

29 YEARS LOOKING AFTER THE

KIMBERLEY

Annual Report 2025



environs
KIMBERLEY
SAVING THE NATURE OF THE KIMBERLEY





Martuwarra Fitzroy River. Image: Adam monk



Carmel Leahy

Chairperson's Report

An old man near death gathered his sons and asked them to break a bundle of sticks. None could. When untied, each stick broke easily. (Aesop's Fables)

In unity there is strength.

This year, that truth has guided Environs Kimberley. Our members, supporters, staff, Board, and donors have stood together to defend the Kimberley's environment and strengthen on-Country conservation. The purchase of 9 Farrell Street has provided a permanent home and room for future growth.

Our staff continue to manage a complex and demanding workload with dedication and care. To strengthen leadership and sustainability, the Board introduced a co-leadership model. Martin Pritchard has returned as Executive Director, joined by Liam Wright as Operations Director. Together, they unite and guide the team to fulfil our mission safely and effectively.

The power of Environs Kimberley lies in its people — each stick in the bundle contributing to our shared strength. Thank you to every staff member, supporter, and donor. Your collective effort ensures the protection of the Kimberley's nature for future generations.



Martin Pritchard

Executive Director's Report

The Kimberley has not had any fracking, the Martuwarra Fitzroy River has had no industrial pumps taking its water and Scott Reef was not surrounded by 50 Woodside oil and gas wells in 2025.

It's been a huge challenge to keep it that way but, by working with the community, joining forces with Traditional Owners, collaborating with the biggest environment organisations in the country and popular musicians, writers and filmmakers, we made a mark.

We took our defence of the Kimberley from fracking to the government's heartland and gave them the fright of their lives in Fremantle at the state election. Our powerful new films *Corals' Last Stand*, *Lifeblood* and *Kimberley Voices for Country* showcased our greatest assets, the wondrous nature of the Kimberley, presented by strong, passionate voices of First Nations people and communities, environmental campaigners and artists.

As we moved into a new phase at EK, we reviewed our strategic plan and determined that our strength comes from all facets of our work, combined. We looked forward to launching it soon.

The threats kept coming from across the Kimberley with no government protection in sight; but if there's one thing that 2025 showed us it is that when we stand together, we can win.



Operations Director's Report

Liam Wright

This year has been one of growth, reflection, and renewed focus for Environs Kimberley. As Operations Director, I've been privileged to work with a passionate and skilled team to strengthen our systems, culture, and collaborations, all of which protect the nature of the Kimberley.

Our operational systems support diverse campaigns and projects, achieving tangible outcomes across the region. We welcomed new staff in keeping with our focus on attracting and retaining the talent needed to fulfil our mission.

While 2025 brought challenges—particularly balancing team capacity with ambitious program goals — these experiences strengthened our structure, clarified responsibilities, and enhanced organisational resilience. We have improved budget transparency, project reporting, and accountability, creating a more dynamic and adaptive organisation.

Looking ahead, we will consolidate these gains by deepening partnerships with Traditional Owners and regional organisations, enhancing digital systems, and securing sustainable funding for core operations and long-term ecological programs. Martin and I, the EK team, and the Board, are finalising a new 2026–2029 Strategic Plan to guide future growth and impact.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, Board, and partners — your dedication and generosity continue to make Environs Kimberley a strong and inspiring force for protecting the region.

DEFENDING THE KIMBERLEY

Challenges mounted this year, but we're happy to say that our work in partnership with Traditional Owners and Custodians, environment groups and the broader community, with support from donors and supporters, continued to keep major industrialisation in the Kimberley at bay. Threats include fracking, oil and gas proposals, heavy mineral sands mining, critical minerals, underwater sand mining, largescale irrigation with land clearing and major water extraction, industrial fish farming, as well as other mining proposals.

FRACK FREE KIMBERLEY

We are still frack free, and thousands mobilised to send in submissions calling on both the state and federal governments to reject the 'Valhalla' fracking proposal, by Texan oil and gas company Black Mountain Energy, in the heart of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River catchment.

Along with our longstanding partners, Lock the Gate, we ran a powerful campaign during the state election, informing voters of the threat to the Kimberley from fracking, surveying the community and influencing a mass turnout at the ballot box. The WA Labor Party got the fright of its life in its heartland seat of Fremantle. Sitting member and Minister for Water, Simone McGurk, came within 213 votes of losing the longstanding Labor electorate.

Our film *Kimberley Voices for Country*, featuring ten Traditional Owners and Custodians, has been a powerful way of telling the story of resistance to this toxic industry. It was wonderful to get the support of the Marrickville community in the Prime Minister's seat. We had a great turnout at the Marrickville Town Hall, and locals took our message to Prime Minister Albanese the next day.



International music icon John Butler and Fremantle residents demand a Frack Free Kimberley. Photo: Jean-Paul Horre

PROTECTING THE MARTUWARRA FITZROY RIVER

Defending the Martuwarra remained a core focus. Along with our partners the Kimberley Like Nowhere Else team, videographers and Traditional Owners, we produced an inspiring and mesmerising film – *Lifeblood The Martuwarra Fitzroy River* – to continue to build the campaign's next phase. We've been rolling it out in the Kimberley as well as Fremantle, Perth and the South West, to inform the public about the importance of the river, and bring them on board to ensure the Cook government fully protects surface water and groundwater, and provides rights in decision-making to Traditional Owners.



SAVING SCOTT REEF

The fight to save Scott Reef from Woodside and partners' 50 oil and gas wells intensified as we ramped up the campaign. Securing a boat to take us to the Reef, 270km from the Kimberley coast, was not easy. When we found one, we partnered up with other environment groups and launched a mission with Tim Winton, John Butler, Brinkley Davis, Dr Ben Fitzpatrick and a crew of filmmakers and underwater videographers. The result was *Corals' Last Stand*, an award-winning documentary by West Australian filmmaker Jane Hammond. It toured the Nation, gathering support for our campaign to protect this precious marine jewel.

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Turning around the old narrative, heavily ingrained in southern politics, that the North is a quarry and farms waiting to happen, is not an easy task. We are constantly reminding the nation that our prosperity here relies on an intact landscape, rich cultural heritage and a liveable climate. Our alliance with our Northern counterparts is flourishing and about to bear fruit in September at the *Australia's Great North Conference* – a major catalyst for change in conserving the world's most intact tropical savannah.



Kimberley Nature Projects

We collaborated with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal rangers, researchers, and communities to protect biodiversity and care for Country.

THREATENED SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

Nyangumarta Threatened Species

With Nyangumarta rangers, we supported a cost-benefit analysis comparing cat control methods and established monitoring camera grids during early dry season trips to guide future management and strategic planning.

Sandy Deserts Fire and Biodiversity Project

With Karajarri, Nyangumarta, Ngurrara and Ngurrpa rangers and Charles Darwin University (CDU), we investigated how wildlife responds to desert fire. Field trapping, camera monitoring and mapping informed fire management workshops. CDU research using 1940s aerial imagery helped rangers incorporate traditional fire knowledge into management.

ARC Linkage: Large Fauna and Fire

We supported research on how large fauna respond to diverse fire histories across the Great Sandy Desert, combining ranger knowledge, field ecology, and data science.

HABITATS AND RESTORATION

Ngurrara Country Flood Recovery

We worked with Ngurrara rangers on weeding, volunteer engagement, and cultural trips focused on post-flood recovery. New database systems were explored, and we worked on coordinating future flood monitoring and restoration.

Gooniyandi Flood Recovery Project

After the Ex-Cyclone Ellie floods, we partnered with Gooniyandi Aboriginal Corporation and Kimberley Land Council (KLC) to deliver cultural and ecological recovery activities. Work included bilby monitoring, eDNA testing, wetland assessments, nursery projects and school engagement to reconnect community with Country.

Kimberley Wetlands Project

With Yawuru, Karajarri, and Bunuba rangers we helped protect and monitor key freshwater areas through on-Country learning, cultural site visits, weeding and community education. We helped manage threats such as weeds, grazing and fire while protecting wetland refuges.

Wetland Monitoring and Management Toolkit

We co-developed a Wetland Toolkit with UWA and Kimberley Aboriginal rangers. Ranger-led, it applies Healthy Country Planning principles to wetlands and includes cultural knowledge in monitoring protocols to assess wetland health.

COMMUNITY CITIZEN SCIENCE

Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring

In its 18th year, this citizen science program has monitored the health of Roebuck Bay's seagrass meadows through triannual surveys across four sites and produced a Community Seagrass Report Card which confirmed the seagrass was in good condition.



RESEARCH, MONITORING AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Innovative Biodiversity Monitoring

With Yawuru, Karajarri and CDU, we used satellite and drone (LiDAR) technology to enhance habitat mapping. Field surveys, vegetation data collection, historical fire scar mapping, and GIS analysis produced spatial models to guide ranger programs and support biodiversity management.



Romaniah Hunter and Gaydar Lawford conducting ground truthing surveys using point intercept method pairs with highly accurate GPS data collection.

Dampier Peninsula Fire Working Group

Vegetation surveys with Yawuru, Nyul Nyul, Bardi Jawi Rangers and KLC improved understanding of fire's effect on pindan savannah and vine thickets. Frequent fires were found to damage fruit-bearing species demonstrating the need for fire interval management.



Nyangumarta rangers and coordinators, alongside IDA interns Dylan and Clem and EK staff member Kailee after a week of trapping, shooting and checking Felixers out on Nyangumarta Country. Cat control is a high priority for the Nyangumarta rangers to safeguard rock wallabies and other threatened species found on their Country.

WEEDS, FERALS AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Weed and Feral Animal Management

With KLC, Bardi Jawi, and Paruku rangers, we helped develop weed and feral animal management plans. Consultation with Ardyaloon and Mulan communities identified local priorities to protect Country and cultural sites through targeted on-ground action.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND RECORDING

Yawuru Plant Knowledge

We partnered with Yawuru on the *Baluyi Bilarra Bundurr Bundurr* – Plants of the Wetland and Pindan project, recording Yawuru and scientific knowledge of wetland plants with Elders and UWA.

Plant Stories – Traditional Knowledge about Bardi Jawi Country plants

We worked with Bardi Jawi rangers and Elders to publish an updated Traditional Knowledge resource on important plants.

Nyul Nyul Mayi – Bush-food Plant Identification Guide

This collaborative cultural knowledge project with Nyul Nyul rangers, Elders and the Nyul Nyul PBC published a resource on plant identification and cultural uses in Nyul Nyul Country.



Sustainable Communities

Sustainable Communities builds people’s capacity to live and work on Country. Incubating and supporting sustainable livelihoods, community development and inclusion.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

Seeding Success Project

We worked with rangers and community to build skills in native-seed collection, cleaning, and storage. Participants gained field experience, and industry exposure, blending cultural and scientific knowledge. We published a Bush Fruit Guide for Kimberley rangers promoting sustainable seed-growing practices.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Social Enterprise Development Project

We took a business development trip to visit our industry partners at Curtin Seed Innovation Hub, Kings Park, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and the Sustainable Innovative Food Technology Centre. These assisted the Wattleseed Collective with business strategy, protocols, intellectual property obligations, and seed science.

Wattleseed Collective

The Collective worked alongside Traditional Owners and community volunteers across the Kimberley to harvest and process wattleseed as part of ongoing bush-food initiatives.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSION

Community Engagement

We ran two field trips for Nyangumarta and Karajarri rangers to collect seeds, cuttings and specimens in the East Kimberley. We learnt seed cleaning, storage, and treatment techniques such as smoking and scarification. We joined a seed-and-cutting propagation workshop.

Nursery Support and Development

Work is underway to develop community nurseries, providing practical opportunities for economic development, skill-building, connection, and local engagement.



Mandy Shovellor and Victor Warrel, sporting their new Wattleseed Collective caps, harvesting wattleseed. Photo: Holly Timperley.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND RECORDING

Cultural and Ecological Learning

We took part in educational visits to Tucker Bush’s Australian bush-food nurseries and processing facilities, learning how native plants can be used as powerful educational tools. The experience highlighted the cultural journey shared by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in building a sustainable bush-food industry.



This financial year, we hosted a variety of important and heart-warming events, all made possible by our invaluable volunteers who are the heart of Environs Kimberley.

EK'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISING ART AUCTION 2024

A highlight was our spectacular annual fundraising art auction in August to which art lovers flocked for a chance to bid on exceptional art from across the Kimberley. Proceeds from the live art auction as well as our online art auction supported the artists and our conservation work. Thank you to the many dedicated volunteers who made both auctions a success.



Friends celebrate a night of fun while supporting artists and the environment. Photo: Fiona West.



A full house having a fabulous time. Photo: Fiona West.

SKIPA EVENTS

We had an exceptionally busy year with grants awarded to get the new EK/SKIPA Kimberley plant nursery organised, benches built and the site developed. Volunteers continued to grow plants at home for our native plant sale, held in March. They also enjoyed a National Eucalypt Day celebratory Corymbia Coach Tour of Eucalypts in Broome.



Native garden enthusiasts among the swales listen to tips on harvesting water. Photo: Kylie Weatherall.

OUR BIG MOVE TO OUR NEW HOME

Our move to Environs Kimberley's new property at 9 Farrell Street in Broome was an inspiring team effort on a hot, muggy October weekend. Thank you to the EK staff, Board members and the twenty volunteers who helped with epic feats of heavy lifting — including navigating native seed storage fridges down the tight stairwell of our old place, and shifting mountains of ecological survey equipment, such as camera traps, rolls of netting and more. The move to the new premises supported the establishment of nursery facilities to propagate native plants for projects in Broome and beyond.



Fresh orange slices kept everyone's energy up. Photo: Fiona West.



A majestic eucalypt stretches out its limbs in welcome over the shed at 9 Farrell Street. Photo: Fiona West.



Having founded EK nearly 30 years ago, our Editor-in-Chief Pat, and her likeness, entered our new home. Photo: Fiona West.

VOLUNTEER INFO SESSION AND CHRISTMAS THANK YOU CELEBRATION

We welcomed new and seasoned volunteers to join our Volunteer Information Session in April, where they heard from our passionate staff about the projects they could get involved with from administration support, to seagrass monitoring, to helping at our weekend market stall, to tree planting. It was a great opportunity for community members to meet like-minded people and ask questions regarding campaign progress. In December, we invited volunteers to a festive celebration featuring live music by special guest alt-country star Adele Oliver and a BBQ, to thank them for their support throughout the year.

Treasurer's Report

This year has been one of continued growth and strengthening of Environs Kimberley's capacity to protect the Kimberley. Building on the achievements of 2024, we continued to prioritise supporting a wide range of advocacy and conservation projects, alongside continued investments in the people and systems that make our work possible.

We're pleased to report a surplus of \$290,630 for the year ended 30 June 2025, an excellent result reflecting both the generosity of our funders, supporters and our sound financial management.

Total income reached \$2.87 million (2024: \$2.32 million), with \$1.28 million from grants and \$900,000 from donations. Additional income from consultancy services, memberships and fundraising contributed a further combined \$685,000. Our strongest results yet.

Total expenditure was \$2.58 million (2024: \$2.17 million), including \$1.46 million in employment costs supporting our passionate team, \$736,000 in project delivery costs and \$377,000 in operating costs. These proportions reflect a healthy balance between organisational sustainability and delivering on-ground impact, with more funds than ever directed into community conservation and environmental outcomes.

Total equity stands at \$3.2 million (2024: \$2.9 million). This includes \$1.75m of retained earnings, \$942,000 is funding for the future delivery of existing projects and campaigns, ensuring our ongoing commitments are fully funded. There's also \$502,615 in the EK Future Fund, safeguarding EK's long-term sustainability and capacity to respond to emerging environmental challenges across the region.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30th June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2,924,650	2,531,088
Trade & Other Receivables	59,370	161,148
Inventories	30,826	34,222
Financial Assets	-	-
Other Assets	9,605	19,853
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,024,451	2,746,311
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,042,672	998,337
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	1,042,672	998,337
TOTAL ASSETS	4,067,123	3,744,648
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade & Other Payables	248,297	209,422
Borrowings	42,000	38,706
Lease Liability	-	10,499
Employee Benefits	206,379	186,145
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	496,677	444,772
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Borrowings	345,975	359,819
Lease Liability	-	-
Employee Benefits	20,684	26,901
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	366,659	386,720
TOTAL LIABILITIES	863,336	831,492
NET ASSETS	3,203,787	2,913,157
EQUITY		
Reserve	1,445,331	2,136,832
Retained Earnings	1,758,456	776,325
TOTAL EQUITY	3,203,787	2,913,157

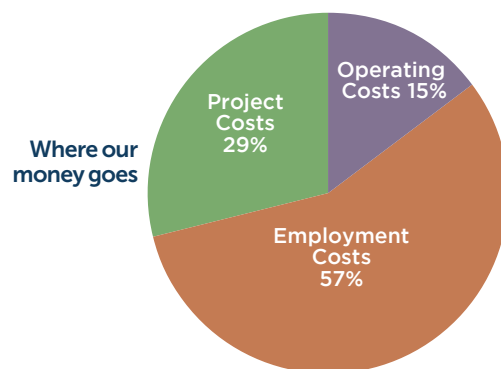
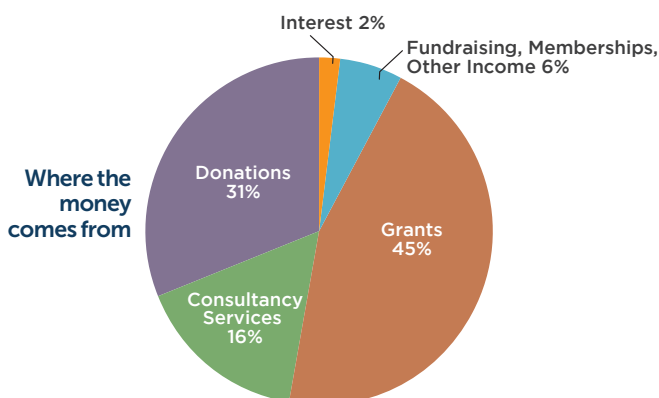
Statement of Change in Equity

For the year ended 30th June 2025

	Retained Earnings	Future Fund Reserve	Grants Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
2025				
Balance as at 1st July 2024	776,325	502,615	1,634,217	2,913,157
Transfer to Reserve for Future Service Delivery	691,501		-691,501	-
Surplus for the year	290,630			290,630
Balance at 30th June 2025	1,758,456	502,615	942,716	3,203,787
2024				
Balance at 1st July 2023	661,615	502,615	1,600,334	2,764,564
Transfer to Reserve Future Service Delivery	-33,883	-	33,883	-
Surplus for the year	148,593	-	-	148,593
Balance at 30th June 2024	776,325	502,615	1,634,217	2,913,157

Income Statement For the year ended 30th June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grant income	1,281,976	932,066
Donations	899,978	989,868
Interest	55,171	67,890
Consultancy Services	467,087	221,952
Fundraising, Membership, Other Income	162,921	106,797
Total Income	2,867,134	2,318,573
EXPENDITURE		
Employment Costs	1,463,468	1,483,346
Project Costs	735,867	454,460
Operating Costs	377,168	232,174
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,576,503	2,169,980
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	290,630	148,593



Thank You

Environs Kimberley is grateful to all of our funders and partner organisations. We thank you for your support - we couldn't do it without you!

Funding Support



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Partners and collaborators



Acknowledgement of Cover Photograph

Front Image: The Martuwarra Fitzroy River. Photo: Wendy Mitchell

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BOARD

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Deputy: Kat Taylor
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Operations Director: Liam Wright
Finance and Administration Manager: Christine Elsasser
Administration Officer: Michelle Ashworth
Communications Officer: Fiona West
Kimberley Nature Project: Hamsini Bijlani, Phil Docherty, Alex Gibson, Dr Michelle Pyke, Kailee Savoia, Holly Timperley, Kylie Weatherall, Sam Younis, Jayah Carter, Danielle Bain
Philanthropy Consultant: Ione McLean

Sustainable Communities:

Tessa Mossop (maternity leave), Mandy Shovellor, Holly Timperley, Kylie Weatherall, Victor Warrell, Jayah Carter
Frack Free Kimberley Coordinator: Shaun Clark
Campaigns Consultant: Peter Robertson
Community Organiser – Frack Free Kimberley and Save Scott Reef: Wendy Mitchell
Staff who departed in 2025: Andrew Batt CEO, Malcolm Lindsay and Louise Beames Kimberley Nature Project / Sustainable Communities

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