widely in these areas. She was a board member of the Environmental Defenders' Office (NT) from 2013 to 2019, including three terms as Chair. She is an adjunct research fellow at the Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University, and on the editorial board of the Australian Environment Review.



Jess Black is ECNT's Freshwater and Savanna Campaigner, and Engagement Coordinator.

Jess has worked in the area of native title and with the Mobile Language Team. Throughout uni Jess developed a deep interest in what it takes to build and support strong communities. She learnt a lot through her involvement with a broad range of community groups and organisations. She has a particular passion for music and hosted a range of shows with Radio Adelaide. Most recently she practised as a Graduate Lawyer at MPS Law.

Jess is particularly interested in the intersectional nature of how we relate to this beautiful country. She is driven by the reality that the Territory is at the coalface of climate change.



Naish Gawen is ECNT's Mining and Gas Strategist. He has a BA and MA (Research) from Monash University and has extensive experience in activist and community campaigns in Australia and overseas.

He has worked as a translator and consultant for NGOs in the area of human trafficking and irregular migration. He has a particular interest in the impacts of mining on human livelihoods, having worked for the Hazelwood Health Study looking at the long-term social impacts of a fire in the coal mine. He is now working on the Environment Centre NT's McArthur River Mine campaign and mining regulatory reform, as well as the gas campaign.



Rowan Hayward is ECNT's Gas and Repower Campaigner. For 27 years he was an Australian Seafarer, working in the Australian Merchant Navy and the Pleasure and Dive industry.

Then he began working for the Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory as a Community Engagement Officer. He has also worked for the Northern Territory Union movement as a political organiser, and the Community and Public Sector Union as a Field Organiser representing workers in the Australian Federal Public Sector.

He is passionate about the environment, and has been an activist for over 2 decades, but it was the birth of his Son Flynn who turbocharged his activism. Now he has dedicated his life to fighting climate change, so that his son can have a future.



Skei Batten is ECNT's Finance Manager.

She is a born and bred Territorian and proud Kungurakun woman who has worked in a variety of roles both within Government and private sector.

A specialist in Indigenous Business Development, capacity building and business growth, her priorities are to support the financial wellbeing of ECNT to continue leading the environmental reform agenda required to respond to the significant challenges facing the NT.



Allana Brown is ECNT's Biodiversity Policy Officer.

She has worked across North Australia's tropical savannas for over a decade. Allana previously worked throughout Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria in roles with government, a national NGO and an Aboriginal Corporation.

Working closely with Aboriginal ranger groups she has provided support for teams undertaking biodiversity surveys, developing monitoring programs, and threatened species management through a strongly two-way science/ cross-cultural lens. Allana is a certified Healthy Country Planning facilitator. Previously with Bush Heritage Australia, Allana partnered with Olkola Traditional Owners on a landscape-scale project to save Alwal – the endangered Golden-shouldered Parrot. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Policy and Environmental Management at CDU, and is wholeheartedly committed to achieving improved nature laws for the Territory.



Dave Krantz is ECNT's Communications Manager. He has worked for the Northern Territory Government Office of the Chief Minister and Department of the Chief Minister in a variety of communications roles.

Prior to that he held a senior editorial role with the Daily Mail, working in Sydney and London. He has also worked for News Corp as an editor and digital editor.

He is interested in gardening, fishing, and preserving a habitable planet.

SPOTLIGHT

Connecting with our Community



Nature Journaling

This year ECNT partnered with fabulous local artist Elizabeth Martin to introduce a series of nature journaling workshops to the broader Darwin community. Nature journaling is the practice of recording observations of nature through drawing or writing. It is a fun and relaxing practice which does not require any artistic skills.

Nature journaling allows you to spend time in nature and explore your thoughts, feelings, curiosity, and creative expression in response to the extraordinary natural world around us. A nature journal can be used to recall observations, note species sightings and other scientific observations, track changes over time or

simply capture a special moment. The practice helps to calm your mind, improve observation skills and can promote a deeper understanding of and connection with nature and our place in it.

Our first workshop was held on a perfect dry season morning in June at Charles Darwin National Park. We were greeted by a delightful chorus of bird call and the Woolly-butt and Stringybark trees were in full flower and provided lots of inspiration for our journaling exercises. We did sound mapping, plus many other fun exercises.

ECNT's work to protect the Territory's nature is supported by nature journaling workshops through enriched connections and enhanced care. Look out for more nature journaling workshops coming to a place near you!

Take a walk in the bush

From the magic stone country of Kakadu to the local gems of Litchfield National Park and East Point Reserve; once again ECNT provided an opportunity to get into the bush and be immersed in nature with others happy to share their knowledge. Indeed special to be out bush visiting remarkable places with others who care for the environment.

Trips ranged from a half day stroll to a four day walk; leaving the cars behind and spending nights under the stars with whatever comforts we were prepared to carry. Suddenly the tucker tasted extra good and the senses could focus on our wonderful Top End landscape. Thanks to Andy, Dave, Kim and Louie for organising the trips, thanks to the land managers and thanks to the participants who brought their good humour and stories to the adventures, as well as donated to support the environmental work of ECNT.

A message from our Treasurer

Throughout the last year our organisation has continued to keep growing in leaps and bounds and this would not be possible without the fantastic work of our Directors to attract large donors and the community support that we receive from our local and smaller donors. We are very grateful for the grants that we have been given help us establish and maintain our biggest campaigns and we hope to continue that momentum into the New Year and beyond.

We ended the 2021-22 financial year on another surplus, and have been able to grow our strategic reserve to continue to enable an on-going and sustainable organisation. We have also been able to use some of the funds from our reserve to increase our staffing the areas of financial management and administrative support. As our reserve has been growing it has been fantastic in giving the Directors and the board the ability to make improvements in governance and policy and establish the positions to support those areas as the organisation continues to grow.

Yet again, without our fantastic Co-Directors and staff we would not be in such a wonderful position to be able to advocate so strongly for the sustainable future of the Northern Territory. We are also greatly appreciative of our Territory Guardians that provide us a stable income to keep our organisation strong.



Robby McKenzie

Environment Centre NT Management Committee – Treasurer



SPOTLIGHT

Our Board



David Liddle

Convenor



Georgina McGee

Public Officer



Robert McKenzie

Treasurer



Louise Harrison

Secretary



Matt Grigg

Committee Member



Michael Fonda

Committee Member



Grusha Leeman

Committee Member



Dominic Nicholls

Committee Member



Robin Knox

Committee Member

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report
for the year ended 30 June 2022

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Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated
Year ended 30 June 2022

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Committee Statement

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated
Year ended 30 June 2022

The Committee members submit the financial report of the Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated (the "Association") for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of Committee members throughout the year and up to the date of this report are:

Convenor:	David Liddle
Public Officer:	Georgina McGee
Treasurer:	Robert McKenzie
Secretary:	Louise Harrison
Committee Member:	Matt Grigg
	Michael Fonda
	Grusha Leeman
	Michael Meegan
	Dominic Nicholls
	Robin Knox

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activities of the Association during the relevant financial year were to address all major environmental and sustainability issues facing the Territory.

OPERATING RESULT

The surplus for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 amounted to \$14,269 (2021: \$40,112).

In our opinion:

1. The accompanying financial report as set out on pages 7 to 14, being a special purpose financial report, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2022 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date;
2. The accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
3. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 60-40 *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) is set out on page 4.

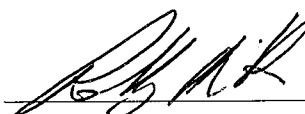
Signed on behalf of the Committee.



Convenor

Darwin

Date: 18th OCT 2022



Treasurer

Darwin

Date: 19 OCT 22

Auditors Independence Declaration to the Committee of Environment Centre NT Inc.

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as the auditor of Environment Centre NT Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2022, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- The auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- Any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Merit Partners



Matthew Kennon
Director

Darwin

Date: 19 October 2022

Independent auditor's report to the members of Environment Centre NT Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of Environment Centre NT Inc. (the "Association"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2022 and the statement of profit and loss, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, and the committee statement.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Environment Centre NT Inc. is in accordance with the *Associations Act (NT)* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

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 Association in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and 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 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

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association meet the needs of the *Associations Act*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the Association's constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Act*, the Association's constitution and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and have determined that the accounting policies used as described in Note 1 are appropriate to meet the needs of the Association and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association'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 for the year ended 30 June 2022 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 the 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 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 management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's 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 registered entity 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.

We communicate with those charged with governance 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.



Merit Partners



Matthew Kennon
Director
Darwin
Date: 19 October 2022

Statement of Profit and Loss

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated

Year ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Income			
Donations		136,291	153,436
Donations Territory Guardians		45,734	31,128
Fee for Services		5,455	80,131
Fundraising, Events & Sponsorship		5,890	11,939
Government Rebates		-	65,797
Grant Income		805,900	178,996
Interest Income		1,115	1,445
Membership Income		1,283	616
Merchandise Income		20,694	22,237
Other Income		1,775	23,623
NTG Policy Grant Income		100,000	100,000
Rental Income		33,800	38,360
Unexpended Project Balances b/fwd	5	258,009	92,184
Unexpended Project Balances c/fwd	5	(695,881)	(258,009)
		720,065	541,883
Expenses			
Accounting and Bookkeeping		21,040	22,570
Advertising		12,801	36,721
Communications		-	114
Conference & Consultants		39,011	37,084
Depreciation Expenses		4,174	2,240
Finance Costs		398	625
Insurance		9,943	12,110
IT Expense		5,850	7,213
Operating Expenses		12,965	12,761
Other Expenses		32,341	9,692
Project Related Expenses		51,357	29,097
Rent		35,400	35,400
Superannuation		43,132	26,132
Telephone & Internet		4,472	4,972
Utilities		2,548	2,708
Wages and Salaries		430,364	262,332
		705,796	501,771
Surplus for the Year		14,269	40,112

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Balance Sheet

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated
As at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,248,842	765,129
Trade and Other Receivables	2	21,515	19,224
Prepayments		13,154	7,666
Total Current Assets		1,283,511	792,019
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	19,534	11,437
Total Non-Current Assets		19,534	11,437
Total Assets		1,303,045	803,456
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	4	58,063	24,712
Other Liabilities	5	698,481	261,476
Employee Provisions		32,374	17,410
Total Current Liabilities		788,918	303,598
Total Liabilities		788,918	303,598
Net Assets		514,127	499,858
Accumulated Funds			
Balance at the Beginning of the Year		499,858	459,746
Current Year Surplus		14,269	40,112
Total Accumulated Funds		514,127	499,858

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated
Year Ended 30 June 2022

2021

	Accumulated Surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2020	459,746	459,746
Surplus for the year	40,112	40,112
Balance at 30 June 2021	499,858	499,858

2022

	Accumulated Surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	499,858	499,858
Surplus for the year	14,269	14,269
Balance at 30 June 2022	514,127	514,127

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated
Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from Customers	247,764	554,011
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(658,796)	(510,686)
Interest Received	1,115	1,445
Grants Received	905,900	178,996
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	495,983	223,766
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Property Plant & Equipment Purchases	(12,270)	(7,601)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(12,270)	(7,601)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents Held	483,713	216,165
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	765,129	548,964
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Financial Year	1,248,842	765,129

Notes to the Financial Statements

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated

Year Ended 30 June 2022

NOTE 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation

Environment Centre NT Inc, a not-for-profit entity, has prepared special purpose financial statements as, in the opinion of the Management Committee, it is unlikely there are users of these financial statements who are not in a position to require the preparation of reports tailored to their information needs. Accordingly, these financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the Management Committee's reporting requirements under the *Associations Act (NT)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012*.

These special purpose financial statements do not comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards. The material accounting policies adopted in the special purpose financial statements are set out in notes 1 (b)-(j) and indicate how the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards have not been complied with.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash on hand and in banks. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

(c) Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are stated at their nominal values, less any provision for doubtful debts.

The provision for doubtful accounts is the estimated amount of probable losses arising from non-collection based on past collection experience and a review of the current status of long-outstanding receivables.

Bad debts, if any, are written off during the year when the receivable is considered uncollectable.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated

Year Ended 30 June 2022

NOTE 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Plant and equipment	20%
Computer equipment	30%
Leasehold improvements	20%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

(e) Trade and other payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Accruals are liabilities to pay for goods or services that have been received or supplied but have not been paid, invoiced or formally agreed with the supplier, including amounts due to employees.

(f) Revenue recognition

All grant income has been deferred upon receipt and not recognised as revenue until the related expenses are incurred, without assessing whether enforceable performance obligations exist. This does not comply with AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues using the effective interest method.

Rental Income

Rental Income is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated
Year Ended 30 June 2022

NOTE 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(g) Employee entitlements

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in current liabilities in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Non-accumulating sick leave is expensed to profit or loss when incurred.

(h) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the statement of financial position.

(i) Income tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under item 8.1 of Section 40-50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(j) Going concern, economic dependency and subsequent events

During the year the Association received donations and grants from government and other funding bodies. The financial report has been prepared on the basis that the Association is a going concern and will continue to operate. The Committee believes that the support from donors, funding bodies and members will continue and that the Association will continue as a going concern for the ensuing 12 months from the date of this report.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Environment Centre Northern Territory Incorporated
Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
NOTE 2: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade Receivables	18,759	17,927
Other Receivables	2,756	1,297
	21,515	19,224
NOTE 3: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment	19,902	7,633
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(5,629)	(2,772)
Leasehold Improvements	7,601	7,601
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(2,340)	(1,025)
	19,534	11,437
NOTE 4: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Trade Creditors	10,971	3,301
Other Payables	5,210	3,418
Accrued Expenses	20,783	13,376
Tax Liabilities	21,099	4,617
	58,063	24,712
NOTE 5: OTHER LIABILITIES		
Unexpended Project Income	695,881	258,009
Income in Advance	2,600	3,467
	698,481	261,476

Acknowledgements



Environment Centre NT is grateful to all our funders, partner organisations and donors and we thank them for their support. We couldn't do our work without you.

Northern Territory Government
Darwin City Council
Australian Communities Foundation
Melliodora Fund
The Reichstein Foundation
Purves Environmental Fund
The Mullum Trust
The Sunrise Project
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Australian Marine Conservation Society
Environmental Justice Australia
Environmental Defenders Office
Arid Lands Environment Centre
The Wilderness Society
UNSW Global Water Institute
Original Power
Lock the Gate
Nurrdalinji Aboriginal Corporation
Darwin Community Arts
Protect Big Rivers
Andy Peart
Dave Liddle
Louise Harrison
Elizabeth Martin
Protect NT
Friends of Lee Point
The Planning Action Network Inc
Climate Action Darwin
NTCOSS
Jesuit Social Services
Jubilee Australia Research Centre

Front cover photo credit: Tobias Akesson