



# Friends of the Earth Australia

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025**

Friends of the Earth  
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# VISION

Friends of the Earth Australia (FoEA) recognises First Nations sovereignty and that the land on which we work and meet was stolen during the Frontier Wars, upon colonisation. Friends of the Earth pays respect to their Elders, past and present, and acknowledges the pivotal role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the community. We work at the local level with specific Indigenous communities, as well as participating in broader debates and campaigns at the national and international levels.

**Our vision is of a world where everyone's needs are met in a way that 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 towards a fair and ecologically sustainable future.**

Friends of the Earth operates from an environmental justice perspective. This means working towards a situation where natural ecosystems are valued and protected, all people live in a healthy environment, and where the benefits and costs of economic activity are shared equally, including between nations and generations.

We understand that in an era of globalisation and international environmental problems, a global and co-operative response is required, and we are constantly seeking to develop strong relations with environmental and social justice movements worldwide.



# 2024-2025 OVERVIEW

This financial year, FoEA member groups and national campaigns, such as our anti-nuclear campaign, the Yes 2 Renewables National Project, Friends of the Earth Melbourne, Adelaide and Far North Queensland to name a few, worked with allies during the federal election to help raise awareness about the threats posed by nuclear power. We were very successful in helping coordinate actions among the seven communities which the Coalition's planned nuclear industry would have directly impacted.

- We responded to key moments in federal environmental politics, like the review of federal environmental laws (the EPBC legislation and associated developments), the announcement of the federal government's 2025 emission reduction targets, and more!
- Increasingly FoE worked nationally in the renewable energy space, working to tackle misinformation and disinformation campaigns

and working to ensure that the energy transition doesn't have a negative impact on important areas of biodiversity. And at the same time, FoE worked to build support for proposed offshore wind developments.

- FoE Melbourne's Act on Climate campaign expanded the scale of its work to build community resilience to the impacts of climate change. It is increasingly collaborating with an ever widening range of community organisations around the country.
- Healthy Futures continued to push awareness of the need for the health sector to actively embrace the energy transition while reducing its own carbon footprint.
- Our forest based groups, GECO and FoE Bridgetown, have been hard at work, advocating for fire management processes that centre Indigenous land practices, and autonomy to Country.

# MEMBER GROUPS

Friends of the Earth is made up of a federation of member groups.



## In 2024/2025 Friends of the Earth had the following member groups:

- Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN)
- Earthworker Co-operative
- Friends of the Earth Adelaide
- Friends of the Earth Bridgetown Greenbushes
- Friends of the Earth Brisbane
- Friends of the Earth Far North Queensland
- Friends of the Earth Melbourne
- Friends of the Earth SW WA
- GM-Free Australia Alliance
- Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO)
- Healthy Futures
- The Hub Foundation Castlemaine Ltd
- Market Forces
- Sustainable Energy Now WA
- School Strike 4 Climate Australia (SS4C)
- Wildlife of the Central Highlands (WOTCH)

## Friends of the Earth Australia has the following active national campaigns and projects:

- Chain Reaction Magazine
- Anti Nuclear and Clean Energy
- Defence of Earth - war, militarism and the environment
- Tipping Point - climate change
- Economic Justice Australia
- Yes 2 Renewables Australia
- SAPNA - South Asian Climate Solidarity

## In 2024/2025 Friends of the Earth had the following Auspices::

- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA)
- Saltwater People's Project
- Reframing Wombat Forest



## ANTI-NUCLEAR

Friends of the Earth Australia was founded 50 years ago, to oppose a nuclear power plant in Victoria. To this day, we remain involved in the resistance against all stages of the nuclear cycle - mines, power, weapons and waste.

### National Anti-Nuclear Campaign

FOEA's Australia's Nuclear Free Campaign played a leading role in the successful national campaign to stop nuclear power plants being built in Australia. We drafted a [parliamentary submission](#) endorsed by 16 leading environment groups across Australia and appeared as witnesses at parliamentary hearings. We provided the technical information for the [nuclearplume.au](#) project that highlighted nuclear safety risks. We actively supported communities at the 7 sites targeted for nuclear power plants. We played a leading role in the [dont-nuke-the-climate.org.au](#) project and we worked with trade unions, academics and many others in this successful campaign that resulted in the overwhelming rejection of nuclear power by Australian voters on May 3.

Other campaign work in the 2024-25 financial year included campaigning against AUKUS nuclear submarines, making the case for responsible nuclear waste management in Australia, and supporting the Aboriginal-led Australian Nuclear Free Alliance.



### FoE Adelaide's Anti-Nuclear





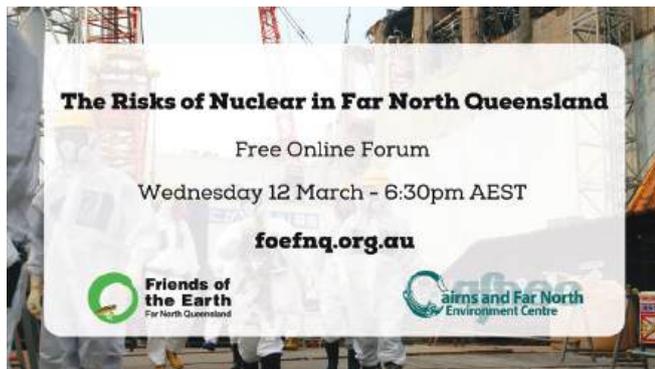
## Election Drive

The 2024/2025 financial year saw FoE Adelaide at one of its busiest times in recent years.

During the 2025 federal election period, FoE Adelaide delivered 50,000 anti-nuclear leaflets to the marginal ALP electorate of Boothby, calling on constituents to consider the risks of nuclear energy when they take to the polls.

FoE Adelaide also co-hosted an anti-nuclear forum with First Nation peoples from Port Augusta.

These actions resulted in keeping Boothby out of the hands of political parties that were campaigning on the back of nuclear energy. This was a huge win for FoE Adelaide and was thanks to the hard work of a small dedicated team, that kept everything running smoothly behind the scenes.



## FoE Far North Queensland - Nuclear Free Forum

In March 2025, FoE FNQ together with Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC), held a free online forum which was well attended by people in the Far North and further afield. This was a chance to learn more about the risks to our health and safety of Dutton's nuclear policy to introduce nuclear power to Australia.

Dr Margaret Beavis talked about nuclear power and the various threats it poses to our health. Her recent article [“Where is the ‘mature debate’ about the health impacts](#)

[of nuclear power?”](#) outlined some of these health risks. Formerly a G.P., Margaret now teaches in the medical faculty at Melbourne University and has lectured on nuclear issues to Master of Public Health students. She is also vice-president of the Medical Association for Prevention of War.

Karina Lester shared her family story with us. She is a Yankunytjatjara woman from the Western Desert region in South Australia. Karina is also a second-generation survivor of British nuclear tests that took place in her Country at Emu Fields on the 15th October 1953. Karina recently attended COP 29 as an ambassador for the Nobel Peace prize winning organisation, the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). There, she highlighted the harms felt by Aboriginal people from the nuclear industry. Karina spoke strongly against adopting nuclear power and for peace, demilitarisation and climate justice.

Dr. Jim Green described the link between nuclear power and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In addition, he discussed the potential weaponisation of nuclear power stations.

‘Nuclear power plants have been described as “pre-deployed terrorist targets” and pose a major security threat. This would likely lead to an increase in policing and security operations, not to mention the commensurate negative impact on civil liberties and public access to information.’ Jim is the national nuclear campaigner with FoEA, a member of the Nuclear Consulting Group, and is a former editor of the World Information Service on Energy’s Nuclear Monitor publication. Jim has an Honours degree in Public Health and a Doctorate in Science and Technology Studies.

Wendy Farmer is a Community Campaigner at Yes2Renewables and president of the Latrobe Valley community group Voices of the Valley. The Latrobe Valley was one of the proposed sites for nuclear power reactors, which would have replaced the Loy Yang coal power station. Wendy relayed the community opposition to nuclear power in both her area and others.



Other obstacles to nuclear energy were discussed, including the health risks associated with nuclear radiation, the unsolved problem of radioactive waste, why nuclear is a dangerous distraction and delays action on climate change, the high financial cost and slow roll out of nuclear power stations worldwide, and the poor safety record of nuclear power stations.

Recordings of the forum are available on the FoEA YouTube:

Dr Margaret Beavis: <https://youtu.be/-p6xxxWuZyw>

Karina Lester: <https://youtu.be/8fx3rv9mXI>

Dr. Jim Green: <https://youtu.be/TeEqV1UCSfw>

Wendy Farmer: <https://youtu.be/oxOV2K1GYIU>

There is also a recording of the entire forum on the CAFNEC YouTube: <https://youtu.be/dm8KUG0q0u4>

## FoE Melbourne - Nuclear Free Collective

The FoEM Nuclear Free Collective (NFC) has been busy in 2024/2025! In February 2025, we supported a young crew with the running of a two-day nuclear crash course. The event was inspired by a staunch resistor of the Roxby Downs uranium mine and the entire nuclear industry, the late Uncle Kevin Buzzacott. He came up with the idea while spending time on Arabunna Country, and the young people who were supporting him at that time brought his vision to life. The event was a deep dive into all things nuclear history and resistance. Workshops and group discussions led by a wide range of people who have been involved in the anti-nuclear movement for a long time. There was also great food and music, films screened, a wonderful archival exhibition and more.

One of the main outcomes of this anti-nuclear weekend was a working group that went on to run the Resisting Nuclear exhibition in June 2025. This exhibition was centred around the history of First Nations resistance to the nuclear industry on this continent. It included an archival and historical exhibition, guided tours, creative workshops, and film screenings — another great success!

Over the last year, FoEM's NFC has played a leading role in the campaign to stop one of the biggest pushes for nuclear power on this continent. Peter Dutton's proposal for seven nuclear reactors on retired coal-mine sites sparked a heated but well-coordinated campaign from a broad coalition and we were in the midst of it. We worked with local champions at the seven proposed sites, First Nations groups, environmental and climate groups, with economists and health experts.

Together with the Australian Conservation Foundation and Nuclear-Free WA, we rekindled the cross-organisational [Don't Nuke the Climate Australia](#) campaign. A platform through which we were able to reach thousands beyond our usual circles to raise awareness about how terrible nuclear power would be for Australia. That it would siphon billions of dollars away from the renewables transition we need, and would not be operational until the 2050s, if ever. That it would use millions of liters of water per day on sites that are already experiencing water shortages and it would leave a reckless radioactive risk and waste legacy. We campaigned hard on social media as well as through regular webinars and collaborations. It was Friends of the Earth's Dr Jim Green who wrote most of the submission representing 16 environmental groups for the Inquiry into nuclear power generation in Australia. We also held a protest outside of the Inquiry hearings when they came to Naarm.

To commemorate the 39th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, on April 26th, we organised a one-day No to Nuclear Bike Ride, from Camp Sovereignty in the city to Kooyong via Brighton. Along the way we reminded pre-polling voters in key marginal seats of the risks a nuclear power pathway would open up. We were joined by the wonderful local Climate Choir on the ride.

As a result of all this tireless collective work, the rejection of nuclear power by voters in the Federal election was huge! It is clear that the majority of people don't want a domestic nuclear power industry, which is fantastic. You were all part of making this happen.



## CLIMATE & ENERGY JUSTICE

It is undeniable that we find ourselves deep within the midst of an unfolding climate crisis.

Friends of the Earth believes in pursuing climate justice. This means that our work addresses the social issues, such as disproportionate use of resources, inequality, and colonisation, whilst we take the urgent action required to address greenhouse gas emissions.

Friends of the Earth is actively working to build resilient communities around the country to

resist the spread of the nuclear, coal, and gas industry, to protect forests - our beautiful carbon sinks - and to adapt and prepare for the already changing climate.

Our climate justice campaigns have helped to forge the agenda on the human rights dimensions of climate change. We have supported the rights of those at risk of climate-induced displacement as well as exposing the social impacts of carbon offset schemes in countries of the global South.



## Tipping Point

- Mobilised opposition to coal and gas during the National Environmental Law reforms, including coordinating distributed days of action and a mass lobbying and action trip in Canberra with.
- Collaborating with Lush cosmetic stores to connect the dots between climate impacts and coal and gas - 35 of their stores were plastered with visual campaign materials and 400 of their staff were engaged through.
- Seconded two staff to 350.org to raise the issue of climate change and fossil fuels in marginal electorates of Wills, Gilmore and Richmond during the Federal Election. The campaign distributed 30,000 climate scorecards and held four candidate forums.
- Continued to pressure Whitehaven Coal's joint venture (financial) partners with office and online actions.



- Supporting Wangan and Jagalingou's third year celebrations of Waddananggu ceremony on their homelands; with an event on Country at the Adani mine site and more than 500 people in Brisbane for an attempt to break the Yidaki (Didgeridoo) playing record.

## Yes 2 Renewables - National Project

This financial year, Yes2Renewables (Y2R) hired our first national organiser to kick off the National Project. We also held a Yes2Renewables national meeting bringing together core staff and volunteers at Commonground in Victoria. This has enabled us to scale up Yes2Renewables' strategy across Vic, NSW, Qld and potentially WA and SA.

Y2R has also been rising to the challenge of fighting disinformation and misinformation. There are many renewable energy projects proposed around the country and many opposition campaigns starting against them, with misinformation rife in regional communities and being amplified in traditional media, social media and by anti-renewables politicians. This is very challenging work and we have taken time to work through our strategy

about how to support communities at scale to deal with the extent of dis/misinformation and anti-renewables campaigns.

We are looking forward to publicly launching and roadtesting the Yes2Renewables Playbook later in 2025 to skill up communities that want more wind and solar power, as well as launching a new national website integrated within FoE Australia.





## FoE Brisbane

This year, Friends of the Earth Brisbane had to turn their attention to saving their community and activist hub in Queensland's capital. A crowdfunding campaign raised \$1300, enough to keep the hub going another year, and enabling activists to continue their critical campaigning work.

We also got serious with our campaign to get Mater Hospital South Brisbane to stop burning coal. We hand delivered the community's formal request to the Board of Directors of Mater Misericordiae Limited, demanding the hospital to stop polluting its neighbourhood – and the planet – and allow patients and local residents to breathe clean air.

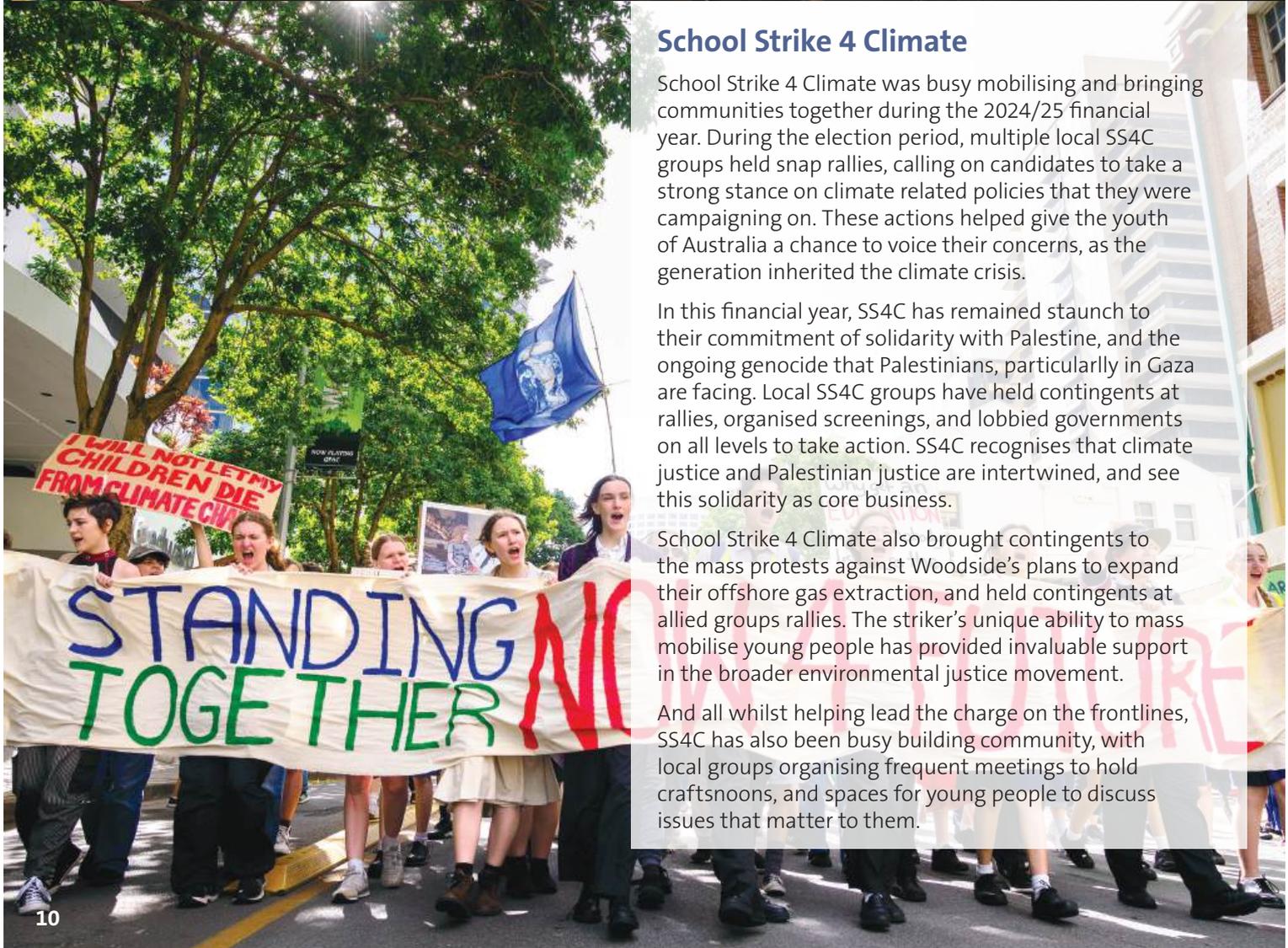
## School Strike 4 Climate

School Strike 4 Climate was busy mobilising and bringing communities together during the 2024/25 financial year. During the election period, multiple local SS4C groups held snap rallies, calling on candidates to take a strong stance on climate related policies that they were campaigning on. These actions helped give the youth of Australia a chance to voice their concerns, as the generation inherited the climate crisis.

In this financial year, SS4C has remained staunch to their commitment of solidarity with Palestine, and the ongoing genocide that Palestinians, particularly in Gaza are facing. Local SS4C groups have held contingents at rallies, organised screenings, and lobbied governments on all levels to take action. SS4C recognises that climate justice and Palestinian justice are intertwined, and see this solidarity as core business.

School Strike 4 Climate also brought contingents to the mass protests against Woodside's plans to expand their offshore gas extraction, and held contingents at allied groups rallies. The striker's unique ability to mass mobilise young people has provided invaluable support in the broader environmental justice movement.

And all whilst helping lead the charge on the frontlines, SS4C has also been busy building community, with local groups organising frequent meetings to hold craftsnoods, and spaces for young people to discuss issues that matter to them.



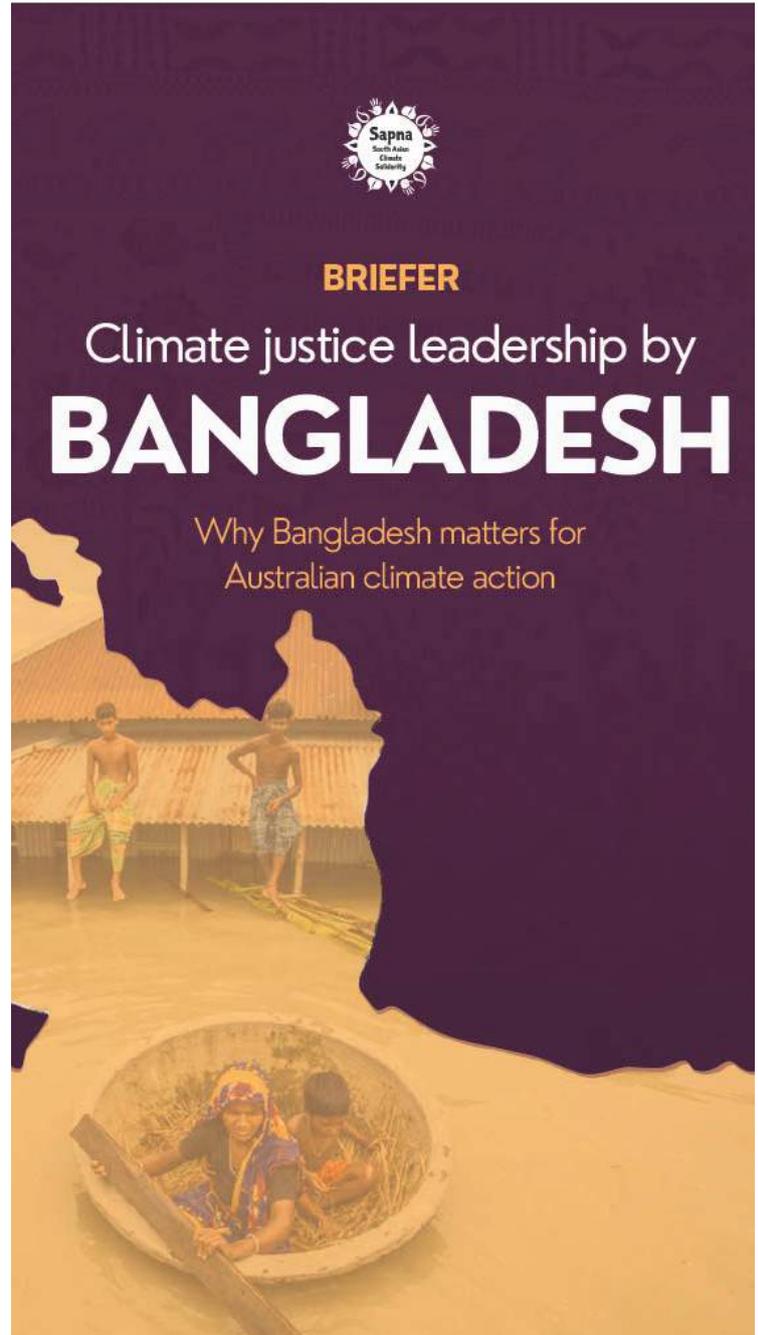
## South Asian Climate Solidarity

Sapna's South Asian stories program has completed one year. During which we have ground-reported stories of community experiences with climate change and community actions to tackle climate change - the everyday actions at home and in the field and in livelihoods as well as concerted action communities are taking to tackle climate hazards collectively such as planting and growing mangroves to restore coastal areas from erosion and buffer against increasingly hazardous coastal storms. We have done this with a very small budget, but due to the passionate, skilled and highly inspired team of three, to field report, produce, and publish these stories from regions as varied as the low lying Sundarbans, the Western Himalayan region of Himachal and Uttarakhand in India, and the north east of India where Indigenous people hold significant control over natural forest resources through special protections. We have also collaborated extensively with interested and passionate journalists and photographers in South Asia to bring stories, footage and visuals to the fore. And, we have begun building relationships with these communities from where we have brought stories, and we will continue bringing their actions to the Australian and global climate conversation.

Apart from this, we have also started building the way for articulating Australia's climate responsibilities towards South Asia through an extensively researched and succinctly story-told report that is bound to inspire action - on Bangladesh's climate justice leadership at home and in the world, and why Australia needs to consider loss and damage contributions and reparations towards countries like Bangladesh.

For a very small team with a barely existent budget, our work has been powered by imagination and inspired by the outstanding work that happens on the ground in South Asia, and our commitment and passion to bring and tell that in Australia, to inspire action. Our stories on local and traditional sustainability in South Asia have been widely shared and discussed in Australia.

Follow our stories and our report on [Instagram](#) and [Linkedin](#).



## Healthy Futures

This year we lobbied federal Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen to set appropriate methane emissions reduction targets as part of Australia's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. We also lobbied superannuation funds to advocate for fossil fuel companies to reduce methane emissions, and we launched a report highlighting the health impacts of methane emissions. Meanwhile, we built relationships across the health sector to support our campaign to replace gas with electricity in all Australian hospitals, and we coordinated an open letter from health organisations to the Victorian Government calling for urgent and equitable electrification of homes and businesses.



## FoE Melbourne’s work on Climate & Energy Justice

In September FoEM had a huge win for the No More Gas campaign, with gas giant TGS announcing they were withdrawing their plans for the world’s largest seismic blasting proposal. The proposal threatened marine life and Gunditjmara songlines, all in the name of exploring for new oil and gas. The announcement was a huge win for Southern Sea Country and follows a long campaign of community pressure from local Gunditjmara people, Friends of the Earth Melbourne’s No More Gas collective and a band of allies.

The No More Gas collective continued their staunch work campaigning for the responsible decommissioning of decaying offshore gas rigs. They continued their pushback on ExxonMobil’s dirty plan for decommissioning in South Gippsland, standing by the local community in opposition to the industrialisation of Barry’s Beach, which sits beside Ramsar listed wetlands at Corner Inlet.

FoE Melbourne’s Yes2Renewables kicked off the start of the financial year with their The Energy Champions Leadership Program, a series of one-day training sessions across Victoria to embolden locals to champion renewable energy. They worked with people in Ballarat, the Latrobe Valley and Inverloch to develop skills and tools to tackle difficult conversations about climate change and energy, bust myths, and speak with confidence about our energy transition.

FoEM’s Act On Climate continued building community demand for climate adaptation support, closely tracking the State Government Climate Resilience Inquiry and travelling to communities across the state to carry out Community Climate Resilience Mapping - helping communities understand their needs and existing resources to protect themselves and one another in extreme climate events.

## Sustainable Energy Now

Sustainable Energy Now (SEN), has had a busy year with presentations and submissions, delivering advocacy on ensuring a fair and just transition of the energy grid in Western Australia.

SEN held four large presentations as follows: The WA State Election 2025 Climate and Energy Leaders Forum; Nuclear Power: A WAS Option?; Electric Communities - In Conversation with Saul Griffith; and Modelling WA’s emissions and energy pathway to align with 1.5C

SEN also made a submission on the Gas Marketing Code of Conduct January 2025. We made 5 more submissions in the 2025-26 financial year, which will be detailed in next year’s report.



## Australian Student Environment Network

This year, the Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN), has been hard at work building community, showing up in solidarity, and mentoring the next generation of activists.

Throughout the past year, ASEN has continued to show up in solidarity with First Nation's people, supporting Camp Sovereignty in Naarm, and concentrating our financial efforts in supporting Aunty Sue, and looking to support The Djhadowa Foundation in the coming year. We believe that to achieve Climate Justice, we must put First Nations Justice at the forefront of our work, supporting LandBack, and the abolition of colonial entities.

ASEN's solidarity has extended to Palestine and its people, staunchly opposing the genocide that Gaza is facing, and fighting to hold all those complicit to account. We have held contingents at marches, participated in direct action, and supported fundraising efforts that directly benefit Palestinians.

In June 2025, The Victorian branch of ASEN, 'VICsen', held 'Kiss The Hand', a fundraiser for Gender Affirming Care to support a long term ASEN member. The fundraiser was a huge success, and highlighted the important work that ASEN does in intersectional solidarity. Trans Justice is interlinked to Climate Justice, and one cannot exist without the other.

ASEN has also continued to hold monthly Potluck meetings, a space to share the network's latest actions, and ways to support the Environmental and Social Justice movement.

As our world changes, so must ASEN, with a radical re-imagining in the works, of how we can continue to hold solidarity with the movement, and mentor the next generation of activists. We hope in the coming year, we can redefine our purpose, build our resilience and maintain our support in the struggle for justice of the planet and its people.





## LAND & WATER

One of Friends of the Earth's primary objectives is to conserve, restore, and protect land and water. This task is the responsibility of every person and community, just as it

has been for the First Nation peoples of this continent for millennia. Friends of the Earth helps communities to resist the destruction of sacred land, native forests and habitat, rivers and waterways, and other places we love.

This means that we do not see nature as separate from human society, but rather seek to transform our society to one that lives in harmony with the land as well as ensuring that life-giving water is treated with the respect that it deserves.





## FoE Melbourne Forest Collective

FoE Melbourne continues to work as an ally with a number of First Nations organisations. In central and northern Victoria we support the aspirations of the Dja Dja Wurrung (Djarra) to manage their country as is outlined in their Djandak Wi (Country fire) and Galk-galk Dhelkunya (forest gardening) strategies. Activities over the past year have focused on holding regular work trips to the Djaara managed test site in the Wombat forest, largely to clear invasive species like gorse and assist with data collection about native animals and plants.

The FoEM Forest Collective also intensified their campaign work on endangered snow gums, bringing together First Nations people, land managers, academics, environment groups, activists and more to discuss the drivers of snow gum die-back at the first 'Snow Gum Summit' in February. The summit, held in Dinner Plain, attracted close to 100 people who took part in presentations, workshops, and field trips, working together to debate ways forward to protect this iconic species.

## GECO

This year GECO celebrated important milestones in keeping East Gippsland's forests in the public eye following the end of native forest logging. Together with local communities and First Nations partners, we strengthened support for protections via the Great Outdoors Taskforce Engagement and the Emerald Link initiative, and built momentum for completing the protection of Errinundra.

Our grassroots monitoring of Forest Fire Management Victoria's activities provided vital evidence to highlight the ecological costs of destructive fire management, while our short educational videos performed extremely well on social media, expanding our reach and engaging new supporters.

We acknowledge the generous support of the Tucker Foundation, whose Emerald Link grant has been crucial in strengthening our campaign for lasting forest restoration and conservation economy initiatives, and we celebrate the incredible dedication of our volunteers and supporters, whose commitment continue to make GECO a strong and resilient voice for East Gippsland's forests.





## FoE Melbourne - Strzelecki Koala Action Team (SKAT)

Most of SKAT's work over 2024-2025 focussed on koala scat surveys at Won Wron State Forest near Yarram. 118 sites were assessed at Won Wron and surveys in that forest will most likely be finalised by the end of August 2025. We are still active with the Friends of the Strzelecki Koala Facebook group which now has 1600 members. Our Strzelecki koala map is still attracting attention with over 4000 people using the map in 2024-2025.

SKAT was shocked to hear about the [Budj Bim koala massacre](#) in April. 1000 koalas were shot from a helicopter in the Budj Bim National Park after a bush fire went through the area. A site visit by FoE to Budj Bim after the Park was reopened in May revealed that at least half of the burnt area was not burnt severely at all. Only two koalas were seen when FoE visited. The Government claimed that 1000 koalas at Budj Bim were not shot. A blog published by FoE in April received about 6000 visits during the year - the second highest readership for a selective blog post.

We are still waiting on the addition of 2500 hectares of land to the Brataualung Forest Park in the Strzelecki Ranges. In a letter to FoE in March 2025, Minister Dimopoulos said that the handback of Tranches 2 and 3 would be finalised by June 30. This did not happen and FoE has been kept completely in the dark about what the hold up is. The State Labor Government agreed to the establishment of the Park in 2008. Only a third of the Park has been gazetted as Forest Park in 17 years!

## Pesticide Free Waterways

Most work in the waterways space has been looking into PFAS. Freedom of Information requests were sent to a number of Victorian water authorities during the year including Gippsland Water, Melbourne Water, Goulburn Valley Water, North East Water, Coliban Water and Greater Western Water. Anthony Amis also spoke at the PFAS enquiry held by the Australian Senate in June 2025. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JP1o\\_gpo4pQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JP1o_gpo4pQ)

The PFAS issue in Victorian water supplies appears not to be as serious as that in New South Wales and Queensland, but nevertheless PFAS has been detected in a number of water supplies in Victoria with the most serious incident occurring at Lake Mulwala in July 2023. FoE received some media in late 2024 in regards to the contamination of drinking water supplies west of Melbourne, most seriously at Djerriwarrh Reservoir. PFAS appears to be associated with an old landfill in the headwaters of the catchment. A FoE blog concerning PFAS chemicals in Victorian water supplies attracted over 2600 visits during the year. Attention has also been placed on PFAS pollution from Dutson Downs waste water facility in Gippsland into the Gippsland Lakes.

Pesticide detections are frequently detected across Victorian water supplies with none appearing to breach the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. However breaches to ecological guidelines have occurred in Gippsland with the insecticides Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos. Melbourne Water also detected Metolachlor in the Yarra River 33 times at levels above the ecological guideline between 2020 and 2024. FoE also revealed that low levels of pesticides (MCPA, Metolachlor and Simazine) had been detected in treated water at Winneke Treatment Plant.

Anthony Amis continues to maintain the [Australian Drinking Water Map](#) (30,000 visits 24/25), [Australian Pesticide Map](#) (16,000 visits 24/25) and the [Australian PFAS map](#) (120,000 visits 24/25). These maps were created through the group ActionSkills.

## Friends of the Earth Bridgetown-Greenbushes

For the previous 10 years there had been no logging threat in FoE Bridgetown-Greenbush's local (shire) forests and the main activity has been keeping the group in existence until needed. In 2022 it was announced that logging of native forests would be terminated with the start of a new 10 year Forest Management Plan in January 2024.

During public Comment on the Draft Plan BGFF proposed that the few remaining areas of Special Community Value ("SCV") forest, which were close to population centres and accessible by 2-WD vehicle, should be identified and preserved for community access. Our priority for FY 2024-2025 was identified as the Bridgetown Jarrah Park and the proposed Dalgarp National Park surrounding it, 20 minutes west of Bridgetown.

BGFF and Blackwood Environment Society (who have worked together in forest preservation issues since 1987) have formed a joint committee to fight the mineral exploration claims.

At the same time there is growing opposition to the proposed prescribed burning, which will become another community issue. BGFF became concerned that planned prescribed burning would destroy the beauty of the Jarrah Park (look up Bridgetown Jarrah Park on the web to see this) and started negotiations with Parks and Wildlife. Although good publicity was obtained in the local monthly "Mailbag", public reaction was not great at the time. And we will now have to look seriously at how 3000 ha of near virgin forest can be developed as a National Park.

In September we found that there were two mining exploration tenements, totalling 32,000 ha applied for. These included the Bridgetown Jarrah Park and ran from the north of the Dalgarp National Park to south of the Donnelly River village, a former sawmill and worker village, and now a tourist village. Six Bridgetown groups have objected to these mining claims.

So after spending 10 years just keeping BGFF alive, we are faced with a real task in preserving and developing for the community the last potential Special Community Value forest in our Shire. This will breathe new life into our 38 year old group.





## ECONOMICS FOR EARTH

Everyone should be able to put healthy food on the table, access clean energy and enjoy a thriving environment. Yet we live in a world facing growing inequality, climate change and pollution. Some corporations are using their money and power to take too much for

themselves, and are destroying our planet. We act in solidarity to stop corporate crime, demanding rights for people and binding rules for business.

The government must change the rules to ensure that corporations are held accountable and that trade is fair. Australian schools, universities and local councils can drive positive change by ensuring that everything they buy is made sustainably and justly.





## Market Forces

Market Forces had a productive 2024/2025, marked by the release of the [Banking Climate Failure](#) report and a significant win with Commonwealth Bank's improved climate policy, which now effectively excludes finance for major oil and gas producers. We also started campaigning for APA to end its planned pipelines enabling fracking in the Northern Territory. We lodged the first shareholder resolution with APA and gathered over 17,000 signatures on an open letter opposing Beetaloo Basin fracking pipelines.

Market Forces continued supporting First Nations communities, including Gomerioi Elders who attended the Santos annual general meeting, standing with them in their ongoing fight to protect Country.

## FoE Melbourne - Sustainable Cities

FoEM's Sustainable Cities Collective were thrown into election campaigning earlier in the year, with a snap Werribee by-election prompted by the resignation of then state treasurer Tim Pallas. With a bunch of colourful community actions, including a bus parade and transport-specific candidates forum, the collective made sure public transport inequity in the west cut through the debate. All the minor parties explicitly supported our Better Buses for the West Campaign, and this was made even more significant by a record minor-party vote in the electorate that made the seat marginal. The collective went on to win brand new bus services for the communities they advocated for in the state budget process, with Premier Jacinta Allan making buses a key pillar of the budget package.





## Earthworker

2025 is the International Year of Cooperatives, and in 2024-25, Earthworker has continued to expand its services offered and community reach.

Our **Smart Energy Cooperative's** highlight of the year has been working through our **Energy Efficiency and Electrification Alliance (3EA)**, which Earthworker set up to provide a comprehensive energy efficiency retrofit service for households. In 2025, 3EA completed a project with the City of Yarra to retrofit and create Climate Safe Rooms for 55 low-income households. It's great when local governments have the vision and commitment to invest in this sort of climate resilience and emission reduction work that has really tangible outcomes.

Of note in 2025 for **Cooperative Power** has begun its shift into gas retailing. This was in response to customer members making it clear that they would appreciate having the one retailer for all household energy needs. So, in typically adventurous and democratic fashion, CoPower put the idea of gas retailing to its customers, who voted for it. CoPower then committed to using the surplus derived from gas retailing to help people get off

gas. CoPower customers have been able to get financial support to get drought-proofing from ESEC and heat pump hot water from EEMC. It's been a great example of cooperation between cooperatives, and using CoPower's role in the energy retail system to advance a radical transformation of that system.

The **Singing Blackbird Enterprises Cooperative** launched in March 2025. It aims to build community power and resilience by deepening our connections to place and story. SBE has been enacting this so far with public meetings on pertinent topics that aim to expand the imaginative thinking of left-wing activists when it comes to envisioning our collective future.

Finally, Earthworker has commenced work to establish a **General Assembly** governance structure. The General Assembly will allow the entire Earthworker ecosystem to be democratically governed by its member cooperatives. In its current form, the General Assembly (GA) consists of two delegates from each co-op and is meeting monthly to firm up its structure and guide the strategic direction of the Earthworker movement.



## FOOD & TECHNOLOGY

We believe public scrutiny of the environmental and social impacts of new technologies is essential and support community involvement in technology assessment, public policy development,

especially when it impacts our food systems and food sovereignty. Friends of the Earth is a strong supporter of sustainable technologies such as solar power, wind farms, and energy efficient devices. However, we believe technology development should serve community needs—not corporate and military interests—and should pay heed to the precautionary principle. Food sovereignty is about feeding communities rather than corporate profit and it defends the interests of future generations.



## FoE Melbourne Food Cooperative

This year at the Food Co-op has been one of connection and creativity, with a strong focus on community engagement and practical responses to the challenges the community are facing. Together with our volunteers and members, we've continued to strengthen the Food Co-op as a place that values sustainability, community care and collaboration.

Earlier in the year, we welcomed 20 international students from the Education University of Hong Kong as part of their Empowering Your Values program. The students were on a self-initiated tour and reached out to us to collaborate after engaging with our social media. It was amazing to meet a team of passionate people who were so excited to share in our vision, and to create an international friendship based on our values. We all also felt inspired seeing our volunteer Jackson leading the visit.

Volunteer involvement has remained strong, with new and returning volunteers helping us across the cafe, shop, social media and community projects. We've formed some lifelong relationships even with those who have since moved away but continue to support us in one way or another. Marcela, a volunteer who was studying photography during her time in Melbourne, decided to focus on the Food Co-op for her final project. After finishing up as a volunteer, she exhibited a beautiful book of interviews and photographs of our volunteers, cooks and coordinators; all inspired by the strong sense of community and passion she saw during her time in the Food Co-op.

Beyond the Food Co-op, we've also been part of developing the Reuse Revolution campaign to reduce waste and support our commitment to sustainability. We're very excited about hosting more collaborative events and movements in the coming year.

We've also been supporting local events and community gatherings through catering, and our work on the annual recipe calendar project continued in the knowledge that so many members of the community are asking for more Food Co-op recipes. The calendar truly celebrates the creativity of our team and the abundance of local, seasonal produce.

Finally, we made some changes in response to cost-of-living pressures by introducing more affordable menu options and continuing to source accessible bulk foods. We have had feedback about how these changes are working to keep people engaged with the Food Co-op while on a budget.



Thank you to our volunteer Annie for bringing fresh flowers every week. Not only do they make the space so beautiful, but it's another reminder that our volunteers contribute in so many creative ways. And of course we have to thank Dave for all his help this past year, it's been a huge support and he's really become a part of the team. Thank you to Hilda for this year's fastest stocktake yet; this was due to our improved system and the incredible teamwork of our volunteers and co-ordinators. And a big thank you to all our inspiring volunteers and work experience high school students who have shared their skills and time with the Food Co-op.

## The Hub Foundation Castlemaine

This Financial Year, Yes In My Backyard (YIMBY) continues to be The Hub's main contribution to tackling Climate Change in Castlemaine - in this year we have double the people contributing food scraps to a decentralised community composting system. This means that 517 households now participate, plus the 37 active composters. We are set to double again next.

We are increasing the composting capacity of the local community, to divert organics from landfill and keep nutrients local. We aim to connect people and build the capacity and willingness of our community to work together on what is needed.

The Hub Foundation has supported one of the largest and most successful community composting initiatives in Australia. Showcased on Gardening Australia for being innovative and successfully involving many people in the community - everyone has a part to play in YIMBY. We will continue to support our community to thrive and take positive action on climate change.





## INDIGENOUS LAND & RIGHTS

Friends of the Earth acknowledges the ongoing struggle for land and rights of indigenous peoples and encourages its members and supporters to be good allies and accomplices in those struggles.

We seek to work collaboratively with First Nations peoples across a range of environmental and social justice issues.

Friends of the Earth Australia acknowledges the sovereignty of First Nations peoples throughout so-called Australia and that sovereignty was never ceded. Friends of the Earth work collaboratively with Traditional Owners on our environmental campaigns to help develop a wider appreciation of Indigenous people's land and water management knowledge, and to see that knowledge utilised in care for the natural environment.

### FoEM Treaty Work

As we get closer and closer to the formalisation of a state-wide treaty between First People's and the State of Victoria, Friends of the Earth joined the call as an ally of Treaty. We made sure that our members heard from representatives from the First People's Assembly of Victoria about the Treaty process, what the different dimensions the Treaty will address, and we encouraged our community to actively support the Treaty process. This is a historic moment for Victoria and needs all allies to be actively supportive and vocal. For environmental groups it underscores the need to also listen to and support the aspirations of traditional owner groups to manage their Country.



# chain. reaction

**Chain Reaction is a micro journal and magazine published by Friends of the Earth Australia since 1974. Chain Reaction is published three times a year and activists, writers and thinkers are encouraged to submit essays, articles, art and poetry for publication. Chain Reaction has a well-earned reputation for being at the forefront of environmental and social debates, with many contributors also on the frontline of environmental and social justice struggles.**

## Chain Reaction

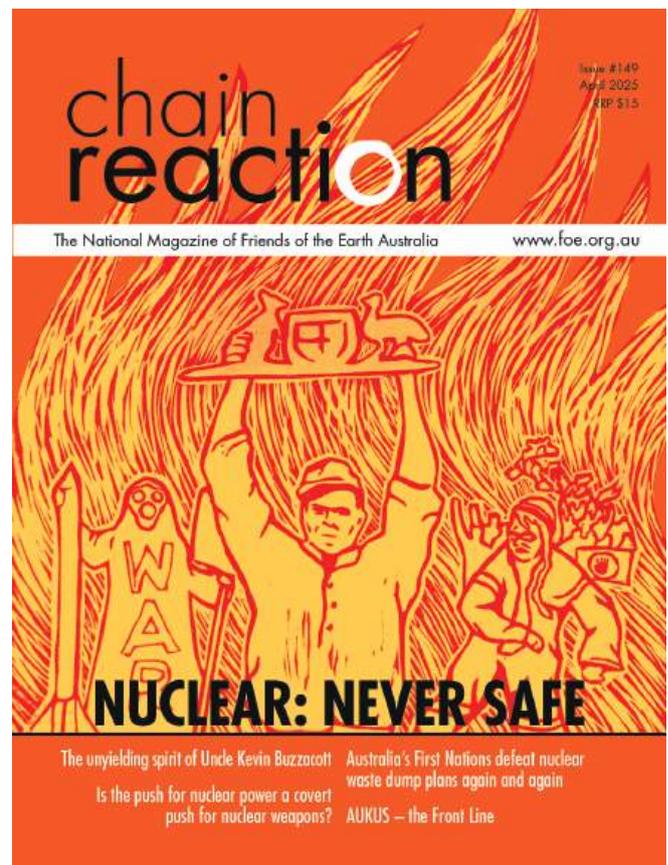
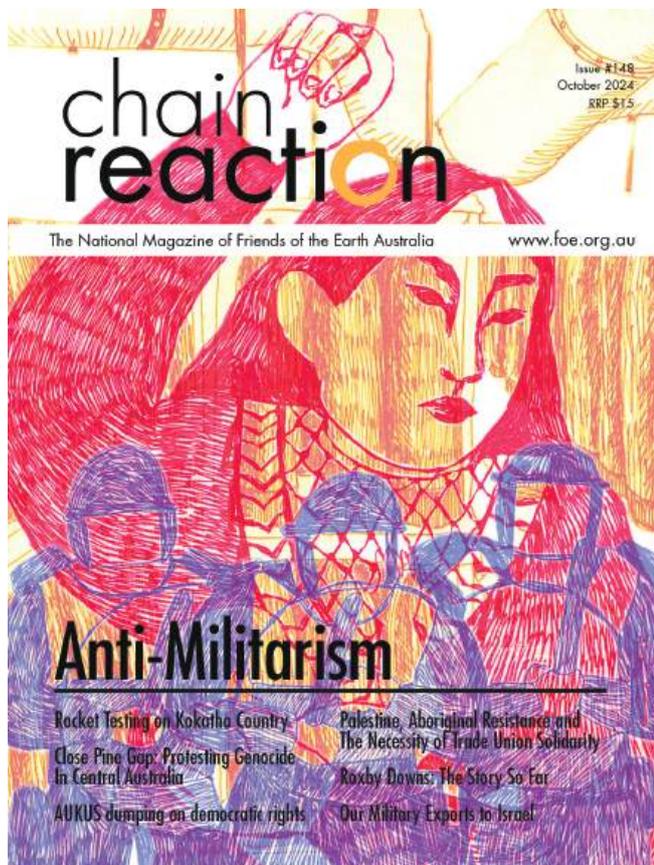
Emily Wood-Trounce stepped into the editor role, publishing two epic editions of Chain Reaction Between July 2024 and June 2025.

Anti-Militarism and Resistance focused on the movement's resurgence across Australia and the Asia-Pacific, connecting opposition to AUKUS and Pine Gap with solidarity for Palestine and First Nations resistance.

Our contributors exposed the deep connections between militarism, colonisation, and environmental destruction; from rocket testing on Kokatha Country, to protests at Pine Gap, and union solidarity for Gaza. The issue also featured tributes to Uncle Kevin Buzzacott and reflections on peace activism, demilitarisation, and the need to prioritise diplomacy and justice over war.

Our first issue of 2025 paid tribute to the unyielding spirit of anti-nuclear activism. It honoured the late Arabunna Elder Uncle Kevin Buzzacott and celebrated decades of First Nations-led resistance to uranium mining and nuclear waste dumping. Contributors unpacked the renewed push for nuclear power and AUKUS submarines, exposing the industry's health, environmental, and political risks. With voices from Collier to Kakadu, the edition reaffirmed Friends of the Earth's long-standing commitment to a nuclear-free future.

Emily has also been leading work on a bumper retrospective edition celebrating 150 editions of Chain Reaction. In the background, a group of the magazine's core team have been working hard on reimagining the future of Chain Reaction.



# WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

Friends of the Earth Australia's federation structure means that local groups work in ways that are most appropriate to their local circumstances and issues while being connected to a national, regional and international federation that holds the same vision and values. Our grassroots focus and strong volunteer basis means we are able to work effectively with a vast

range of groups and community groups. Friends of the Earth Australia is acknowledged as being the leanest of the large environmental groups in terms of minimising administration costs and overheads.

# HOW WE WORK

We are a national federation of groups that work through community engagement, education, mobilisation and transformative solutions. We have a strong focus on working in alliances with others in the environmental and social justice movements and with grassroots groups 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.

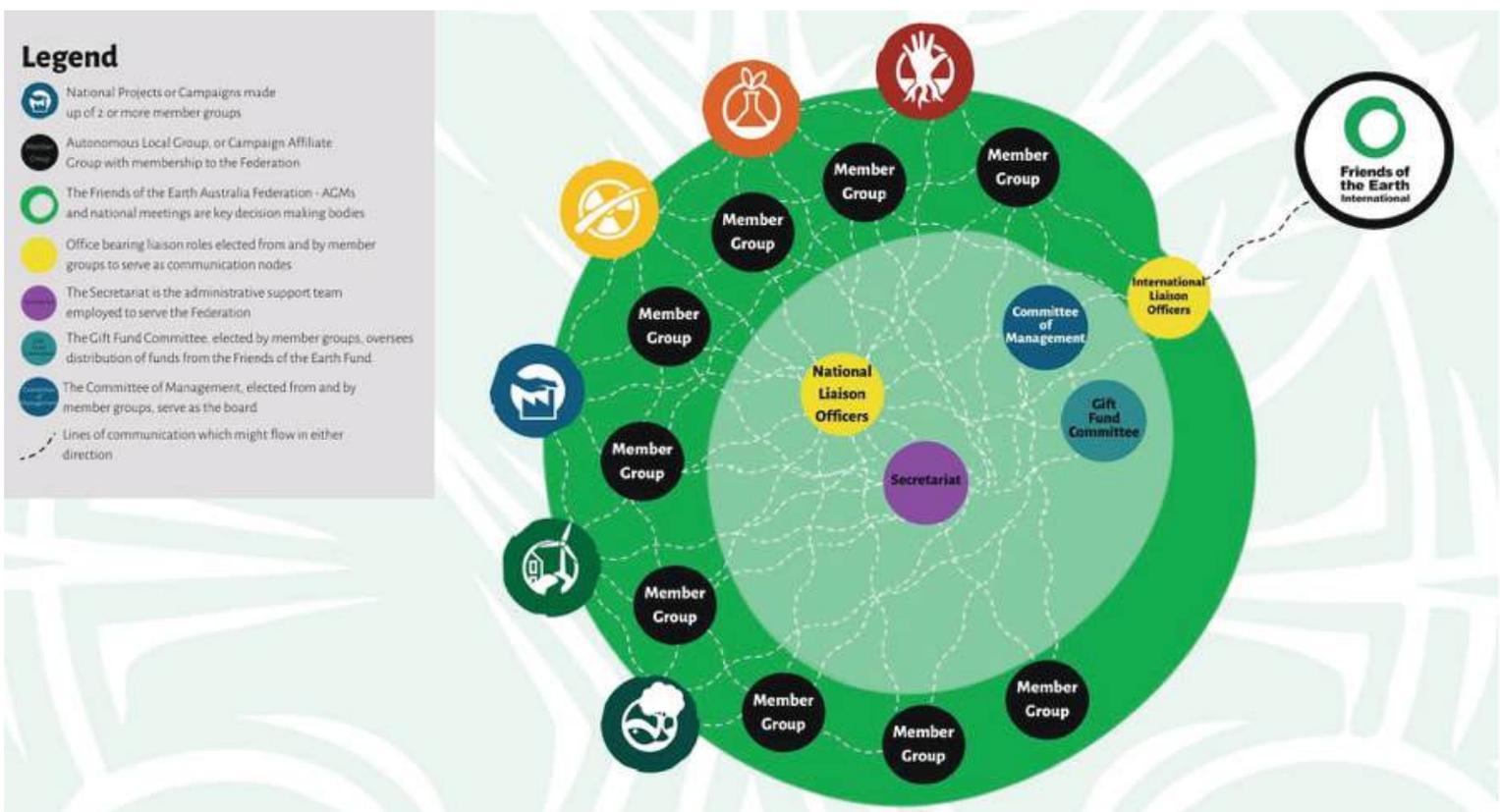
Friends of the Earth have strong regional and global

connections through our international network.

We bring a strong human rights perspective to all our campaigns.

We support a range of not for profit social enterprises, including an organic cafe, food cooperative, the Earthworker Cooperative.

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





# STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

Friends of the Earth Australia is composed of independent member groups. Each group is self-managing in terms of its campaigns, decision making structures and fundraising 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 or projects at an appropriate and sustainable level.

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

Friends of the Earth Australia's Committee of Management is made up of members of local groups and in 2024/2025 were:

- Chair: Dr Jim Green (FoE Adelaide)
- Treasurer: Franklin Bruinstroop (FoE FNQ)
- Secretary: Sam Galvin (FoE Melbourne)
- Member: Nellie Malseed (Market Forces)
- Member: Rae Knoptik (Healthy Futures)
- Member: Ursula Alquier (Healthy Futures)
- Member: Roman Orszanski (FoE Adelaide)
- Member - Alana Mountain (FoE Melbourne)

A separate public gift fund committee appointed at the AGM manages the FoE Australia Fund. This year the members of the Gift Fund Committee were:

- Cam Walker (Melbourne)
- Ila Marks (Melbourne)
- Linda Marks (Melbourne)
- Fosco Ruzzene (Melbourne)
- June Norman (Brisbane)

Communication between local groups is facilitated by the National Liaison Officers. This year we had 8 National Liaison Officers:

- Sam Galvin (FoE Australia Convenor/FoE Melbourne)
- Cam Walker (FoE Melbourne)
- Elyse Cunningham (Defence of Earth National Project/FoE Melbourne)
- Nellie Malseed (Market Forces)
- Rae Knoptik (Healthy Futures)
- Beata Szinyi (FoE Australia Secretariat/FoE Melbourne)
- Vishad Sharma (Tipping Point National Project)
- Patrick Simons (Yes 2 Renewables National Project/FoE Melbourne)

The International Liaison Officers are responsible for communication between Friends of the Earth Australia and Friends of The Earth International (FoEI). This year the International Liaison Officers have been:

- Chloe Aldenhoven (FoE Melbourne)
- Franklin Bruinstroop (FoE FNQ)
- Jess Tran (FoE Melbourne)
- Sam Castro (FoE Melbourne)
- Sam Cosser-Gilbert (FoE Melbourne)

National spokespeople are nominated by local groups at the AGM and are approved to speak on behalf of Friends of the Earth on specific issues.

Decisions are made at the National Meetings and AGM which is generally held in November. Or online via federation ballots

Various internal communication structures keep groups informed during the year.

Friends of the Earth Australia places great value on collective consensus decision-making systems and internal information sharing.

# GLOBAL CONTEXT & CONNECTION

Friends of the Earth Australia is a member of [Friends of the Earth International](#) which is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 74 national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent. With over 2 million members and supporters around the world, we campaign on today's most urgent environmental and social issues from the local to the global. Friends of the Earth International works in consultation with the federation around 4 thematic areas; Climate Justice and Energy, Economic Justice and Resisting Neoliberalism, Food Sovereignty, Forests and Biodiversity.

Friends of the Earth International has a democratic structure with autonomous national groups which comply with the guidelines established by the federation. Friends of the Earth International member groups are united by a common conviction that these aims require both strong grassroots activism and effective national and international campaigning and coordination.

As an International Federation our vision is of a peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature. We envision a society of interdependent people living in dignity, wholeness and fulfilment in which equity and human and peoples' rights are realised. This will be a society built upon peoples' sovereignty and participation. It will be founded on social, economic, gender and environmental justice and be free from all forms of domination and exploitation, such as neoliberalism, corporate globalisation, neo-colonialism and militarism.

Friends of the Earth International provides a unique and diverse forum to pursue international and regional initiatives. More information about the work of Friends of the Earth International groups around the world and copies of the Friends of the Earth International annual report can be found online at [foei.org](https://foei.org)



Protestors blockade the access road to the Pine Gap joint Defence Facility in November, 2023 due to evidence of the facility's involvement in the genocide in Gaza.

# SUPPORTERS



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

Friends of the Earth would like to thank the following for their support:

- ACME Foundation
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Climate Action Network Australia
- Community Impact Foundation
- Graeme Wood Foundation
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund
- McKinnon Family Foundation
- Boundless
- The Sunrise Project Australia
- Patagonia
- Lush
- Tucker foundation
- CoPower
- Friends of the Earth USA
- And our many wonderful individual donors and supporters!

We would like to acknowledge all the individuals and organisations who have supported Friends of the Earth through their work or in-kind support such as donation

of time, skills or materials for our campaigns and projects over the 2024/2025 financial year.

They include:

- Action Skills
- Dvize Creations
- Environmental Justice Australia
- Tipping Point Advisory Team
- Market Forces' communications team
- HUE - Colour the Conversation
- Codenation
- Tessar Sellar for Graphic Design
- Black Rainbow
- Equity Generation Lawyers
- Texta Queen
- Emily Wood-Trounce
- Democracy In Colour
- McBain McCartin & Co
- Common Ground Cooperative
- Berta Jiminez
- SOPEC
- PENGON (Friends of The Earth Palestine)
- FoE APAC
- All of our amazing volunteers

## Our bequest program

Thank you to our many members who have let us know that they are including Friends of the Earth in their wills.

Every gift, whether large or small, makes a real difference. If you would like further information on remembering Friends of the Earth in your will, see [foe.org.au/bequest](http://foe.org.au/bequest) or email Lisa Arnold, [lisa.arnold@foe.org.au](mailto:lisa.arnold@foe.org.au). Friends of The Earth recommends you seek independent legal advice on the writing of your will.

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2024/25

## FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (AUSTRALIA)

ABN 18 110 769 501

### COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The committee members submit the financial report of Friends of the Earth (Australia) for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Dr. Jim Green (Chair - Appointed on 27 March 2024)  
Sam Galvin (Secretary - Appointed on 30 November 2024)  
Franklin Bruinstroop (Treasurer - Appointed 30 November 2022)  
Alana Mountain (Appointed 26 November 2022; resigned 14 March 2025)  
Roman Orszanski (Appointed on 30 November 2024)  
Ursula Alquier (Appointed on 30 November 2024)  
Nellie Malseed (Appointed on 30 November 2024)  
Ora Rae Knopik (Appointed on 6 December 2024)  
Samantha Castro (Appointed 2012 AGM (22 September); resigned on 30 November 2024)  
Charlie Phillips (Appointed 16 December 2023; resigned on 30 November 2024)

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were:

- to provide services in the area of social justice and promote social justice,
- to promote individual/ community health and wellbeing and provide services in this area,
- to participate and provide facilities for cultural and scientific advancement in the area of social justice, natural environment and individual/community health,
- to participate in the protection and enhancement of the natural environment,
- the provision of information and education in the areas of social justice, natural environment and individual/community health, and
- to carry out any other activities as per the Rules of Friends of the Earth (Australia).

#### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

#### OPERATING RESULT

The operating result for the year is a deficit of \$423,431 (2024: Deficit of \$688,544).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Sam Galvin  
Secretary  
Collingwood, VIC  
Date: 20 October 2025



Franklin Bruinstroop  
Treasurer  
Collingwood, VIC  
Date: 20 October 2025

## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025

	2025\$	2024\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalent	2,550,569	2,864,290
Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors	49,080	35,502
Other Current Assets	39,204	85,860
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>2,638,853</b>	<b>2,985,652</b>
<b>Non-Current assets</b>		
Plant and Equipment	5,831	7,688
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>5,831</b>	<b>7,688</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>2,644,684</b>	<b>2,993,340</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Other Payables	342,497	346,298
Income Received in Advance	455,320	406,104
PAYG/GST Liabilities	23,514	11,949
Provisions	164,814	124,058
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>986,145</b>	<b>888,409</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Provisions	26,307	40,268
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>26,307</b>	<b>40,268</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,012,452</b>	<b>928,677</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,632,232</b>	<b>2,064,663</b>
<b>Member's Funds</b>		
Retained Surplus	1,632,232	2,064,663
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>	<b>1,632,232</b>	<b>2,064,663</b>

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Membership Subscription	905	573
Donations and Funding	766,709	1,105,936
Grant Income	1,985,968	1,674,567
Bank Interest	104,378	106,539
Publication	6,943	10,768
Miscellaneous Income	37,376	39,233
	<b>2,902,279</b>	<b>2,937,616</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Employee Benefits and Related Expenses	(1,966,072)	(1,761,217)
Administration Costs	(366,307)	(620,392)
Fundraising Expenses	(13,480)	(6,733)
Campaigning Costs	(306,603)	(631,719)
Campaign Funding for Member Groups and Projects	(644,448)	(549,542)
Donations	(1,565)	(18,051)
Depreciation and Amortisation	(3,310)	(6,650)
Audit Fees	(24,250)	(28,000)
Interest Expense	(8,675)	(3,856)
	<b>(3,334,710)</b>	<b>(3,626,160)</b>
<b>(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(432,431)</b>	<b>(688,544)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive (loss) attributable to the members</b>	<b>(432,431)</b>	<b>(688,544)</b>



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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
AUDIT & ASSURANCE SERVICES

PO BOX 82 BALWYN  
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA 3103  
ABN 26 028 714 960

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (AUSTRALIA)  
ABN 18 110 769 501**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report  
*Opinion***

We have audited the financial report of the Friends of the Earth (Australia) (the registered entity), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025, and the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information and the responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the registered entity is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial positions as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent as detailed at Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of ACNC Act and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

### ***Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon***

The responsible persons are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### ***Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting***

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the *ACNC Act*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### ***Responsibilities of the Responsible Persons for the Financial Report***

The responsible persons of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *ACNC Act* and for such internal control as the responsible persons determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible persons are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible persons either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the reporting entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible persons.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible persons' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the responsible persons regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*McBain McCartin & Co.*

**McBain McCartin & Co**  
**Chartered Accountants**



**Simon Aukstin (CA)**  
**Partner**

123 Whitehorse Road,  
Balwyn VIC 3103

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2025



# CONTACT US

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