



Friends of  
the Earth  
Australia

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2016-2017**

Friends of the Earth  
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*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 2016/17:

The following is a summary of some of our work and achievements from the 2016/17 financial year.

# Climate justice

## NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS

### OUR CAMPAIGN VISION

- To limit the greenhouse gas concentration level in the atmosphere to be safe for all life on planet earth.
- To work in genuine collaboration with and be led by first Australians in a process of de-colonisation of the economy, especially around mining issues.
- To ensure that nuclear energy is not seen as a solution to climate change.
- To ensure that an inclusive renewable energy future is created, primarily based on community owned and operated power.
- To reshape economic systems so they acknowledge ecological limits, prevent dangerous climate change, and build resilience to the impacts that are already locked in.
- To ensure that no-one is left behind when dealing with climate change.

### FRACKING BAN IN VICTORIA

After more than a half decade of campaigning, Victoria became the first Australian state to place a permanent ban on the process of fracking (hydraulic fracturing, a drilling technique used to tap reserves of unconventional gas). Additionally, the moratorium on onshore conventional gas drilling was extended until 2020.

FoE launched the campaign against unconventional gas in 2011. We worked with regional and rural communities to achieve this fantastic outcome. For full details please see the Friends of the Earth Melbourne annual report.

<http://www.melbournefoe.org.au/>

### VICTORIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET (VRET)

Another FoE campaign, Yes 2 Renewables (Y2R), had a great win in 2016/17, with the Victorian government committing to a VRET. This will mean that Victoria commits to increasing the percentage of energy produced from renewable sources, with targets of 25 percent by 2020 and 40 percent by 2025. It is expected that the VRET will create 10,000 jobs and unlock a \$2.5 billion investment opportunity in the process.

For full details please see the Friends of the Earth Melbourne annual report.

<http://www.melbournefoe.org.au/>





## CLIMATE FRONTLINES (CF), FOE BRISBANE

A major dimension of the Climate Frontlines (CF) work in 2016-17 was strengthening the relationship and collaboration with the Pacific Islands Council of Queensland (PICQ). At the invitation of the organiser, CF and PICQ collaborated to organise and present the community segment for the Pacific Ecosystems Services Forum held in Brisbane in March 2017. While the forum focused on conservation and better use of ecosystem resources, CF/PICQ contributions highlighted the degeneration of ecosystems because of the impacts of climate change and the impacts on Pacific cultures. One of the direct outcomes was the request for permission to screen the video of “Mama’s Bones” for a student class at ANU.

CF continued its efforts to recruit and involve more tertiary students in its areas of focus for climate justice advocacy. The convenor, Wendy Flannery, and two UQ students with family roots in Tuvalu contributed to an international webinar on climate change organised by the Catholic Climate Covenant in the USA. CF also organised a panel with diverse participants for a presentation on climate change for a group of UQ students. In the past year, two new QUT students have joined CF.

In June 2017, final arrangements were made for a master’s student from Lille University in France to work as an intern with CF for two months, with a focus on researching climate migration.



Networking with other environmental organisations has continued, and we have continued to support groups advocating strongly for climate change mitigation efforts in Australia, including Lock the Gate, Stop Adani and Sun Powered Queensland. When 350 Pacific asked for support in organising “Pray for Our Pacific” events focusing on climate change, CF partnered with 350 Brisbane to organise a public event in South Bank Parklands. CF also served as a liaison for information and training sessions in Brisbane by the Australian

Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), leading to the formation of a Queensland branch. Wendy Flannery also participated in some of the discussions on Loss & Damage organised by the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) in preparation for the UNFCCC COP23 with Fiji holding the presidency.

As the liaison with FoEA affiliate Tulele Peisa in Bougainville, the CF convenor Wendy Flannery did follow up sessions with interest groups to the Speaking Tour in April 2016. These included a

group with town planning backgrounds and a Lion’s Club. There were two direct outcomes. One was the inclusion of a study of Tulele Peisa in a QUT student course, for which Wendy Flannery provided a Q & A opportunity; the other was the donation of four original art pieces for an auction, as part of the fundraising planned for completion of the last two-family houses on the first relocation site. CF also facilitated the trip to Bougainville of a surveyor for the second relocation site in Tearouki.



## DEFENDING RENEWABLES

In 2016 South Australia experienced unprecedented storm and gale force winds, which caused power outages state-wide. Anti-renewables media stories reached a high-water mark after the event, with fossil fuel backers quick to blame renewable energy for the

crisis and protect their own interests. We worked in South Australia to build support for state action on renewable energy and nationally to encourage the federal government to adopt sensible and forward-looking energy policies throughout the year.

**#DefendRenewables  
Adelaide Info Night:  
The Joinery  
Tues Sept 13  
6:30pm**

## MARKET FORCES

2016-17 saw FoE Affiliate Market Forces continue to make progress in key program areas of banks and asset management, while our work supporting shareholders to hold companies accountable for managing climate risk came into its own.

### Banks

We continued our research into bank lending to fossil fuels, highlighting the mismatch between the big four banks' commitments to help hold global warming to below two degrees and their lending to fossil fuels and renewable energy. We released a six month scorecard on the banks' initial 2 degree commitments, then an update on the biggest fossil fuel and renewable energy lenders in 2016.

We also gave the public a new way to help us hold banks accountable to their 2 degree commitments, as we launched an open letter signed by over one hundred prominent Australians and environmental groups and which to date has over four thousand people adding their name to it.

On the 7th and 8th of October over one thousand Australians again turned out on Divestment Day to publicly switch banks in protest of their former bank continuing to fund fossil fuels, despite their commitments to help hold global warming below two degrees.

Policy and position statement changes – we saw encouraging progress from NAB who in their updated

position statement on climate change recognised the need to adhere to a carbon budget and at their AGM confirmed that their loan book would be expected to reflect their view that fossil fuels needed to decline and a commensurate increase in renewable energy exposure be realised.

The most significant shift on policy was Westpac, which updated its climate policy to expand its commitment to clean tech and environmental solutions, and placed restrictions on lending to coal mining and power, effectively taking it out of the running as a potential lender to the massive Carmichael Coal project, one which poses major risks to the environment and climate.

We were pleased to see the exposure at default of ANZ, NAB and Westpac fall by \$5 billion year on year at the end of 2016, while ANZ acknowledged after an AGM dominated by protests over the bank's ongoing fuming of fossil fuels that they were actively reducing their loan book exposure to fossil fuels and couldn't see how they could fit the Carmichael mine into such a declining loan book.



## Asset management

Our asset management campaign evolved significantly over the course of 2016-17, moving from one that primarily encouraged superannuation funds and other asset managers to divest from fossil fuel equities to one that approached the issue more in terms of managing carbon out of the economy.

We continued to encourage funds to divest from companies that had no place in a low carbon economy, or showed no intent of aligning themselves to be consistent with the 2 degree global warming limit. After months of work by Vision Super members and Market Forces volunteers, we saw Vision Super progressively divest of some companies. VicSuper went almost coal free in July 2016, and Media Super created a low carbon investment option for members. But we also called out the failure of funds to do their jobs as asset owners when it came to governance.

We challenged the notion of engagement, often used by funds as a reason not to divest because they claim they can get better results by remaining invested and engaging with the company. We released our report, Digging Deeper, showing how despite superannuation funds espousing the benefits of engagement, they were continuing to vote for fossil fuel executives to receive exploration bonuses, rewarding activity that is inconsistent with a low carbon economy. We also applied the Oxford Martin Principles to twenty five Australian companies, finding that only one was doing enough to warrant engagement from shareholders.



We challenged the issue of lack of disclosure from super funds, reporting that one trillion of managed super assets remain hidden from view. We were pleased then to see 'Australian Super' disclose their full list of equity holdings later in 2016.

We took this work up a notch in 2017, giving investors the opportunity to vote for something easy and positive on climate risk management. We prepared resolutions with three oil and gas companies, Woodside Petroleum, Oil Search and Santos. The resolutions would commit the companies to adopt the recommendations of the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures. Woodside engaged early, agreeing to adopt the TCFD recommendations and producing a scenario analysis on their portfolio's

resilience to a scenario where global warming is held to below two degrees.

We went ahead with the Oil Search and Santos resolutions until late in the piece, Oil Search agreed to conduct a 1.5°C and 2°C scenario analysis and publish it to shareholders by the time of the 2018 AGM.

Unfortunately, Santos refused to budge, instead releasing a statement on climate risk disclosure that contained no new commitments from the company to disclose any of its climate risks. However, investors were sold up the river and agreed not to back the resolution, a decision that was proven foolish when, at the company's AGM, Santos Chairman Peter Coates said the company conducts its scenario planning around a 4°C scenario, dismissing the plausibility of the 2°C scenario that all but a handful of the world's nations are now committed to.

## Shareholder action

Last year we took shareholder action, a common part of many of our campaigns, and embedded it into our program. We helped shareholders of over forty companies have their say on issues related to climate risk, stranded assets, local environmental impacts and company policy and governance, making climate risk mainstream among Australian companies.

Part of this work also involved providing a way for key stakeholders to present at the AGMs of companies that were planning work that threatened their livelihoods. We helped Wangan and Jagalingou spokesperson Adrian Burragubba confront the directors of Downer EDI, the company with the contract to construct the Adani Carmichael mine. We also helped Traditional Custodians attend the Buru Energy AGM to protest Buru's fracking plans in the Kimberley.

## Other notable developments

- Support for the movement. Market Forces staff and volunteers gave over thirty presentations, talks and workshops for other movement groups in 2016. We also assisted over thirty other groups and organisations with research and advice for their own work.
- Insurance. We got our first health fund divestment announcement in early 2017, as HCF committed to remove fossil fuels from its equity assets.



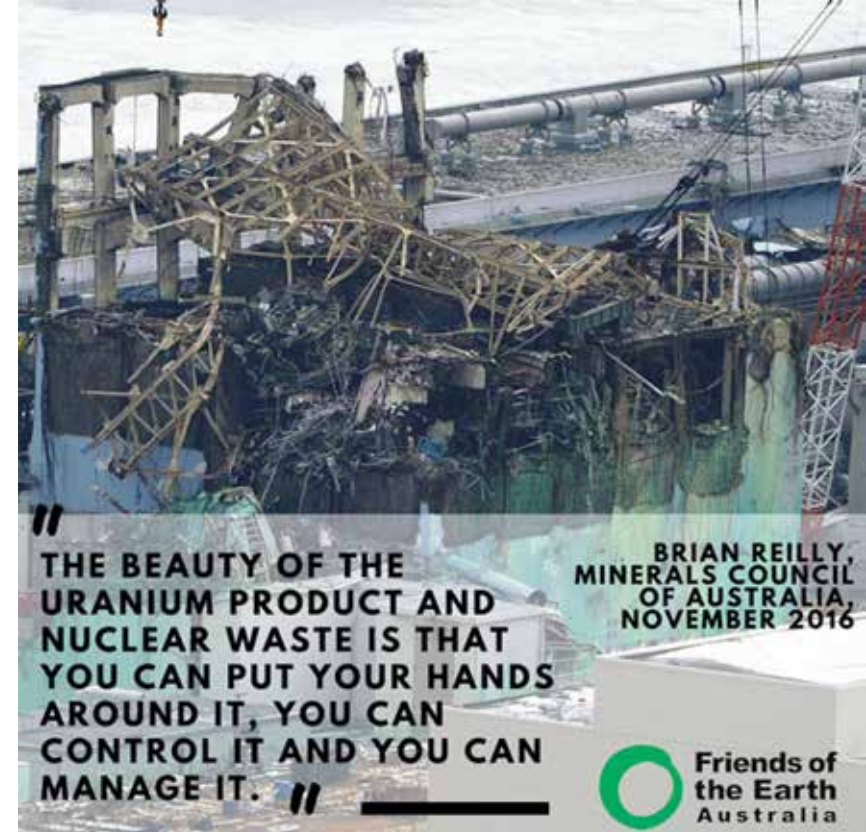
# Anti-nuclear & Clean Energy (ACE) Campaign

The main priority for FoE's ACE campaign in the 2016/17 year was the campaign against the SA Labor Government's plan to turn SA into the world's nuclear waste dump. We worked closely with other environment groups and Traditional Owner groups in this successful campaign. By late 2016, the plan was rejected by a Citizens' Jury, by a majority of South Australians and by most/all political parties other than the SA Labor Government. In June 2017, Premier Jay Weatherill declared the waste import proposal 'dead'.

FoE's ACE campaign is still working to support communities opposed to a proposed national nuclear waste dump in SA. Two sites have been targeted – near Hawker in the Flinders Ranges, and Kimba at the top of the Eyre Peninsula. FoE has successfully fundraised for a drone to help Adnyamathanha Traditional Owners to continue their important work documenting the ancient landscape of the Flinders Ranges, recording story lines, and protecting the country from the planned nuclear dump ([www.chuffed.org/project/flindersdrone](http://www.chuffed.org/project/flindersdrone)). FoE and the Australian Conservation Foundation wrote a joint submission opposing the plan for a nuclear dump on farming land near Kimba – but the government has progressed to the next stage of assessing the site ([www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear](http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear)). We have also led the debate on responsible approaches to radioactive waste management (<http://tinyurl.com/foe-acf-waste>).

The ACE campaign has been supporting communities in WA opposed to uranium mine proposals. Two of the uranium projects are owned by controversial Canadian mining giant Cameco (see the May 2017 FoE report, 'The Global Uranium Industry & Cameco's Troubled History', [www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear](http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear)). FoE members participated in the Walkatjurra Walkabout, from Wiluna to Leonora on Wangkatja country, to strengthen connections with communities affected by proposed uranium mines in WA (<https://walkingforcountry.com/walkatjurra-walkabout>).

On August 6, FoE Melbourne's Nuclear Free Collective organised a commemoration of the atomic bombing of Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. The event featured a live skype discussion











# TAKE ACTION NOW!



**Friends of the Earth Australia**

## DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS AND DRINKING WATER

In November 2016, FoE Australia sent a submission into the National Health and Medical Research Council concerning the NHMRC's plan to reassess safety guidelines for Disinfection By-products present in drinking water. FoE has done a considerable amount of work looking at DBP's in drinking water in Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia since 2012. One class of DBP's, Trihalomethanes have a guideline of 250 parts per billion and have not been reviewed by the NHMRC since the mid 1990's. Australian guideline levels for THM's are set at almost three times higher than similar guidelines in the United States and Europe. In early 2017 FoE was interviewed about this matter by Channel 10 in Adelaide. South Australia is a hotspot for high levels of DBP's and some DBP's have been linked to bladder and other cancers.

## PESTICIDE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2016

In September 2016, FoE published "Pesticides in Australian Waterways. An Overview". This report collated years of research compiled by FoE into what pesticides have been detected in waterways and water supplies throughout Australia.

The report found that 186 pesticides have been detected in Australian waterways over the years, with the most commonly detected pesticides being the triazine herbicides Atrazine and Simazine. Most disturbingly the report found that 41% of pesticides detected in Australian waterways do not have guideline levels set in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and a whopping 91% of pesticides detected in waterways do not have ecological guideline levels set under ANZECC Guidelines. A copy of the report was sent to the National Health and Medical Research Council in the hope that their Drinking Water Committee can more accurately determine which pesticides require guidelines.

## Land and water

### OUR CAMPAIGN VISION

- To help develop a wider appreciation of indigenous peoples land and water management among the community and policymakers.
- To see pollution-free waterways in Australia. Including steep reductions in chemical run off from agricultural, industrial, logging and plantation activities.
- To end logging, land clearing, and mining activities in ecologically and culturally sensitive areas.
- To see agricultural land use valued above other industrial activities such as mining.



Out of date pesticide regulations means river ecosystems are under threat



**TELL JOSH FRYDENBERG TO TAKE ACTION NOW!**

#PollutionFreeWaterways



# Food and Technology

## OUR CAMPAIGN VISION

- Friends of the Earth believe technology development needs to better serve community needs – not simply corporate and military interests.
- We actively encourage, where culturally appropriate, a vegan diet.
- Friends of the Earth opposes geoengineering because of the potentially catastrophic consequences of experimenting with the climate system that sustains life on Earth.
- Friends of the Earth is calling for a moratorium on the commercial use of nanomaterials until the risks associated with the use of nanotechnology are properly assessed and its safety established.
- Friends of the Earth is calling for a moratorium on the release and commercial use of synthetic organisms, cells, or genomes until the risks associated with the use of this technology are properly assessed and its safety established

## EMERGING TECH UPDATE 2016-17

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.

A major focus for our work this year has been on our food regulator Food Standards Australia New Zealand

(FSANZ)'s failure to take a precautionary approach to the use of new technologies such as nanotechnology and genetic engineering in food. Last month the Sydney Morning Herald ran a front-page story on the independent testing that we commissioned. This revealed the presence of illegal and potentially dangerous nano-ingredients in baby formula. Yet FSANZ is taking no action to remove these products from the shelves. They did, however, remove the web page that stated these ingredients are prohibited in baby formula.

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. There has also been a growing recognition of the potential risks posed by these new GM techniques. Earlier this year the Australian Academy of Sciences called for a national discussion on gene editing. And last year the US Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper added new GM techniques such as CRISPR to a list of threats posed by "weapons of mass destruction and proliferation" in the annual worldwide threat assessment report of the US intelligence community.

In December last year the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) released a discussion paper on the regulatory options for these new techniques - most of which involved deregulating them! We mobilised our networks to ensure that the majority of submissions the OGTR received opposed the deregulation of these techniques.

Earlier this year we hosted a successful speaking and lobbying tour by Dr Michael Antoniou on new GM techniques, with public forums in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

In December last year, Friends of the Earth joined 160 global groups calling on governments at the 2016 UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) to establish a moratorium on the controversial genetic extinction technology called gene drives.

In July last year, the Productivity Commission released a draft report recommending that the state GM crop bans and GM labelling be removed. We mobilised our networks through email and social media to apply direct pressure to political decision makers opposing these proposed changes. We also successfully pressured the Productivity Commission into holding hearings in Tasmania so they could directly hear from farmers about the impacts that these proposed changes would have.



## Economics for the Earth

### OUR CAMPAIGN VISION

- Restructure economic systems to increase equality, a clean environment, and a world with healthy ecosystems. A more equal society will be more capable or responding to climate change and ecological crises.
- That international trade deals have social and environmental justice at their core, rather than corporate greed.
- To remove undemocratic Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses from international trade agreements.





## LOCAL GROUPS

Each year we feature the work of one or more local FoE groups. Over the past year, FoE Far North Queensland (FNQ), located on the Atherton Tablelands in far north Queensland, has broadened the scope of its work:

## FoE Far North Queensland

Over the last year we were involved alliance of groups to stop the Adani Mega coal mine proposed for our state.

We ran a petition to the tourism industry to join the #nonewcoal movement and to raise awareness of the impacts of new coal on the Great Barrier Reef.

We assisted FoE group Cassowary Keystone Conservation with their campaign to see legislation introduced to control roaming dogs.

We supported a response to the dispersal of Flying Fox from the Mareeba township.

Highlighted the problem of contaminated bores that occurred from either naturally occurring heavy metals, or from past agricultural pesticide in the Tablelands.

Campaigned to stop the KUR-World mega resort proposed for Kuranda.

Cairns Community Foods became an affiliate member of the group.

Attended the CAFNEC roundtable of FNQ conservation groups which looked at ways these groups could better work together.



## AFFILIATES

# GM-FREE AUSTRALIA ALLIANCE INC

The GM-Free Australia Alliance Inc is an incorporated non-profit association based in Victoria. The Alliance unites organisations, businesses and individuals sharing a common concern and motivation to act on the threat of Genetic Manipulation (GM) in Australia and the Pacific.

2016-2017 was a busy year for us, with daily enquiries to our member organisations on GM-free eating, farming and the future of agriculture in our region. Letter writing, submissions, speaking engagements and media enquiries took up much of our time, as well as meeting regularly to maintain communication and share information and skills.



## SOME MAJOR ONGOING PROJECTS FOR 2016 - 17 WERE:

### Productivity Commission

In the second half of 2016 the GMFAA and its member groups were involved with submissions to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into the regulation of agriculture.

The inquiry focused on "regulations that have a material impact on the competitiveness and productivity of Australian agriculture, with the aim of defining priority areas for removing or reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on farm businesses, where doing so would raise the productivity of farm businesses and wider economy, and identifying unnecessary restrictions on competition."

A total of three hundred and twelve submissions were made, as well as presentations at public hearings in 8 cities by representatives of Friends of the Earth Emerging Tech, GM Cropwatch, Gene Ethics, Foodwatch WA, Network of Concerned Farmers and MADGE.

The GMFAA encourages civil society to engage with government inquiries seeking our input.

### "New" GMOs

The Federal government is currently deciding if they will regulate "new" GM techniques. The Australian Academy of Science has raised concerns and called for a national debate in a [recent article](#).

In December 2016, one hundred and sixty global groups called for a moratorium on gene drives at a UN convention. <http://emergingtech.foe.org.au/resources/160-global-groups-call-for-a-moratorium-on-gene-drives-at-un-convention/>

In March 2017, Dr Antoniou, Reader in Molecular Genetics at King's College London School of Life Sciences visited Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. He came to discuss his concerns with a range of new genetic engineering techniques that the Federal Government is currently proposing **not** to regulate.

Friends of the Earth co-hosted a series of forums with the William Angliss Institute, the Frank Fenner Foundation, MADGE, Gene Ethics and well-known chef and writer Jared Ingersoll. The forums discussed what kind of futures these new genetic engineering techniques could create, the potential risks to human health and the environment, and the politics that are at play globally and in Australia.

## GM-free shopping

In May the GMFAA published the 2017 edition of the GM-Free Shopping List. The shopping list acknowledges and promotes a growing list of brands whose GM-free status caters to consumers' right to choose non-GM foods. Growing consumer awareness about genetic manipulation is increasing demand for both conventional and organic foods, supporting their producers and adding to market pressure on food producers to choose non-GMO suppliers. More than fifty thousand Australians, New Zealanders, and Pacific Islanders have joined local and national consumer groups that explicitly seek products free of GMOs.

The GM-free shopping list underlines the demand for GM-free food and encourages GM-free farming, reducing the toxic load on our farms and waterways.

The discounting of GM canola continues – In Victoria GM canola is sold at approx. \$20 per tonne less, compared to non-GM, and in WA GM canola sells for \$30-\$40 per tonne less than conventional canola.

We are gathering info on GM-free food products, building a database in preparation for the next Truefood Guide. The new guide will be a printed booklet and online, and will be very useful for anyone wishing to avoid GM products for their families. This edition will include where to buy GM-free seeds and feature restaurants providing GM-free catering.

Consult our [2017 GM-Free Shopping List](#) for labelled GM-free brands.

## GM banana “trials” in the Northern Territory and North Queensland.

Professor Dale from QUT continued to promote his research on GM bananas in Queensland and the Northern territory, with mixed results.

In the Northern Territory, a “trial” hopes to find a variety resistant to Panama TR4 — a disease which lives in the soil and there is no chemical treatment for.

In an editorial, the *NT News* commented that we need to be sure such a trial is good for the community, farmers and consumers and must be assured of that before GM fruits are rolled out to the public.

Bananas are being genetically manipulated by Queensland researchers to be vitamin A-enriched. This strain is still being researched, with few results and some resistance from the USA.

MADGE Inc, one of the GMFAA founding groups, took an in-depth look at the issue in a [paper presented at the conference of the Home Economics Institute of Australia on 11-13th January 2017, Melbourne.](#)

“We have heard variations on the following story for decades: Africans, especially children, are malnourished,

sick and dying from a lack of Vitamin A. Hope comes from Australian scientists developing a GM banana that is high in beta carotene. Our bodies can make this into Vitamin A and so the problem of illness will be solved, or will it? Is the lack of GM bananas the root of malnourishment in Africa? Or could we be misreading both the problem and the solution?”

Read more here: <http://www.madge.org.au/mashed-bananas-who-benefits-global-food-developments-fran-murrell>





# Tulele Peisa (TP)

A highlight of the past year was the visit of a team of four from the Climate Wise Women organisation which has facilitated director Ursula Rakova's participation in a number of UNFCCC conferences.

Financing the program continues to be a huge challenge. As part of the aim of developing financial independence by marketing cocoa, and in the process supporting local communities in the relocation vicinity, a lot of effort over the past year was put into training young cocoa farmers.

TP still responds on a regular basis to interest in the program by journalists, and by students working on in climate justice projects in various countries. The fact that it still attracts such media interest attests to its unique story of a local community taking responsibility for its future in the face of increasing climate change impacts. One of the direct outcomes is Ursula's invitation to make a presentation at the environmental segment of the prestigious WOMAdelaide festival in 2018.

Like all Bougainvillians, Tulele Peisa is now dealing with the dynamics of the referendum scheduled for 2019 in which a decision on their future political status will be made. This places additional pressure on all the activities associated with the program.

## NEW MEMBERS/ NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

The FoE Australia network continues to grow:

- A FoE group in Perth has become established over the past year.
- FoE Sydney was also re-launched
- The long running Earthworker co-op, based in Victoria, became a member
- Community science and forest activist group, Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO), joined
- Community Foods Co-op (Inc), based in Cairns, affiliated. This group grew from the work of previous FoE Melbourne members. It has been going for 19 years
- The campus-based Australian Students Environment Network (ASEN) affiliated.



## ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES

FoE Brisbane members June Norman and Robin Taubenfeld were honoured with Peace Women Awards by [WILPF \(Women's International League for Peace and Freedom\)](#) Queensland.

FoE Kuranda re-launched itself as FoE Far North Queensland (FNQ) to reflect the broader focus of its work.

Affiliate member Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO) received an award from the Bob Brown Foundation.

Market Forces was awarded Melbourne's biggest honour as an environmental organisation, winning in the 2016 Melbourne Awards. The MF Super Switch website was also a finalist in the Victorian Premier's Sustainability Awards.

# GLOBAL CONTEXT AND CONNECTIONS

## 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>

*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.*





## 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.





## 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 public gift fund 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, Emma Harvey, Franklin Bruinstroop, Pat Simons, 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 February and October. The AGM is held as part of the October meeting. Various communication structures keep groups informed during the year. FoEA places great value on collective consensus decision-making systems and internal information sharing.

## FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2016 - 2017

Chloe Aldenhoven  
(FoE Melbourne).Chair

Franklin Bruinstroop  
(FoE Brisbane) Treasurer

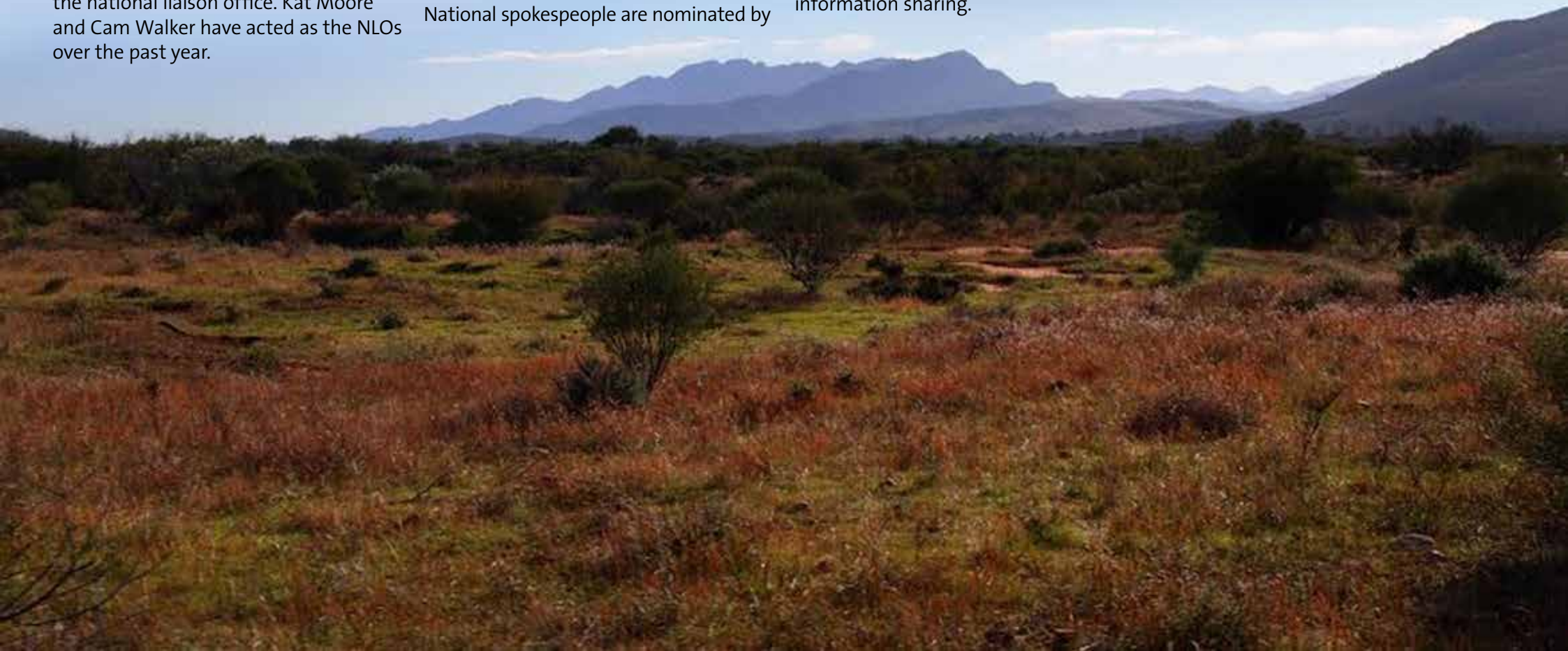
Sam Castro (FoE Melbourne) Secretary

Jim Green (FoE Melbourne)

Jon Gleu and Cate Adams (FoE FNQ)

Louise Sales (FoE Melbourne)

Karun Cowper (FoE Perth)





**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE  
INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT  
2016/17**

|                       | 2017 \$             | 2016 \$             |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>        |                     |                     |
| Advertising           | 0.00                | 200                 |
| Publishing Income     | 2,356.97            | 3,195.35            |
| Subscription          | 0.00                | 0.00                |
| Donations             | 848,441.29          | 534,844.58          |
| Campaign Income       | 1,991.55            | 8,370.46            |
| Grant Income          | 413,243.30          | 402,785.83          |
| Grant Income - GVEHO  | 0.00                | 0.00                |
| Bank Interest         | 18,326.08           | 17,419.78           |
| Miscellaneous Income  | 9,942.34            | 11,871.07           |
| Administration Income | 102,549.02          | 53,428.87           |
| Legacies and Bequest  | 0.00                | 0.00                |
| Fundraising           | 1,266.79            | 969.24              |
| Chain Reaction Sales  | 8,156.18            | 7,498.50            |
|                       | <b>1,406,273.52</b> | <b>1,040,583.68</b> |

| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>   |                     |                     |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Grant Expenditure  | 0.00                | 0.00                |
| Publishing Cost  | 4,579.00            | 4,778.50            |
| Wages and Assoc. Cost  | 553,882.60          | 485,609.43          |
| Administration Expenses  | 262,415.81          | 145,209.59          |
| Subscriptions  | 26,522.02           | 5,141.50            |
| Telephone and Fax  | 2,478.95            | 2,033.84            |
| Campaigning Cost   | 65,668.79           | 76,057.62           |
| Bank Charges & Fees  | 5,515.84            | 4,077.85            |
| Consultants  | 155,720.16          | 153,277.18          |
| Insurance  | 10,990.13           | 10,544.08           |
| National Meeting Expenditure   | 3,203.51            | 2,344.34            |
| Audit Fees - Audit or Reviewing<br>the Financial Report                          | 3,000.00            | 3,000.00            |
| Donations Expenditure  | 260,921.87          | 132,164.57          |
| Travel Cost  | 47,785.38           | 27,079.39           |
| Miscellaneous Expenses   | 54,513.42           | 42,936.31           |
| Depreciation   | 1,611.64            | 1,451.05            |
| Cost of Good Sold  | 117.27              | 322.30              |
| Bad Debts  | 0.00                | 0.00                |
|  | <b>1,458,926.39</b> | <b>1,096,027.55</b> |
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>  | <b>(52,652.87)</b>  | <b>(55,443.87)</b>  |
| <b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>  |                     |                     |
| Items that may be reclassified<br>subsequent to Profit or Loss                   | 0.00                | 0.00                |
| Items that will not be reclassified<br>subsequent to Profit or Loss              | 0.00                | 0.00                |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/<br/>(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>                    | <b>0.00</b>         | <b>0.00</b>         |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/<br/>(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE<br/>MEMBERS</b> | <b>(52,652.87)</b>  | <b>(55,443.87)</b>  |

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

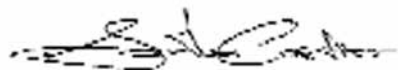
Friends of the Earth Australia's administrative functions are hosted by, and receive substantial logistical and in-kind support from FoE Melbourne, including the part-time allocation of one staff member to national functions. The finance manager at FoE Melbourne manages the national accounts. This keeps overhead costs extremely low. In particular, almost all costs associated with 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 2016/17. 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 2017 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 FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

|                                      | 2017 \$             | 2016 \$           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                        |                     |                   |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                |                     |                   |
| Cash on Hand and at Bank             | 507,919.43          | 351,073.14        |
| Short-Term Bank Deposits             | 400,000.00          | 400,000.00        |
| Accounts receivable & other debtors  | 107,672.35          | 57,451.86         |
| Inventories on hand                  | 0.00                | 342.00            |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>          | <b>1,015,591.78</b> | <b>808,867.00</b> |
| <b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>            |                     |                   |
| Plant and Equipment                  | 10,616.30           | 6,072.00          |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>      | <b>10,616.30</b>    | <b>6,072.00</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                  | <b>1,026,208.08</b> | <b>814,939.00</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                   |                     |                   |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>           |                     |                   |
| Accounts payables & other payables   | 305,918.68          | 183,366.57        |
| Grants/Income received in advance    | 175,753.80          | 28,826.70         |
| Employee Provisions                  | 13,588.90           | 16,975.79         |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>     | <b>495,261.38</b>   | <b>229,169.00</b> |
| <b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>       |                     |                   |
| Borrowing's                          | 0.00                | 0.00              |
| Employee Provisions                  | 17,989.63           | 20,160.00         |
| Other Payables                       | 0.00                | 0.00              |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> | <b>17,989.63</b>    | <b>20,160.00</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>             | <b>513,251.01</b>   | <b>249,329.06</b> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                    | <b>512,957.07</b>   | <b>565,609.04</b> |
| <b>RETAINED SURPLUS</b>              |                     |                   |
| Opening Retained Surplus             | 565,609.94          | 621,053.81        |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year       | (52,652.87)         | (55,443.87)       |
| <b>TOTAL RETAINED SURPLUS</b>        | <b>512,957.07</b>   | <b>565,609.94</b> |



## 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:*

Growald Family Fund

Tides Foundation

European Climate Foundation

Australian Communities Foundation

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Friends of the Earth International

Wallace Global Fund

Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund

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 2016/17 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 or toll free 1300 852 081.





## FOE AUSTRALIA CAMPAIGNS TEAM & CONTACTS

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

FoE has offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, and Melbourne.

### It has the following affiliate members:

Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN)  
Community Foods (Cairns)  
CounterAct  
Earthworker Co-op  
Food Irradiation Watch (Brisbane)  
GM-Free Australia Alliance  
Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO). Victoria  
Healthy Futures  
The Hub Foundation Castlemaine Ltd  
Market Forces  
No Fracking Way (WA)  
Reverse Garbage (Brisbane) is a not-for-profit workers' co-operative in Brisbane that collects high quality industrial discards, diverting them from landfill to sell them at low cost to the general public.  
<http://www.reversegarbage.com.au/>  
Sustainable Energy Now. WA.  
Tulele Peisa —  
“sailing the waves on our own”. PNG.

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

anti nuclear and clean energy  
climate change  
emerging technology  
chemicals and pesticides  
the Murray Darling Basin  
forests and biodiversity  
food and agriculture







## Contact Us

**Friends of the Earth Australia.**

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**Phone:** 03 9419 8700

**Toll free:** 1300 852 081

**Fax:** 03 9416 2081

**Website:** [www.foe.org.au](http://www.foe.org.au)

**Email:** [foe@foe.org.au](mailto:foe@foe.org.au)