



**Friends of
the Earth
Australia**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

Friends of the Earth
312 Smith St, Collingwood, VICTORIA 3066 | 03 94198700 | www.foe.org.au



Friends of the Earth Australia (FoEA) is a national environmental organisation composed of local groups and affiliates. We campaign on many of the key environmental issues and collaborate with a range of partners to cover many more issues. We are the Australian member of FoE International, the largest grassroots environmental network on the planet.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a world where everyone's needs are met in a way which safeguards the future of the natural environment. We work for a world where environmental protection, social justice and economic welfare for all people go hand in hand. Through our local, national and international networks, we work with the community to raise awareness, put forward alternatives, and take action for a fair and ecologically sustainable future.

FoE operates from an environmental justice perspective. This means working towards a situation where all people live in a healthy environment and where the benefits and costs of economic activity are shared equally, including between nations and generations. FoEA supports Indigenous sovereignty and works at both the local level with specific Indigenous communities as well as participating in debates and campaigns at the national and international level.

FoE understands that in an era of globalisation and international environmental problems, a global and co-operative response is required. FoEA seeks to develop strong relations with environmental and social justice movements in all parts of the world.

Our work in 2015/16:

The following is a summary of some of our work and achievements from the 2015/16 financial year.



Climate change and energy

Climate science makes it clear that if we are to have a hope of avoiding the worst of dangerous climate change, we must keep the vast majority of known fossil fuel reserves in the ground.

In recent years, most of FoE's work on climate change has been focused on local campaigning to support communities who are concerned about the threat of new coal and gas proposals. Our affiliate project Market Forces has been driving the national debate on responsible investment. Our Yes2Renewables campaign secured some major campaign victories in 2016.

SHIFTING THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

FoE affiliate Market Forces continued to play a key role in campaigns aimed at shifting finance and investment patterns of major financial institutions and keeping prospective lenders from supporting the mega coal mines proposed in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

Please see below for their full report.

A STATE RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET (VRET)

For the last four years, FoE's Yes2Renewables campaign has focused on two key issues so as to ensure Victoria becomes a leader in the development of renewable energy.

- We have focused on the need for the current government to re-write the regressive anti wind laws put in place by the Baillieu government while it was in power. The creation of these laws had effectively stopped the development of large scale renewable energy in the state. The Andrews government has now re-written the worst aspects of these laws.
- We campaigned to build support for a state renewable energy target (a VRET). We believed this was necessary because of the continual destabilisation

of the renewable energy industry at the federal level. The continuous uncertainty saw investment in the sector collapse by 90% in 12 months and over 2,500 people lose their jobs. The Abbott government's 20% cut to the target stalled the sector and made it more difficult for Australia to tackle climate change. In June 2016, the Andrews government announced a VRET of 25% renewable energy by 2020 and 40% by 2025.

The Victorian Renewable Energy Targets is expected to double wind energy capacity in the state by 2020 and triple renewable energy capacity by 2025, creating 10,000 jobs and unlocking a \$2.5 billion investment opportunity in the process.

For further information, please see: yes2renewables.org



STOPPING NEW FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENTS IN VICTORIA

The most recent IPCC report has endorsed the view of climate activists and scientists who have warned that countries cannot burn the world's known reserves of fossil fuels without sending the climate system into a dangerous tailspin.

We believe our best contribution to slowing climate change is to stop the further development of fossil fuel projects in Australia.

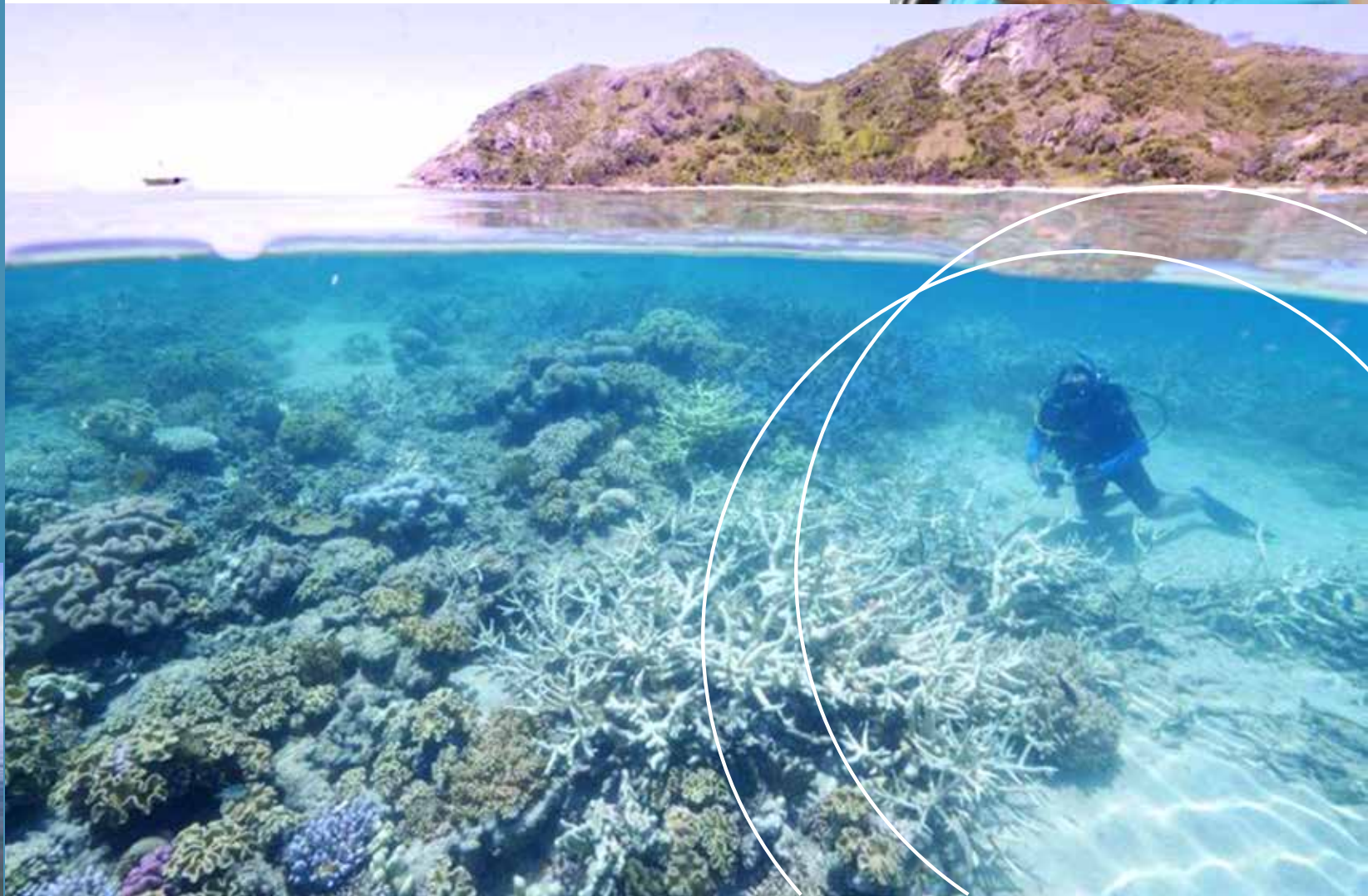
In 2012, a campaign launched by FoE was able to achieve the first significant environmental victory under the Coalition government in Victoria. The then Premier, Ted Baillieu, announced a moratorium on the process of fracking (hydraulic fracturing) and a ban on the use of the use of the dangerous BTEX chemicals in the gas drilling process. Since the state election in 2014, we have been heavily involved in the inquiry into unconventional gas established by the Andrews government. The moratorium on onshore gas drilling remains in place and a final decision is expected in August 2016.

Further information: http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/coal_and_gas

WORKING WITH PACIFIC AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

The Climate Frontlines collective of FoE Brisbane continues to maintain its relationship and work with key Torres Strait elders and leaders, as it seeks to find effective ways of supporting initiatives outlined in the Torres Strait Regional Authority's new 5-year plan, *Climate Change Strategy: Building Community Adaptive Capacity and Resilience*.

We hosted Ursula Rakova of the Carterets Islands in PNG on an east coast speaking tour in 2016. The Carterets community are currently managing their own relocation from their homeland to the island of Bougainville, about 120 kilometres away.



Anti-nuclear & Clean Energy (ACE) campaign

All aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle pose grave threats to the natural environment, traditional owners whose land is used for mining and dumping, and workers involved in the industry. FoE has campaigned against the nuclear fuel cycle since its creation in 1974.

FoE's Anti-nuclear & Clean Energy (ACE) activists have been incredibly busy over the past year, working with Aboriginal Traditional Owners in South Australia who are fighting against plans for national and international nuclear waste dumps on their lands.


The South Australian government's Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission released its final report in May 2016. Given that the Royal Commission was stacked with nuclear advocates, the report is remarkably downbeat about the prospects for a nuclear industry. It rejected – on economic grounds – uranium conversion and enrichment,

fuel fabrication, conventional nuclear power, 'Generation 4' nuclear power concepts including thorium, 'small modular' nuclear reactors, and spent nuclear fuel reprocessing.

The Royal Commission is however promoting a plan for South Australia to offer itself as the world's high level nuclear waste dump, and since May 2016 the SA government has been running an aggressive promotional campaign dressed up as 'community consultation'. FoE made detailed submissions to the Royal Commission, and also wrote a detailed critique of the Royal Commission – these reports are posted at www.foe.org.au/import-waste. We recently participated in the SA government's 'Citizens Jury' process as an invited witness and gave written and oral evidence to a SA Parliamentary Committee. We're working on lots of projects and upcoming events with Traditional Owners, the SA Conservation Council and others.

ACE campaigners have also been working with communities in several states and territories who are being targeted by the federal government for a national nuclear waste dump. In April, the federal government announced that just one of the sites remains under consideration – Aboriginal land in the Flinders Ranges of SA. ACE activists have been working closely with Adnyamathanha Traditional Owners who are united in their opposition to the proposed dump, and we have made numerous trips to the Flinders Ranges as well as hosting a Melbourne visit by Adnyamathanha Traditional Owners Regina and Vivianne McKenzie to raise awareness about their struggle.


FoE has also been deeply engaged with the broader policy debates about responsible radioactive waste management policies. More information is posted at www.foe.org.au/waste.



“ As health organisations, we are appalled that **access to nuclear medical procedures is being used to justify the proposed nuclear waste dump.**

Most waste from these procedures break down quickly and can be safely disposed of either on site or locally.”

 **Dr Bill Williams**
General Practitioner

 **NUCLEAR WASTE NOT WELCOME**
www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear

#NuclearWaste #NotWelcome



NUCLEAR WASTE NOT WELCOME

 friends of the earth



Economic Justice

FoE has recently stepped back into the Economic Justice space after having had a thriving campaign in the 90s. The focus thus far has been on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), initially calling for the release of the agreement's text, and more recently advocating for the removal of the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism. ISDS is an international arbitration process that allows multinational corporations to sue a participating government for introducing legislation that might affect projected future profits.

The Economic Justice Collective (EJC) was one of the founding members of the TPP Unions and Community Roundtable, and we have continued to work closely with unions, grassroots and community organisations and individuals throughout the campaign. Together we have organised forums and rallies, continuing to raise awareness of the risks associated with the TPP.

In July 2015, EJC released a paper titled *'Fracking the Planet: How the Trans Pacific Partnership will expand fracking in Australia and around the globe'*. The paper explains the implications of

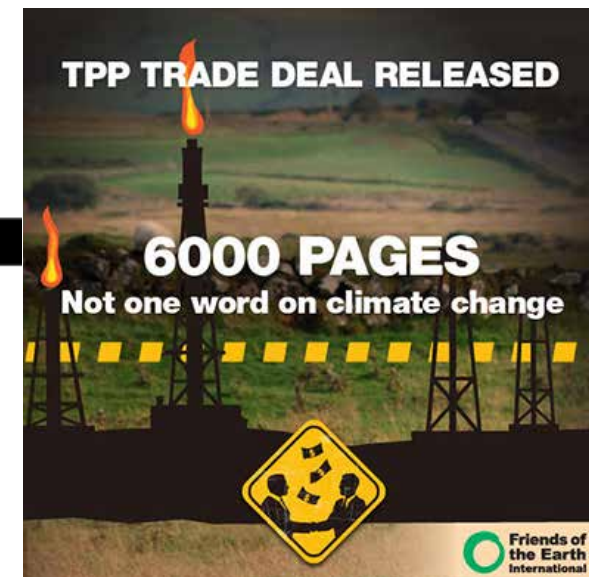
the *Investment State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)* Chapter of the TPP, and explores the ways in which foreign corporations could use this clause to override the Australian law and environmental regulations to continue fracking the planet. 'Fracking the Planet' also explains the basic process of fracking, and presents the current state of play across Australia, the US and Europe, including areas currently engaging in fracking, bans and moratoriums, and areas of community resistance.

http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/economic_justice



In July 2015, EJC released a paper titled *'Fracking the Planet: How the Trans Pacific Partnership will expand'*

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/friendsofearthmelbourne/pages/953/attachments/original/1438224374/foe-fracking-tpp-reportWEB_%282%29.pdf?1438224374



"Instead of protecting the environment, the TPP would undermine regulations on a vast range of issues including food safety, genetic modification, chemical use, polluting fuels and climate change."



TPP Public Forum
7pm Thursday 21st April
Lower Melbourne Town Hall



The Emerging Technology Project

FoEA has been working on the threats associated with emerging technologies like nanotech for many years. Many of these technologies are being developed with very little regulation and oversight. In recent years the nanotech project has broadened its brief to include all forms of emerging technology.

It's been a busy year for the Emerging Tech Project and we are excited about the plans that we have for the year ahead.

Our decision to work on synthetic biology and new genetic modification (GM) techniques has proven very timely, with regulators around the world currently deciding if and how to regulate these new techniques. We published a report revealing that our regulators are planning to allow foods derived from a range of these new GM techniques untested and unlabelled onto our supermarket shelves.

We have built a strong coalition of groups who are concerned that our food regulator Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is failing to put public safety and right to know first and foremost. These groups include GeneEthics, MADGE, The National Toxics Network, Additive Alert, GE Free New Zealand, the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance and the Food Intolerance Network. We intend to work collaboratively, to build the political pressure to ensure that ingredients derived from new technologies such as nanotechnology, synthetic biology and

new genetic engineering techniques undergo adequate safety testing and are labelled for consumer choice.

We mobilised our networks through email and social media to apply direct pressure to political decision makers regarding proposed changes to the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991. This resulted in an inquiry and the ALP and the Greens successfully blocking proposed changes to the FSANZ board – which would have made it even more industry friendly.

We commissioned testing which revealed nanoparticles of titanium dioxide and silica in a range of different food products. Working with Friends of the Earth US we also released independent testing results which revealed the presence of nano hydroxyapatite, silica and titanium dioxide in baby formula available online in Australia. These test results disproved FSANZ's claims that nanomaterials are not present in foods in Australia.

We also co-hosted a well-attended conference on Challenging the Privatised University with the National Tertiary Education Union, Ngara Institute and the National Alliance for Public Universities. The conference examined the ways in which privatisation and corporate funding have changed the nature of universities from public good to private interest institutions and how these realities can be challenged.



A number of collaborations have emerged from that conference, including a transparency project that we hope will result in the disclosure of the agreements between academic institutions working on nanotechnology and biotechnology and their corporate partners.

For further information:
<http://emergingtech.foe.org.au/>



Water and biodiversity

CHEMICALS AND WATER

FoE has long worked to raise awareness of the threats posed to the natural environment and human health through overuse of synthetic chemicals. In recent years we have been compiling data on chemical use in drinking water catchments and water supplies around Australia.

During the first half of 2016, Friends of the Earth has been compiling pesticide in waterway results from across Australia. The goal of this research is to compile a detailed report outlining which are the most commonly detected pesticides in waterways and water supplies across Australia. The results of this research will then be sent through to the National Health and Medical Research Council. The NHMRC determine safe guidelines for drinking water in Australia and for some time FoE has been concerned that the NHMRC grant guidelines for pesticides infrequently detected, whilst not granting guidelines for more commonly detected pesticides. It appears that the most commonly detected pesticides across Australian waterways over the past 20 years are the herbicides Atrazine, Simazine, Diuron, Hexazinone, MCPA, Metolachlor and 2,4-D. The insecticides Chlorpyrifos, Dieldrin and Endosulfan are also frequently detected.

In October 2015, Friends of the Earth produced a detailed report which compiled a variety of water quality monitoring results in Tasmania over the year 2014-15. Of most concern is

the high level of lead which continues to appear in the water supply of a number of communities in Tasmania, particularly the towns of Rosebery and Pioneer. Many communities also recorded high levels of Aluminium, and FoE raised the issue of Alzheimer's Disease possibly being linked to high levels of Aluminium. Disinfection by-products (DBPs) are also problematic, as is cadmium in some localities. Perhaps as many as 20,000 Tasmanians could be drinking water with high levels of lead, aluminium, DBP's and cadmium.

Further information:

<http://www.foe.org.au/sites/default/files/TasDrinkingWaterLeadAluminiumFinal.pdf>

A simazine poster was created for distribution, alerting the public to the problems associated with this herbicide. Simazine continues to be the most ubiquitous herbicide detected in Melbourne waterways, and most likely other urban waterways across the country.

<http://www.foe.org.au/sites/default/files/simazinemelbourne.pdf>

Simazine is commonly used on driveways and industrial areas as a once a year weed killer. It is closely related to the herbicide Atrazine, also detected widely across Australia. Friends of the Earth also publicly raised concerns over the cessation of widespread

pesticide monitoring by the Tasmanian Government. The monitoring was shut down after a sharp increase in detections between 2013-14.

FoE continues to network with, and provide resources to, local residents concerned about pesticides, and spoke at a community forum in Bright, with locals concerned about aerial spraying of pine plantations with Glyphosate. The bulk of FoE's time however was spent on helping with the construction of the Australian Pesticide Map which highlights which pesticides have been detected across the Australian landscape.

<http://pesticides.australianmap.net/>



Local groups

The local groups are the cornerstone of the FoEA federation. Each year we profile the activity of one of our member groups. FoE Kuranda, based on the Atherton Tablelands in far north Queensland has grown considerably over the past year and changed its name to FoE Far North Queensland to reflect its broader focus of activity and is the feature of the 2015/16 report:



FOE FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Over the last year FoE FNQ was involved in a range of local and regional campaigns and projects.

We were involved in setting up a new group called Kuranda Regional Planning Group to lobby against the Mareeba Council's downgrading of the environmental protections in their new Regional Planning Scheme and to tackle a new mega resort planned for Kuranda called KUR-World Resort Development. This \$650 million proposal already had already begun clearing the habitat of several species of endangered fauna and flora with incomplete council or government approvals.

We helped support a new campaign by Ingrid Marker against predatory dogs attacking and killing cassowaries and other native wildlife, called Cassowary



Chain Reaction

Chain Reaction is the national magazine of FoE Australia. Three editions are produced each year. Chain Reaction is produced by an editorial team comprised of active FoE campaigners, with support from an Advisory Board.

<http://foe.org.au/chain-reaction>

Keystone Conservation, and co-organised a public meeting with Envirocare.

We organised a Meet the Candidates public forum for the Federal electorate of Leichhardt to allow them to discuss their policies.

We continued lobbying the Mareeba Shire Council to encourage them to improve their water testing policy for pollutants, pesticides and other contaminants.

We were involved in planning a new FoE campaign linking Climate Change and Militarism being led by Sam Castro and Margaret Pestorius.

We helped support the work of Frog Safe, which is a group that researches the cause of the decline in frog numbers, which is mainly attributed to a new class of pesticides. This project is run by one

of our members Deborah Pergolotti who also runs Australia's only frog hospital.

We have been supporting the campaign to eradicate yellow crazy ants which is an invasive foreign pest in the Kuranda and Cairns areas which spreads quickly and eradicates virtually all native species.

We made preparation for adopting the name FoE FNQ to widen our campaigns and membership beyond Kuranda.

We made preparations to incorporate two local campaigns who have decided to become part of FoE FNQ. These are Recycle Mareeba, which has been campaigning for the council to introduce recycling in the Shire and Spirit of Kuranda, which campaigns against inappropriate development, land clearing, and infrastructure in Kuranda.



Our group were closely involved in the campaign work of CSG free Kuranda and CSG Free NQ Inc, with more than half of their committee members being members of FoE FNQ.

Two of our members, Michelle Crossman and John Glue, attended the Lock the Gate Skill Share Conference and AGM in Lismore in 2015.

We were involved in a campaign to stop Cairns Regional Council cutting down historic 100-year-old trees in the Cairns CBD in an attempt to move on the threatened listed spectacled flying foxes roosts and colonies.

We consulted with the managers of Hancock Pine Plantations over a wide range of our concerns about land management in their plantations, and requests such as the leaving wider buffer zones and wildlife corridors in their plantations. Negotiations are proving to be constructive and are ongoing.

We made a submission to the state government's terms of reference for assessing the Integrated Food and Energy Development Project on Cape York and campaigned against other mega agricultural developments on the Cape.

We worked closely with and supported other local organisations such as EDO, Cairns and Far North Environment Centre, Australian Conservation Foundation, the Wilderness Society, James Cook University Sustainability Club, Envirocare and the Sovereign Yidindji Government.

We helped organise a two day Cairns Digital Campaigning Skill Share with several environmental groups plus Nationbuilder training with Phil Evans and Glenn Todd.

We used our monthly column in the Kuranda Paper to draw attention to our environmental concerns in FNQ such as threats to the Great Barrier Reef, the Great Artesian Basin, land clearing, pine plantations, etc.

Our Treasurer is Kurt Pudniks and our Secretary is Sarah Isaacs. Margaret Pestorius is our communication, campaign and membership secretary. She has prepared our groups data base for moving over into Nationbuilder and is preparing our website for the changeover.

Our membership base has grown over the past year, and the FoE FNQ facebook page followers has more than doubled over the last year to more than 800 people.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ADELAIDE

Friends of the Earth Adelaide continued their Campaign against the expansion of the nuclear industry in 2015/16. We hired a paid campaigner for 6 months who focused on developing our response to the SA government Nuclear Royal Commission through research, and the production of submissions, flyers and media releases. We worked with the Conservation Council on campaign events supporting SA regional communities targeted by the federal government for a national waste dump. We continued our participation in the Anti-nuclear SA coalition and held many stalls collecting signatures on postcards to the Premier. Currently FoE Adelaide are on the Citizen's Jury Stakeholder Reference Group.

We established our Campaign for Using Renewable Energy this year by hosting the Adelaide launch of the Beyond Zero Emissions Renewable Superpower report, and held the first of many 'renew:able' meetings, which aim to unite renewable campaigners around Adelaide.



Affiliates

FoEA created an affiliate category of membership in 1995. This was to allow FoE to work on a broader range of issues than existing resources allowed. In recent years, our network has grown substantially through new affiliate members joining FoEA.

MARKET FORCES

Throughout 2015-16 Market Forces continued to play a key role in campaigns aimed at shifting finance and investment patterns of major financial institutions and keeping prospective lenders from supporting the mega coal mines proposed in Queensland's Galilee Basin. At the request of the Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owners from the area

threatened by the Adani mega mine, we coordinated a tour of several countries in order to meet US and European banks, calling on them to avoid the project on environmental and human rights grounds. Standard Chartered and Commonwealth Bank both ended their advisory mandates to the proposed Adani Carmichael coal mine while NAB became the first bank in Australia to publicly rule out the prospect of issuing finance to the project.

By the end of 2015, all four major banks had come out in support of the goal to hold global warming to below two degrees. Market Forces was instrumental to several of these commitments, the most significant of which was Westpac, which explicitly committed to operating in a manner consistent with this goal. Our campaigns in 2016 now turn to implementing these commitments through policy and practice from the banks.

Our database of bank lending to the fossil fuel sector now covers half a trillion dollars worth of loans and we have been able to publish new and unique material showing how banks could have coal-free loan books by 2021 with relatively little effort.

In asset management, we continued to see more funds create options for their members that have reduced exposure to the fossil fuel sector. AustralianSuper, Vision Super and First State Super are among those to recalibrate their sustainable options to drop fossil fuels. In February 2016 we released a new version of the Super Switch website which enables data relating to billions of dollars worth of investments to be updated

with ease, and also allow people to use the website to campaign for changes in a particular company by mobilising the voting power of super funds.

We continue to work hard to maintain the research and databases that underpin our work, but also fifteen other campaigning groups in 2015-16 that came to us for support. And we will continue to campaign for the major banks to back up their climate change commitments with policies and changes in practice that ensure the banks are playing their part towards the rapid decarbonisation of our economy and society that is necessary to avoid runaway global warming.

NAB IS NOT INVOLVED AND HAS NO PLANS TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY FINANCING FOR THE CARMICHAEL COAL MINE



ONLY ANZ, AND Westpac TO GO. TELL THEM TO RULE OUT FUNDING FOR GALILEE COAL EXPORT PROJECTS

WWW.MARKETFORCES.ORG.AU/GALILEECOAL



WHEN COMMBANK BELIEVES THEY CAN, THEY CAN GET OUT OF GALILEE COAL EXPORTS!

Who's next to get out of new coal export projects?



MARKETFORCES.ORG.AU/GALILEECOAL

HEALTHY FUTURES

Healthy Futures is a new affiliate of Friends of the Earth Australia which is organising health professionals, students and supporters to address climate change and related threats to health (principally, the health threats posed by the extraction and burning of fossil fuels).

Our current campaign focus is on lobbying HESTA, Australia's largest health industry super fund, to divest from thermal coal. We have a campaign strategy prepared but our first step is to meet with HESTA formally and explain our request and rationale, gauge their current stance on thermal coal investments, and give them some idea as to what the first steps of our campaign might look like. We have

contacted HESTA's CEO and are hoping to hear back from her soon.

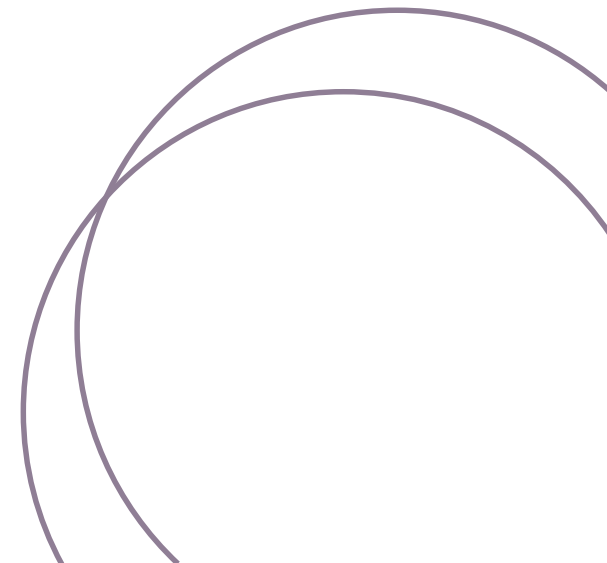
Besides this we've also recently launched a local action group at Western Health, and look forward to launching action groups in other health services by building alliances with many other stakeholders in the health and climate space, including the Climate and Health Alliance, Doctors for the Environment Australia, the Australian Medical Students Association and many existing "green teams" and sustainability committees in hospitals.

We're also working on developing our organisational structure, website and social media capacity.



We now have campaign co-ordinators in three metropolitan Melbourne public health services - Austin Health, Monash Health and Eastern Health - and aim to recruit and train campaign co-ordinators at every major metropolitan public health service in Melbourne by the end of this year.

We'd like to thank our current three co-ordinators - Nikki Shelton, Jacqui Dunn and Felicity Hostettler - as well as all our other volunteers who have made our campaigns possible. We'd also like to thank Market Forces and [350.org](https://www.350.org) Australia for their support in these campaigns. We're excited to continue to build power and to win.



CLIMACTS

A FoE affiliate since August 2015, **ClimActs** is an Australian theatre troupe using striking visual spectacle as well as satire to communicate the urgent need for the world to respond to climate change.

From the poignant to the absurd, we manifest as Climate Guardian angels, Coal Diggers from the BUMS™ (Billionaires United Mining Services), Medieval Astronomers from the Flat Earth Institute of the Universitas of Climatastropharse and Steam Punk Resurrectionists from the Frackers' Guild. Our acts are strategically designed to address aspects of the complex climate issue including the failure of leaders to meet basic duties of care, the exploitation of ignorance, greed, and corruption.

Since joining FoE, ClimAct's highlights include featuring in the ArtCOP21 Festival during **COP21** (30 November to 12 December 2015), including hand delivering **hundreds of Australian children's messages** to the entrance of the historical climate conference before dawn on Day 1. These poignant messages have subsequently become the foundation for a #KeepYourPromise #COP21 twitter campaign driven by Melbourne Barrister Andrew Laird.

Climate Guardians have supported numerous community driven climate and environment protection efforts in Victoria and New South Wales and were guest artists at the celebrated **Greenwich+Docklands International Festival** in the UK (25 & 26 June 2016).



photographer – Sean Bedla



They have also hand delivered their important messages to the offices of key Federal government decision makers.

Initially founded by Liz Conor and Deborah Hart in early 2013, ClimActs' founding act, the Climate Guardians, was inspired by Allana Beltram's haunting **Weld Angel** (2007), which blockaded Tasmania's Weld Valley Old Growth Forest. ClimActs evolved

quickly thanks to the dedication of many volunteer 'Angels' who generously contributed their time and talent in numerous complementary ways. For her exceptional support with IT and social media, Melissa Corbett deserves special acknowledgment.

Further information:

[website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

GM-FREE AUSTRALIA ALLIANCE

GM-Free Australia is another recent affiliate member of FoEA. It works across a number of areas:

GM-Free shopping list

2nd “Right to Know” GM-free shopping list launched in Perth, and Melbourne and Adelaide in October 2015. Compiled with Emily from WA, Natalie and Suzy from Melbourne and Louise from Brisbane, the list is a compilation of all products currently labelled “GM-free” or “non-GM”.

It’s a great motivator for local groups and is distributed in shops and from stalls. The list shows the demand for GM-Free produce. More companies are being asked to label now, so they can be listed in 2016. <http://www.gmfreeaustralia.org.au/assets/script/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Resources/GM-FREE-SHOPPING-LIST.pdf>

Spray-free streets and glyphosate

We are building on the successes in various countries which have banned or are phasing out the use of glyphosate for weed control. NZ Greens have produced an info pack for campaigners and we are adapting it for use in Australia, as well as working with existing groups and individuals such as Anthony Amis from FoE.

Pacific campaign

This year we are prioritising a campaign focused on government bodies and aid agencies, in light of the climate emergencies affecting our region. The campaign asks that aid agencies:

- Provide only seeds and assistance that guarantee the continued availability of farmer saved cultivars, landraces and wild germplasm;
- Establish seed banks that are solely for public use and cannot be commercialised;
- Support the development of agro-ecological systems for farming and seed production, and guaranty the preservation of heritage crops and traditional agriculture of the Pacific.

Full test and the groups already signed on to the letter are here <http://www.stopogmpacifique.org/welcome/>



New Tech, FSANZ and the Productivity Commission

After the Productivity Commission announced that it would like to see the removal of GM labelling and the scrapping of GM bans in Tasmania and South Australia, we are working urgently on opposing this. MADGE and Gene Ethics have submitted to the Commission and we are planning for appearances at public hearings in August.

We are working with the FoE Emerging Tech Campaign to make certain that all nano, food irradiation, gene editing and “new GM” is assessed for safety and labelled.



THE HUB

The Hub Foundation Castlemaine Ltd - a not for profit limited by guarantee registered with the ACNC – has had a very successful past 12 months. The group's More Australian Solar Homes (MASH) bulk buy project has added another 280 solar installations (accounting for a megawatt of capacity) to the already high solar uptake in central Victoria. This is even higher than the 200 installations achieved under MASH1 in 2014.

Largely due to our work, the solar penetration in the Mount Alexander Shire in Central Victoria has increased from 18% to 26% in just two years. In fact, our Shire now has the third highest penetration of shires in Victoria, with two more sunny shires further north vying for the lead.

Now with a new supplier, following a tender process, we are ready to go on MASH3, this time focussing on Bendigo which has a population twice as large

as the Mount Alexander and Macedon Ranges combined. And this time, we will be actively promoting battery storage alongside the solar systems.

The group has successfully attracted the official support of all three Councils in the region, with each mayor agreeing to launch MASH3 in his or her shire at the end of July.

Our employment numbers have increased from 2.5 EFT to 5.5 over the past year and now include casual staff working on market stalls, solar information sessions, battery education nights and advertising generally.

Though we are still quite dependent on philanthropic support we are expecting our own income sources to kick in over the next year so that we become around 90% self-sustaining.

Further information: <http://mash.org.au/about-the-hub-foundation/>

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NOW (SEN)

Sustainable Energy Now is 100% volunteer-run and is Western Australia's renewable energy "Think Tank". SEN has organised public presentations on various renewable energy sources during the last year. Presentations included how the Kimberley tides in the north-west can power all of Western Australia from the large volume of water movement, how a local Perth company (Bombora Wave Power) is revolutionising wave energy around the world, and a presentation promoting suburban solar. Our most popular presentation was on Battery Storage in May 2016.

One of the highlights for the year was that our former Chairman and current Technical Team Leader, won the WA Volunteer of the Year Award! Amongst a field of other incredible volunteers, Steve won the State title for his passion for renewable energy and assistance with the development of a system (SIREN).

We'd like to also acknowledge Ben Rose and Gus King for their outstanding work on SIREN, a modelling procedure for evaluation of renewable energy options for electricity grids around the world that shows how we can have 85% renewable energy in the grid right now, cheaper and cleaner than coal and oil. Options can be costed and relative carbon emissions calculated.

We have a number of key volunteers in various Committees and Working Groups: Technical, Policy and Research, Outreach, Membership and Fundraising, and we've recently added our Political Advisory Team in the lead-up to the crucial WA State Election in March 2017.

More information is available at www.sen.asn.au

Shared activity

FoEA understands that to achieve lasting change in society, we must work in strategic alliances with a range of other sectors and organisations. Our alliances are broad – from renewable energy companies to farmers, traditional owner groups to peak environmental organisations and trade unions.

For a full list of our formal partnerships, please check our website: <http://www.foe.org.au/partners>

SAVE CSIRO JOBS.

FoE was proud to collaborate with a range of groups to oppose cut backs in climate science research in the CSIRO.

THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH.

These national marches, in November 2015, were held prior to the international climate negotiations which were hosted by France in Paris. FoE was one of the hundreds of organisations that collaborated to host these nation-wide events.

LEARD FOREST ALLIANCE

Friends of the Earth Australia joined the Leard Forest Alliance in 2014 becoming part of a community led campaign protecting water, land, culture and the climate against Whitehaven Coal's controversial Maules Creek mine in the Leard State Forest. The Leard State Forest is the largest remnant of White Box grassy woodlands left on the Australian continent and home to over 396 species of flora and fauna - included 34 threatened or endangered species. The coal mine - and surrounding mines set for expansion will destroy over one third this critically endangered ecological community found in the Leard.

While the campaign was not successful in heading off the development, it represents a turning point in the campaign against coal in Australia. The tone has now been set for campaigns against Adani in the QLD Galilee Basin and against the Shenhua Watermark project on the NSW Liverpool Plains.

Friends of the Earth worked with affiliates and associates CounterAct, Market Forces and 350.org on the campaign. The Leard Forest Alliance held a protection treaty with the Gomeroi traditional custodians and respects their sovereignty of the land.



The organisation in 2015/2016

ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Steve Gates, The SEN Technical Team Leader won the WA Volunteer of the Year Award

Ursula Alquier, our community campaigner from Gippsland, was acknowledged with an Australia Day Environmental Achievement Award from the Shire of Baw Baw.

FoEA grew over the past year, with a number of new affiliate members joining the network:

- The Hub (Central VIC)
- ClimActs
- GM-Free Australia Alliance



Global context and connections

Friends of the Earth Australia is the national member of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), which is the world's largest federation of national environmental organisations. Friends of the Earth International now has 74 member countries and 15 affiliate groups representing more than 2 million people. This means that Friends of the Earth's impact and solutions can be felt globally.

FOE INTERNATIONAL MISSION

- To collectively ensure environmental and social justice, human dignity, and respect for human rights and peoples' rights so as to secure sustainable societies.
- To halt and reverse environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources, nurture the earth's ecological and cultural diversity, and secure sustainable livelihoods.
- To secure the empowerment of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, groups and individuals, and to ensure public participation in decision making.
- To bring about transformation towards sustainability and equity between and within societies with creative approaches and solutions.
- To engage in vibrant campaigns, raise awareness, mobilize people and build alliances with diverse movements, linking grassroots, national and global struggles.
- To inspire one another and to harness, strengthen and complement each other's capacities, living the change we wish to see and working together in solidarity.

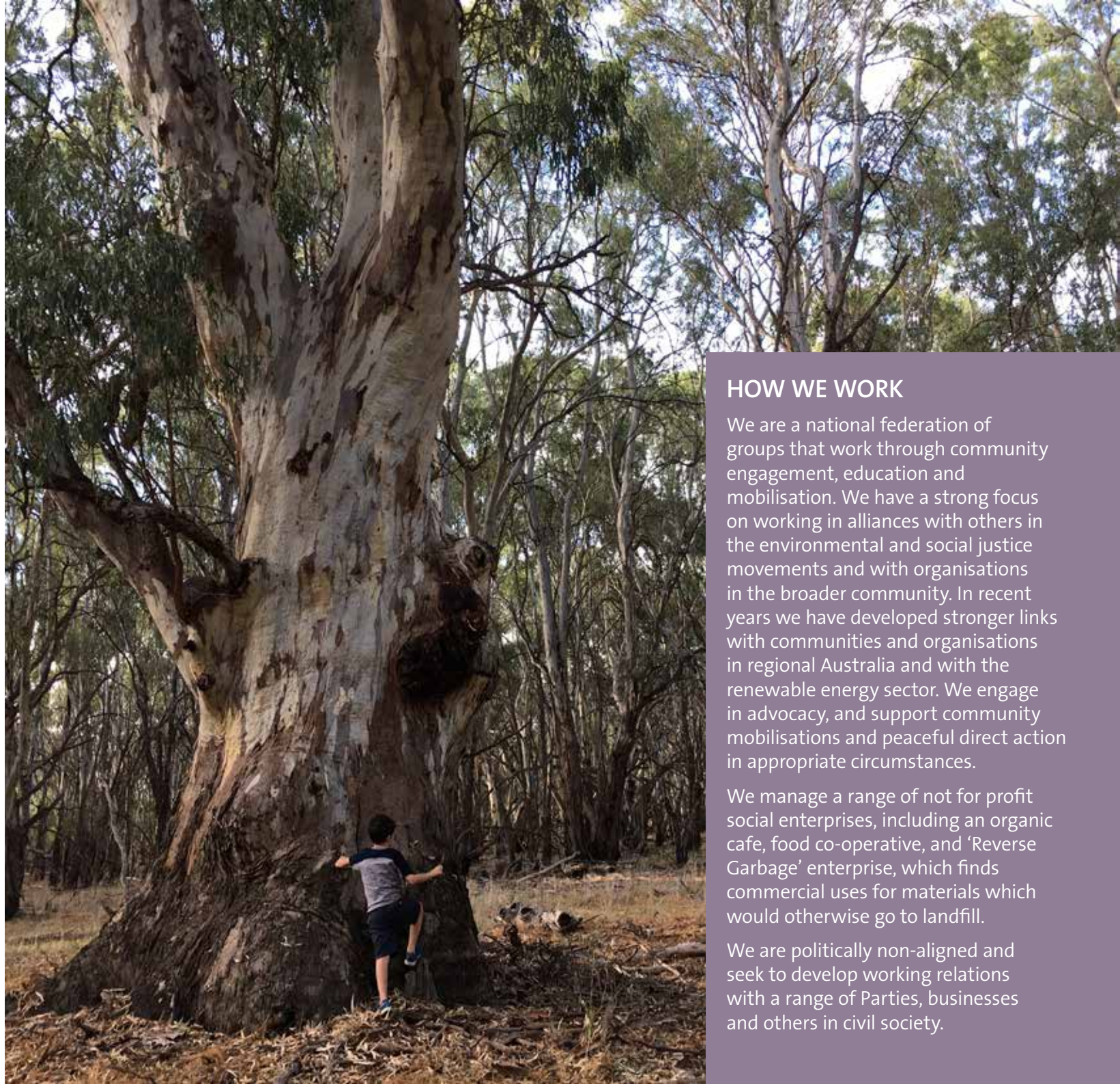
FoEI has a democratic structure with autonomous national groups which comply with the guidelines established by the federation. FoEI member groups are united by a common conviction that these aims require both strong grassroots activism and effective national and international campaigning and coordination. They see Friends of the Earth International as a unique and diverse forum to pursue international initiatives, taking advantage of the varied backgrounds and perspectives of its members.

More information about the work of FoE groups around the world and copies of the FoEI annual report can be found at: <http://www.foei.org>

Details on the FoE I Executive Committee (ExCom) is available at: <http://www.foei.org/about/excom.html>

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

- our federation structure means that local groups work in ways that are most appropriate to their local circumstances
- our grassroots focus and strong volunteer basis means we are able to work effectively with a vast range of groups and community groups
- FoE is acknowledged as being the leanest of the large environmental groups in terms of minimising administration costs and overheads
- we have strong regional and global connections through the FoE International network
- FoE acts as a training ground for many emerging campaigners
- we bring a strong human rights perspective to all our campaigns
- FoE continues to respond to emerging issues and popularise them well before the rest of the environment movement. The most recent example of this is our strong campaign on nanotechnology.



HOW WE WORK

We are a national federation of groups that work through community engagement, education and mobilisation. We have a strong focus on working in alliances with others in the environmental and social justice movements and with organisations in the broader community. In recent years we have developed stronger links with communities and organisations in regional Australia and with the renewable energy sector. We engage in advocacy, and support community mobilisations and peaceful direct action in appropriate circumstances.

We manage a range of not for profit social enterprises, including an organic cafe, food co-operative, and 'Reverse Garbage' enterprise, which finds commercial uses for materials which would otherwise go to landfill.

We are politically non-aligned and seek to develop working relations with a range of Parties, businesses and others in civil society.



FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Chloe Aldenhoven (FoE Melbourne) chair

Louise Sales (FoE Australia) co-chair

Franklin Bruinstroop (FoE Brisbane) treasurer

Sam Castro (FoE Melbourne) secretary

Jim Green (FoE Melbourne)

Jon Gleu (FoE FNQ)

FOE AUSTRALIA STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

FoE Australia is composed of independent member groups. Each group is self-managing in terms of its campaigns, decision making structures and fund-raising and needs to meet certain membership criteria. These are assessed on an annual basis. In addition to their local work, groups co-operate on specific campaigns at an appropriate and sustainable level.

Communication between local groups is facilitated by the National Liaison Officers. FoE Melbourne currently hosts the national liaison office. Kat Moore and Cam Walker have acted as the NLOs over the past year.

A Committee of Management is appointed at the AGM and has strategic oversight for finances, governance, and legal issues.

A separate committee appointed at the AGM manages the FoE Australia Fund.

The International Liaison Officers are responsible for communication between FoE Australia and FoE International (FoEI). Over the past year, the ILOs have been Chloe Aldenhoven, Leigh Ewbank, and Sam Cossar-Gilbert.

National spokespeople are nominated by local groups and are approved to speak on behalf of FoE Australia on specific issues. The regional contacts represent the FoE network in areas where there are currently no local groups.

Decisions are made at two national meetings which are generally held in January and September. The AGM is held as part of the September meeting. Various communication structures keep groups informed during the year. FoEA places great value on participatory decision making systems and internal information sharing.

Financial Report 2016

These figures represent the financial statements of Friends of the Earth Australia.

Friends of the Earth Australia's administrative functions are hosted by, and receive substantial logistical and in-kind support from FoE Melbourne, including the part time allocation of one staff member to national functions. The finance manager at FoE Melbourne manages the national accounts. This keeps overhead costs extremely low. In particular, almost all costs associated by processing donations for overseas work is absorbed by the office budget of FoE Melbourne, ensuring an absolute minimum of funds donated for overseas projects are used for administration.

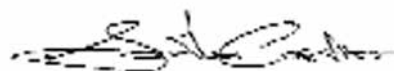
The following is a summary of the financial report for Friends of the Earth Australia for 2015/16. Copies of the full audited financial report are available upon request.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the members of the committee the financial report:

- Represents a true and fair view of the financial position of Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due. This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Collingwood, Victoria

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
REVENUE		
Advertising	200	1,040.00
Publishing Income	3,195.35	2,876.77
Subscription	0.00	941.00
Donations	534,844.58	792,131.38
Campaign Income	8,370.46	70,301.95
Grant Income	402,785.83	384,093.84
Grant Income - GVEHO	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	17,419.78	14,035.28
Miscellaneous Income	11,871.07	5,399.97
Administration Income	53,428.87	84,616.22
Legacies and Bequest	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	969.24	4,201.17
Chain Reaction Sales	7,498.50	9,858.00
	1,040,583.68	1,369,495.58

EXPENDITURE		
Grant Expenditure	0.00	0.00
Publishing Cost	4,778.50	15,492.00
Wages and Assoc. Cost	485,609.43	255,844.01
Administration Expenses	145,209.59	172,785.72
Subscriptions	5,141.50	13,647.86
Telephone and Fax	2,033.84	2,639.96
Campaigning Cost	76,057.62	39,803.75
Bank Charges & Fees	4,077.85	3,763.54
Consultants	153,277.18	37,995.23
Insurance	10,544.08	10,170.56
National Meeting Expenditure	2,344.34	2,814.60
Audit Fees - Audit or Reviewing the Financial Report	3,000.00	46,371.34
Donations Expenditure	132,164.57	320,693.82
Travel Cost	27,079.39	27,689.32
Miscellaneous Expenses	42,936.31	48,807.78
Depreciation	1,451.05	1,744.57
Cost of Good Sold	322.30	31.94
Bad Debts	0.00	16,081.51
	1,096,027.55	1,016,377.51
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(55,443.87)	353,118.07
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items that may be reclassified subsequent to Profit or Loss	0.00	0.00
Items that will not be reclassified subsequent to Profit or Loss	0.00	0.00
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	0.00	0.00
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MEMBERS	(55,443.87)	353,118.07

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand and at Bank	351,073.14	613,870.77
Short-Term Bank Deposits	400,000.00	250,000.00
Accounts receivable & other debtors	57,451.86	72,535.34
Inventories on hand	342.00	2,493.75
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	808,867.00	938,899.86
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant and Equipment	6,072.00	7,523.05
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	6,072.00	7,523.05
TOTAL ASSETS	814,939.00	946,422.91
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payables & other payables	183,366.57	165,591.32
Grants/Income received in advance	28,826.70	130,000.00
Employee Provisions	16,975.79	4,362.07
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	229,169.00	299,953.39
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Borrowing's	0.00	0.00
Employee Provisions	20,160.00	25,415.71
Other Payables	0.00	0.00
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	20,160.00	25,415.71
TOTAL LIABILITIES	249,329.06	325,369.10
NET ASSETS	565,609.04	621,053.81
RETAINED SURPLUS		
Opening Retained Surplus	621,053.81	267,935.74
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(55,443.87)	353,118.07
TOTAL RETAINED SURPLUS	565,609.94	621,053.81

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Merchandise and Publishing Income	3,395.35	3,916.77
Payments to Suppliers	(2,626.75)	(17,985.75)
Subscription receipts	0.00	941.00
Administration income	53,428.87	84,616.22
Administration expenditure	(120,076.33)	(159,074.50)
Donations receipts	534,844.58	792,131.38
Bank interest	17,419.78	14,035.28
Bank charges	(4,077.85)	(3,763.54)
Miscellaneous receipts	11,871.07	5,399.97
Subscriptions expenditure	(5,141.50)	(13,647.86)
Wages and associated payments	(485,609.43)	(255,844.01)
Other miscellaneous payments	(241,215.14)	(176,488.79)
Grant receipts	316,696.01	444,736.85
Grant expenditure	0.00	0.00
Project/Campaign Costs	(76,057.62)	(39,803.75)
Donations Expenses	(132,164.57)	(320,693.83)
Campaign Income	8,370.46	70,301.95
Legacies and Bequest	0.00	0.00
Fundraising receipts	969.24	4,201.17
Fundraising payments	(322.30)	(31.94)
Royalties receipts	7,498.50	9,858.00
Net cash provided / (used) by Operating Activities	(112,797.63)	442,804.63
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Plant & Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00
Proceeds on Sale of Plant & Equipment	0.00	0.00
Net cash provided / (used) in Investing Activities	0.00	0.00
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from borrowing's	0.00	0.00
Repayment of borrowing's	0.00	0.00
Net cash provided / (used) in Financing Activities	0.00	0.00
Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash held	(112,797.63)	442,804.63
Cash & cash equivalents at the Beginning of the Financial Year	863,870.77	421,066.14
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	751,073.14	863,870.77





STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RETAINED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	RETAINED SURPLUS	OTHER RESERVE	TOTAL
Balance as at 1 July 2016	267,935.74	0.00	267,935.74
Comprehensive Income			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year attributable to members	353,118.07	0.00	353,118.07
Other Comprehensive Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to the members for the year	353,118.07	0.00	353,118.07
Balance as at 30 June 2014 / 1 July 2014	621,053.81	0.00	621,053.81
Comprehensive Income			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year attributable to members	(55,443.87)	0.00	(55,443.87)
Other Comprehensive Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to the members for the year	(55,443.87)	0.00	(55,443.87)
Balance as at 30 June 2015	565,609.94	0.00	565,609.94

SUPPORTERS

FoE Australia gratefully acknowledges the many members and supporters who support our local groups and national campaigns through our regular giving program.

We want to thank the following for their support:

We received grants from the following:

Wallace Global Fund
Darebin City Council
NTEU Victorian Division

European Climate Foundation

Reichstein Foundation

Australian Conservation Foundation

Australian Communities Foundation

Friends of the Earth International

and a number of Anonymous individual donors

The emerging technology project wishes to acknowledge the numerous generous individuals who made private donations.

IN KIND SUPPORT:

We would like to acknowledge all the individuals and organisations who have supported FoEA through in-kind support such as donation of time, skills or materials for our campaigns and projects over the 2015/16 financial year.

- Avant Card
- Environmental Justice Australia
- Photographer Rob Blakers
- The Monkeys (PR & Communications)
- Jo Finburgh of FoE England, Wales and Northern Ireland, who provided substantial support to our fund raising efforts during 2016.

OUR BEQUEST PROGRAM

Thank you to our many members who have let us know that they are including FoE in their wills. Every gift, whether large or small, makes a real difference.

If you would like further information on remembering FoE in your will, see <http://www.foe.org.au/bequests>

or call Phil Evans in the Melbourne office: 03 9419 8700 (ext 15) or toll free 1300 852 081.

FOE AUSTRALIA CAMPAIGNS TEAM & CONTACTS

FoE has local groups in Adelaide, Bridgetown (WA), Brisbane, Far North QLD, Melbourne, and South West WA. FoE has offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, and Melbourne.

It has the following affiliate members:

- ClimActs
- CounterAct
- Food Irradiation Watch (Brisbane)
- GM-Free Australia Alliance
- Healthy Futures
- Hub Foundation Castlemaine Ltd
- In Our Nature
- Market Forces
- No Fracking Way (WA)

- 'Protect Arnhem Land' (PAL), NT.
- Reverse Garbage (Brisbane)
- Sustainable Energy Now. WA.
- Tulele Peisa — "sailing the waves on our own". PNG.
- West Mallee Protection.
- Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO), VIC
- Mukwano

FoEA has national campaigns, projects & spokespeople in the following areas:

- Anti-Nuclear and Clean Energy
- Australian Indigenous Issues
- Climate Justice
- Climate and Health
- Coal
- Divestment and Banks
- Food and GMOs
- Forests
- Emerging Tech
- Latin America Indigenous Communities Solidarity
- Murray-Darling Basin Plan
- Pacific and Torres Strait Islands Climate Justice
- Pesticides and Drinking Water
- Protect the Reef
- Renewable Energy
- Trade
- Unconventional Gas



Director:
A.R Ager CA, BEc
Registered Company Auditor
Registered SMSF Auditor

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Authorised Audit Company
No. 453122

Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes In Equity, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Certificate by Members of the Committee for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Friends of the Earth (Australia) Inc is in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards.

Signed on: 25th OCTOBER, 2016.

ASSUR PTY. LTD.
ASSUR PTY LTD
(Formerly TST Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd
Authorised Audit Company number: 453122
Chartered Accountants

Anthony Robert Ager
Anthony Robert Ager
Director - Audit & Assurance
Chartered Accountant



Contact Us

Friends of the Earth Australia.

ABN: 18 110 769 501

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