



2024-25

ANNUAL REPORT

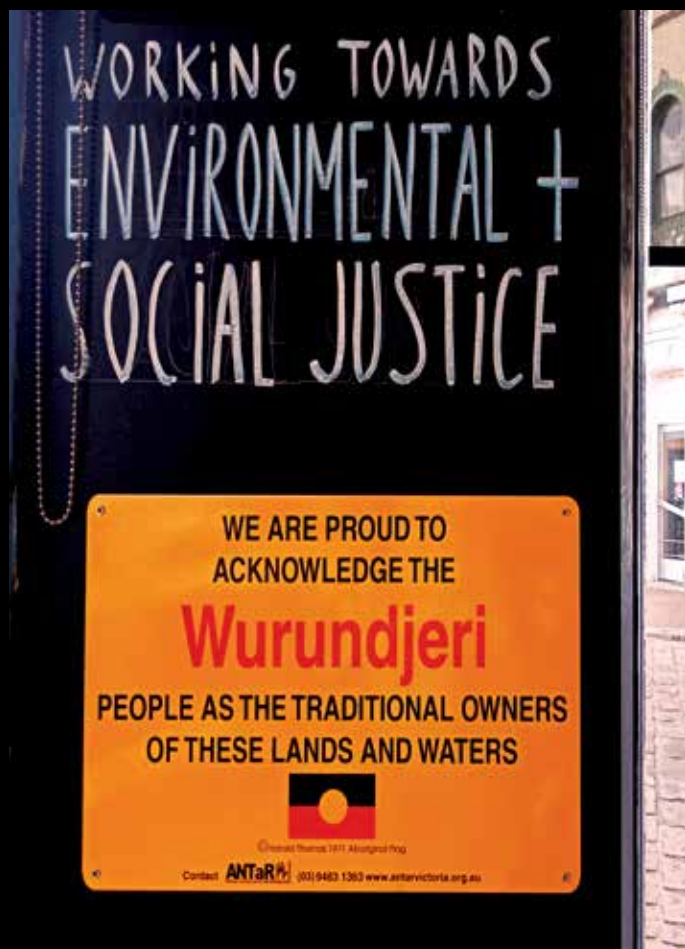


**Friends of
the Earth
Melbourne**

Friends of the Earth
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Friends of the Earth Melbourne/Naarm acknowledges First Nations sovereignty and recognises that the land on which we work and meet was stolen during the violent colonisation of so called Australia. Friends of the Earth Melbourne is housed in Yálla-birrang on the Wurundjeri people's land, Woiwurrung in the Kulin Nation. Our work takes us to other parts of the Kulin Nation - Dja Dja Wurrung, Boonwurrung, Wathaurrung, and Daungwurrung - as well as to Yorta Yorta, Gunditjamarra, Gunai/Kurnai land, Dja Dja Wurrung Country, and all around what is now known as Victoria.

Friends of the Earth pay respect to Elders past and present, and acknowledge the pivotal role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the community and the struggle for environmental and social justice.



Friends of the Earth Melbourne is an independent, community-based organisation working towards an ecologically sustainable and socially just future. Friends of the Earth is membership-based and open to all people who share our vision. Friends of The Earth Melbourne is a member group of Friends of the Earth Australia, which is made up of a federation of member groups and is in turn the national member of Friends of the Earth International. FoE International is the largest grassroots federation of environmental activists in the world and currently active in more than 74 countries. Friends of the Earth has been active in Melbourne since early 1973.

In 2024/25 Friends of the Earth Melbourne continued to organise and campaign for the interests of people and the planet on a range of issues including climate and energy justice, land and water, food and technology, forest and biodiversity and in support of indigenous sovereignty, land and water rights.

OUR ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH



There are millions of Australians who are working towards a better future in their homes, their workplaces, their communities and through political action. We believe that it will be collective action happening on multiple levels, from the individual to the global, that will create the conditions that will allow our society and economies to shift to a sustainable and just footing. Friends of the Earth Melbourne believes that social and environmental justice are inextricably linked and we approach our work from a climate and social justice frame: organising in a way that empowers individuals and communities.

Friends of the Earth Melbourne recognises that there is no environmental and climate justice without First Nations justice, gender justice, economic justice and social justice. We believe that long lasting system change cannot be achieved without dismantling patriarchy and the mutually reinforcing oppressions of racism, sexism, ageism, class, capitalism and oppressions based on sexuality, gender or disability. We actively support the rights of First Nations people, people of colour, women, minority ethnic groups, the young and the aged, LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities, the working class and the unemployed. We are proudly anti- patriarchal, anti-oppression, anti-capitalist and anti-hierarchical. We strive to reflect our

values in the way that we work together by operating on an anti-hierarchical collective basis, and utilising the consensus decision-making model.

Friends of the Earth Melbourne has a strong 'movement' focus in its work, seeking to support strategic and effective community action for a sustainable and just future. This is reflected in our style of organising and campaigning, which often occurs within alliances. We are willing to apply significant resources into 'un badged' movement work. This means that we have helped build community power rather than just our own organisational power, and our public profile is lower than could be expected. The benefit of this approach is that it helps empower and create space for our local partners to step forward and fully own local campaigns within their own local communities. This approach has shown it can, and has, delivered powerful results, such as the permanent ban on fracking in Victoria.

We operate through a range of tactics, including involvement in government planning or submissions processes, research and policy development, community education and outreach, alliance building, mutual aid and solidarity support, advocacy and education, citizen science monitoring and tracking as well as peaceful protest.

2024/25 IN REVIEW

Campaign Coordinators' report

by Cam Walker and Chloe Aldenhoven

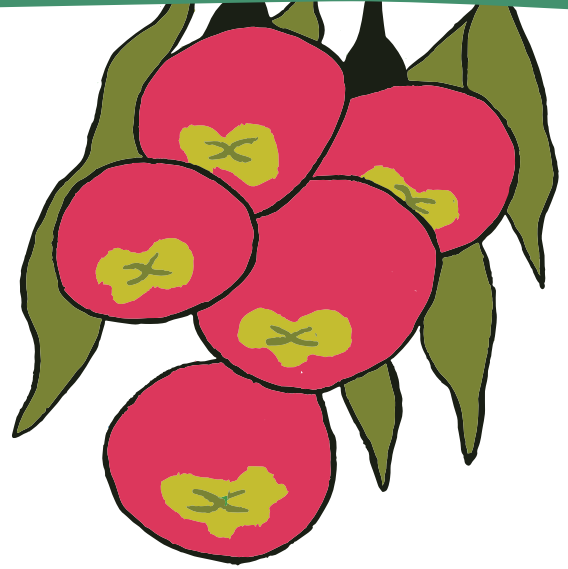
2024/25 was another solid year of deep organising for environmental justice at Friends of the Earth Melbourne. We've continued campaigning strongly on a broad range of fronts, from stopping gas exploration off the Otway coast, to empowering communities to advocate for local renewable energy projects, preparing communities for climate impacts, protecting endangered ecosystems and even playing a key role in defeating Peter Dutton's dangerous nuclear plan at the Federal Election. It's been a busy and rewarding year for FoE Melbourne's many campaigners and volunteer collectives.

In September we 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'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.

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.

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.



FoE 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 Galkalk 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.

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.

The start of the new calendar year saw a flurry of action. The Act On Climate collective held their first 'Climate Adaptation Fair' in Melbourne's inner west, drawing a huge range of communities and community groups and fantastic speakers covering issues such as community approaches to managing extreme heat, how we provide energy and communications during disasters, climate impacts at work, local food security and more. The event was a huge success, attracting hundreds of people and sparking new collaborations between grassroots groups.



Sustainable Cities 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.

The 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.

The Strezeleki Koala action team (SKAT) also held their first Koalathon! It raised awareness about the plight of the most genetically diverse Koala population in Victoria and much needed funds for SKAT's campaign work. They enjoyed a sunny Sunday with 59 participants walking, cycling or running their way along the beautiful Gardiners Creek Trail.

One of the most remarkable political events of the year was the overwhelming defeat of Peter Dutton's Liberal Party in the federal election. After Dutton chose to lead his election campaign with a dangerous and outrageous proposal of building 7 new nuclear reactors across regional Australia, our Nuclear Free and Yes 2 Renewables campaigns joined forces. Using their deep contacts in the Latrobe valley and anti-nuclear movements nationally, they led a strategic campaign to mobilise the communities who would be directly impacted by the proposed plants.

The dynamic campaign saw community members gate crashing pro-nuclear roadshows, holding colourful community actions and even sparking into existence the Nannas Against Nuclear, who became integral as an approachable face of the anti-nuclear community movement. The final election result, a demolition of the Liberal Party, was seen as resounding rejection of nuclear energy in the future Australian energy mix.

The past year has been a good one for FoE. We have diverse and effective campaigns, which are getting good results. We have engaged deeply in external issues that require active solidarity, especially the Treaty process. We have seen new volunteers join our campaigns and we are doing ground breaking work, such as the community resilience mobilisations. With a state election due in November 2026, much of our efforts in the next 12 months will need to focus on advocating for strong environmental policies in the lead up to the election. We will need your help to make our campaign work as effective as it can be. With the energy transition at risk of becoming derailed, and still no clear plan of what will happen on public lands now that native forest logging has ended, there is much work to do.



CLIMATE JUSTICE, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Friends of the Earth Melbourne have four campaign collectives working in this space: Act On Climate, Yes 2 Renewables, Sustainable Cities, and the No More Gas Collective.

From its magnificent Climate Adaptation Fair to researching, writing and releasing its Climate Resilience Inquiry report, Act on Climate has been at the forefront of progressing climate adaptation in Victoria.

The Act On Climate collective has been working with communities across Victoria to talk about and advocate for what they need to prepare for climate impacts, as well as inspiring them to start implementing adaptation initiatives. Communities will be safest and best supported through unavoidable climate impacts if they have the tools to determine their own adaptation pathway. That's why it is:

- supporting communities to identify and develop their own adaptation solutions, and
- calling on the Vic Government for adequate, ongoing, and localised funding for climate adaptation through a Victorian Community Climate Adaptation Fund.

In February 2025, the Act on Climate collective curated the first ever [Climate Adaptation Fair](#) at Borderlands Coop. It was a huge day of bringing people together



from across Victoria to share and learn from each other about the climate impacts already affecting communities and how we can keep each other safe. Over 200 people are estimated to have come to the event, which included 6 panel discussions, 6 workshops and 25 stalls. People learnt practical skills, and about their climate impact risks, discovered inspiring climate adaptation initiatives being implemented and made connections with others concerned about and/or working towards a more prepared world.





Resilience Inquiry Hearings Attendance

Act on Climate continued to help communities and individuals participate in the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Climate Resilience, supporting community members to attend inquiry hearings across the state. Our beautiful banner made its way to all of the regional Vic Resilience Inquiry hearings and

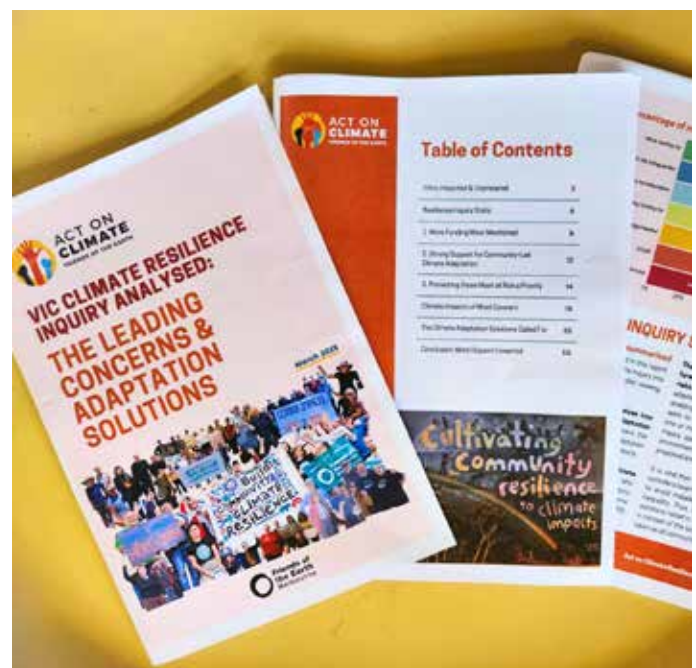
a Melbourne one to show support for our Vic Community Climate Adaptation Fund (VCCAF). By attending the hearings, more connections were made in these communities and more was learnt about their adaptation needs and plans. This also kept the collective's Fund recommendation on the radar of the Inquiry committee.

Backing Us Up: Resilience Inquiry Report

The collective then ensured how Victorian communities can and want to adapt was widely shared by writing and releasing a report, [VIC Climate Resilience Inquiry Analysed: The leading concerns & adaptation solutions](#), before the official parliamentary report was made available.

This report was and will continue to be used to further engage the Vic Government to secure more funding for locally-led solutions, with constituents emailing it to and/or meeting their MPs about the report. The report firmly backs up Act on Climate's ask, with it revealing that:

- 83.7% of submissions called for increased funding in climate adaptation,
- 49.6% called for ongoing funding, and
- over a third (39.6%) called for our VCCAF specifically!



FCAV Supporting Adaptation Activators

The collective's monthly Frontline Climate Alliance Vic (FCAV) calls continued to inspire community-led action to keep each other safe across Victoria. Now is a critical time to be building resilience and solidarity in the face of now unavoidable climate impacts. As climate impacts become more frequent and more harsh, communities will need systems in place to look after one another and reduce the harm.

The Alliance has been assisting local leaders, or Adaptation Activators, in Victorian communities wanting to help progress community-led climate adaptation locally. It has been working together to share ideas, resources and solidarity for building resilience locally to keep those most at risk in your community safe.



Community Resilience Mapping

Over the year, Act on Climate facilitated a number of Community Resilience Mapping sessions:

- in [East Gippsland](#) with East Gippsland Climate Action Network (EGCAN)
- as part of North East Neighbourhood House Network's (NENHN) emergency management workshop in [Mernda](#)
- with South Monash Legal Service team in [Greater Dandenong](#), and
- with Whittlesea Climate Action Network (WCAN) in [Whittlesea](#).

Community resilience mapping helps communities to understand their unique challenges and strengths,

and which climate impacts they're most at risk from, so that they can implement appropriate solutions. It identifies the residents most at risk, where a community has strong climate resilience, and where the gaps are in its climate impact readiness. This community-led activity has been successful in inspiring actionable ideas and generating the passion to make them happen.

Act on Climate is assisting the creation of climate prepared communities in Vic through empowering communities to progress their adaptation themselves and pressuring the government to fund communities to advance their preparation plans.





Yes2Renewables

Yes 2 Renewables has had a massive year of expanding the team and working with communities to share the positive message of renewables. We had a large focus on offshore wind, a great opportunity for the regions involved to shape the way these projects could benefit their communities. We held local events, like Global Wind Day, online information sessions and worked directly with communities to help empower and embolden local communities to share their voices with decision makers.

NSW: In 2024 Yes2Renewables expanded into NSW, bringing on our first NSW Organiser to work alongside communities wanting a fast and fair energy transition in that state. Our focus here was on building support for offshore wind in the federally declared Offshore Wind Areas in the Illawarra and Hunter regions, and we worked with local groups to organise events and undertake community conversations to promote the potential of offshore wind to provide clean, reliable energy, good jobs, and local benefits to the region.

We facilitated events in the Illawarra to create a shared vision for the region's renewable energy future, and created connections between NSW's two offshore wind regions to share learnings, develop strategy, and build power. And we coordinated with local stakeholders and climate groups to advance a vision for best practice community engagement and a community-centred renewables rollout.

We supported local leaders to become amazing advocates for renewable energy, speaking at events, doing radio interviews, and writing op eds for the local paper. We brought local voices to the forefront in our advocacy to local MPs, and by taking a delegation to parliament to advocate for a government-funded Local Energy Hubs program to deliver trusted information about renewables into communities.





By building a local movement for renewable energy we've seen greater community support for offshore wind, and shifted the narrative on offshore wind from one of fear, to one of opportunity.

Victoria: While the focus of this year was to design a community benefit plan for the Gippsland area, instead the community was thrown into the depths of the **challenging nuclear announcement**. The federal government announced plans to explore nuclear energy at the AGL power station site in Gippsland. The Y2R team played an important role in demonstrating why the nuclear announcement was not the solution to our energy needs.

Our team quickly jumped into action, an alliance of organisations across Gippsland came together, along with many volunteers. Yes2Renewables, along with volunteers and the coalition of community groups, kicked the nuclear brainfart out of the regions!

Street-level conversations played a vital role in expanding the movement. Many new allies joined through spontaneous dialogue, pop-up events, and creative actions. Yes2Renewables coordinated a range of impactful activities, including: Artistic demonstrations that brought colour and visibility to the issue. Pop-up rallies that energised public spaces. Through the building of new allies Y2R were able to coordinate a new local group in Gippsland - Nana's against Nuclear, which have now become Nana's for Renewables since the election.

The impact was clear. Public opposition surged. The campaign helped shift the national conversation and contributed to the federal Coalition losing seats around proposed nuclear sites. Gippsland reaffirmed its commitment to a clean energy future—one led by communities, not imposed by Canberra.

At the same time, Yes2Renewables continued its advocacy for renewable energy, including offshore

wind in Gippsland. Y2R held online forums, training days for communities and public events demonstrating support for renewable energy. We worked closely with local communities to ensure meaningful participation in planning and consultation. Workshops, forums, and direct engagement with developers helped promote community-led energy solutions rooted in sustainability and local leadership.

This year has shown what's possible when communities are empowered, informed, and united. Whether pushing back against nuclear or building support for renewables, Yes2Renewables has remained a trusted ally, a strategic communicator, and a catalyst for action.

National: Yes 2 Renewables has been developing a 'Community Toolkit' that helps people go from concerned community members to a collective pro-renewables voice that can shape the way renewables projects look in their region. We have undertaken months of research with experienced campaigners, academics, experts and community leaders to inform the steps people can take to develop a pro-renewables campaign in any community, and we will be rolling out the toolkit with new regions around Australia in the coming year. As part of this process, we have held several workshops and upskilling sessions on communications strategy, social media skills, and story telling with communities in the Illawarra and Gippsland who we currently work deeply with. We had great feedback from these regions who said that the workshops helped empower their existing work and helped them build the confidence to work with more storytelling and social media to share their stories with their community! If you would like a copy of the toolkit or to suggest we visit your community please email yes2renewables@foe.org.au





No More Gas

2024/2025 has been a year of changes and shifting focus for the No More Gas Collective. Despite personnel changes and funding challenges we've had a steady stream of wins.

Offshore decommissioning:

ExxonMobil Australia (Esso) are embarking on the first large scale decommissioning project in Australia. With the understanding that whatever regulatory decisions made here are likely to be imitated around the country, NMG has worked alongside allied organisations, unions and communities in pushing for strong oversight of Victoria's oil and gas clean-up. This has involved the formation of a local community group in South Gippsland, the Corner Inlet Alliance, to scrutinise Esso's plans to demolish rigs at the Barry Beach Marine Terminal (BBMT) in Corner Inlet. An NMG petition, sponsored by Sarah Mansfield of the Greens, calling for an Environmental Effects Statement into the BBMT collected three and a half thousand signatures and was accepted by the legislative council. An associated letterwriting campaign saw nearly 200 individual communications sent to Sonya Kilkenny calling for the petition's asks to be actioned. NMG has regularly communicated the issue on- and offline. An interactive timeline displaying all of Esso's environmental and workplace violations was published as a popular blog post. Printed material was distributed in South Gippsland before consultations to inoculate the community against industry spin. In late July 2025 ExxonMobil announced they were handing operatorship

of their Bass Strait rigs to Woodside Energy. The Energy News Bulletin, an industry news source, cited "A relentless campaign from environmental groups over its Bass Strait clean-up plans" as a key reason for the global hydrocarbon giant backing away from the project.

We also joined an alliance of ENGOs in launching a report outlining a specific statement of concern about failures in offshore decommissioning at Parliament House in Canberra in August.

Offshore exploration:

Following over two years of coordinated campaigning with a range of allies including Otways Coastal Environment Action Network (OCEAN), Gunditjmara led SOPEC, Surfrider Foundation and the AMCS we were finally successful in September in stopping the world's largest seismic blasting project planned for the Otway Basin in the Southern Ocean. The No More Gas campaign built this alliance from the ground up, bringing together the Southern Ocean Defenders' Alliance (SODA) through regular facilitated strategy meetings to raise community and political literacy about the impacts of seismic blasting - the release of 250db blasts of noise every 4-10 seconds to map gas fields under the ocean floor. We even coined the term "seismic blasting" to more aptly describe the activity





than the industry preferred terms “seismic surveys/testing”. This has now become the more accepted term within the broader community for seismic activity in the search for new gas and oil.

In November we saw the controversial Japanese brown coal to hydrogen proposal, the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain, collapse when lead consortium partner Kawasaki Heavy Industries announced that they had withdrawn their critical support for the project to use Victoria’s dirty brown coal to produce hydrogen for export to Japan from the Port of Hastings. This followed the No More Gas campaign’s petition gaining enough popular support to bring it to debate in Parliament and over a year’s concerted campaigning to destabilise the project.

Meanwhile in our advocacy to the Victorian Government we contributed a couple of submissions - and created submission guides for our supporters to use - urging the Energy Minister to adopt policy promoting switching Victorian buildings, particularly homes, from gas to electricity. Our submissions covered both rentals and owner occupied buildings as well as commercial premises. We were delighted to see many of our recommendations adopted (again!) by Energy Minister Lily D’Ambrosio and her Government - although we continue to argue that more needs to be done. But for now we are pleased that rental properties will be required to improve their thermal efficiency and swap out gas hot water for electricity upon

lease renewals in the coming years, amongst other important reforms.

Throughout the year the working group created by No More Gas campaigner Freja Leonard continued to meet and plan for the retirement of the gas mains system statewide. This working group continues to draw on an impressive assembly of experts to develop a comprehensive model for removing piped gas across Victoria, and has the respect and attention of both state and federal government agencies in its work.

Unfortunately funding restrictions meant that No More Gas campaigner Freja Leonard was unable to continue in her role, although she remains a staunch friend and ally of the campaign. We thank Freja for the incredible work and contribution she has made and continues to make to the No More Gas work.





Sustainable Cities

The 2024/25 year has been a period of persistence and hard work, which has truly been shared across the Sustainable Cities collective. Our Better Buses campaign continues to grow in strength and visibility, powered by the voices of local communities demanding fast, frequent, and connected buses.



Growing Awareness

The year began with renewed attention on the transport challenges faced by outer suburban communities. On 18 July 2024, 9News reported on transport in Melbourne’s outer suburbs, highlighting stark statistics: 72% of people drive to work, while just 2% rely on buses. This reinforced what many communities already know – that Melbourne’s transport system remains deeply inequitable, with outer suburbs locked into car dependence.

Sustainable Cities drew on evidence from the University of Melbourne, Committee for Melbourne, and Infrastructure Victoria to strengthen our case for a reformed, fully electric, and more frequent bus network. These data sources became crucial tools for both community advocacy and parliamentary engagement.

Parliamentary Petition

In August 2024, we launched a parliamentary petition calling on the Victorian Government to commit at least \$100 million in additional annual operational funding and \$100 million in capital investment to reform the bus network across the western suburbs. Sponsored by MP David Ettershank, the petition gathered over 3,000 signatures – a strong show of public support.

The petition was tabled in Parliament on 15 October 2024 and debated on 27 November. Sustainable Cities members rallied outside Parliament before heading inside to hear the debate. While bringing the issue to Parliament was a big step forward, there is still much work to be done, as our bus plan did not make it into the budget.





Community in Action

In September 2024, we held a community strategy session in Williams Landing to map out local priorities. The following month, residents staged a protest at Williams Landing station, demanding urgent action on broken bus routes.

November was a big month for grassroots support. Sustainable Cities hosted its very first Transport Trivia Night at Brick Lane Brewery, which brought together transport professionals, campaigners, and community members – with teams from Stantec, the Victorian Transport Action Group, and the Progressive Planners Network. It was a joyful night of fundraising and connection.

Later that same month, we hosted a community meeting at Melbourne Grand Mosque in Tarneit. More than 30 residents shared their stories: four-hour daily commutes, 40-minute waits at bus stops, and no safe travel options at night. These lived experiences highlight the urgency of bus route reform. In December, Tarneit residents joined a protest aimed at local MP Dylan Wight, drawing media coverage in The Age and 9News.



Moving into 2025

After some well-earned downtime for our volunteers, we kicked off 2025 with the Better Buses Parade in February. The parade was followed by a community forum ahead of the Werribee By-Election. We heard from Greens Transport spokesperson Kat Copsey, Legalise Cannabis candidate Xavier Menta, and Wyndham Councillor Peter Maynard, but neither of the major party candidates.

In March, Sustainable Cities attended a community forum in the estates of Mt Atkinson and surrounds. MPs Luba Grigorovitch and Moira Deeming addressed the forum, with Deeming bluntly telling the crowd: “Don’t vote for us if we don’t commit to better buses.” It is our goal to share this message as widely as possible.

Finally, in May 2025, we hosted a second SOLD OUT Transport Trivia Night! It was great fun and brought in some much needed funding for Sustainable Cities. We’d like to thank everyone who took part.

Looking Ahead

In May 2025, the Allan Government announced a \$5 billion investment in rail. While significant, the announcement again overlooked buses – the most immediate and affordable solution to transport disadvantage in Melbourne’s outer suburbs. The lack of bus investment underscores why our campaign remains urgent and necessary.

In June 2025, the Local Leaders Team in the western suburbs started forming the next phase of the campaign. Working closely with the rest of the Sustainable Cities Collective, they began organising a community event to be held in October, ahead of the 2026 state budget.

The work continues. But thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers, FoE staff, and supporters, our movement for fast, frequent, and clean buses is stronger than ever.



Nuclear Free Collective

The Nuclear Free Collective has been busy in 2024/2025!

On the first weekend of February 2025, the Nuclear Free Collective 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 weekend was very well attended, with the venue packed on both days despite the heat. We were all very re-energised by the events, and excited and inspired that the next generation of the nuclear movement is stepping up!





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, Friends of the Earth's Nuclear Free Collective has played a leading role in the campaign to stop one of the biggest pushes for nuclear power on this continent. Peter Dutton's ludicrous 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 (photo below).

We continued our National Anti-Nuclear coordination meetings, and strengthened worldwide alliances by convening Don't Nuke the Climate International meetings, connecting with anti-nuclear heroes far and wide. And were closely involved with the global nuclear-free delegation to the climate summit COP31 in Baku Azerbaijan, which included two delegates from this continent.

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.



LAND AND WATER

In 2024/25, Friends of the Earth had two active campaign collectives working on land and water issues in Victoria - the FoE Forest Collective and the Strzelecki Koala Action Team (SKAT), Pesticides Free Waterways, and via auspiced group, the Victorian Forest Alliance (VFA).



FoE Forests Collective

The highlight 2024-2025 for FoE Forests Collective's year was our successful Snow Gum Summit. This generative event brought together scientists, First Peoples, land managers, and outdoor community groups to explore emerging solutions to prevent the ecosystem collapse of Victoria's iconic snow gum woodlands.

Snow gums are facing multiple threats caused by climate change, including more frequent bushfires and dieback caused by the changing behaviour of a wood-boring beetle. The colourful ribboned bark of healthy snow gums is being replaced across the Alpine landscape by 'ghost trees' that have succumbed to these threats, often unbeknown to much of the public and government.

The Snow Gum Summit audience of 90+ people at the Dinner Plain community centre heard from leading academics from ANU, Deakin University, Latrobe University, Melbourne University and Curtin University. Cultural leaders from Gunaikunrai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and Taungurung Land and Waters Council spoke about holistic approaches



to caring for Alpine country and the importance of viewing places in the Alps as Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Dr Jen Mason, a Dhudhuroa custodian, shared a powerful cultural story that illustrated how truly significant the Alps are to First Peoples. Land managers spoke about existing programs in the North East and identified strengths and gaps. Artists and writers explored the different ways people connect to these unique and precious environments. Attendees and speakers at the Summit produced a collectively written statement, the Snow Gum Declaration, at the end of the event. FoE has driven a dedicated campaign to save the alpine ash and snow gum forests of the High Country since 2021. This year's Snow Summit catalysed campaign activity that finally put snow gum ecosystem decline on the state government's radar.

The Forests Collective are now also pursuing a national campaign to protect the Alps as an entire bioregion and have been planning a second Summit so that collaborative outcomes from the first gathering can be progressed and scientists can report back on



developments in the field. We are also mobilising our volunteers to participate in citizen science in the Alps, assisting with research that aims to address snow gum dieback and support Alpine treasures like the pygmy possum.

The Forest Collective also continued our state-wide Victoria forest campaign in 2024-25, beyond the end of clear-fell logging that was announced in January 2024. It has been a critical year to ensure that the end of logging is permanent and that the transition away from this extractive industry is as transformative as possible. FoE Forests has campaigned for a future beyond logging that centres the rights of First Peoples, supports a holistic approach to recovering biodiversity, proactively restores logged landscapes, and empowers local communities to examine their relationship with the forest, moving beyond logging and toward understanding, care and reciprocity.



We have continued our work in solidarity with DJAARA, participating in working bees in forests on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, including hand weeding gorse understorey and learning about the monitoring underway at DJAARA's Galk-galk Dhelkunya test site. We continue to take a relational approach to exploring future forest management that supports bio-cultural approaches to caring for Country and brings Traditional Owners, scientists, environmentalists and local communities together to care for place.

Our community organising on Taungurung Country, in eastern Murrindindi Shire, has also continued this year. Forest tours brought local people together to combat misinformation and connect on common ground about our shared love for the bush. Our activities in the Central Highlands also included facilitating locals to attend spotlighting tours hosted by grassroots groups protecting Greater Gliders from planned burning.

While clearfell logging has finally ended, threats posed by climate change, community division and misinformation, and a lack of sufficient funding for forest restoration and climate adaptation programs still leave Victoria's world-class forests – and the diversity of life that depend on them – vulnerable to extinction and collapse. FoE has engaged in advocacy around key government processes this year, like the Great Outdoors Taskforce consultation, as well as meeting with and listening to a diversity of groups in order to navigate this time of transition.

Our vision is to see communities come together to learn about and restore forested cultural landscapes across Victoria. We will continue to advocate for robust funding for forest restoration and holistic land management and appropriate responses to the increasing frequency of bushfires. Our Alpine campaign will continue to spur interventions to ensure

significant ecosystems like snow gum woodlands can survive emerging climate impacts. We sincerely thank our generous supporters for making our work possible.

FoE continues to work alongside our auspice group, the Victorian Forest Alliance, who have long been setting their own direction as an empowered, independent alliance of 40+ grassroots groups that shape the Victorian forest protection campaign in a variety of different ways. VFA launched an impressive interactive online Forest Mapping Tool in 2024-2025, as well as hosting monthly educational webinars on forest protection and restoration.





Strzelecki Koala Action Team (SKAT)

SKAT's first annual Koalathon in March raised about \$8000.

Most of SKAT's work over 2024-25 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 2024/25.

SKAT was shocked to hear about the Budj Bim koala massacre in April. 1100 koalas were shot from 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!

Anthony Amis visited Budj Bim in May after the aerial shooting of 1100 koalas in the National Park in April.



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

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.





THE FOOD CO-OPERATIVE

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.

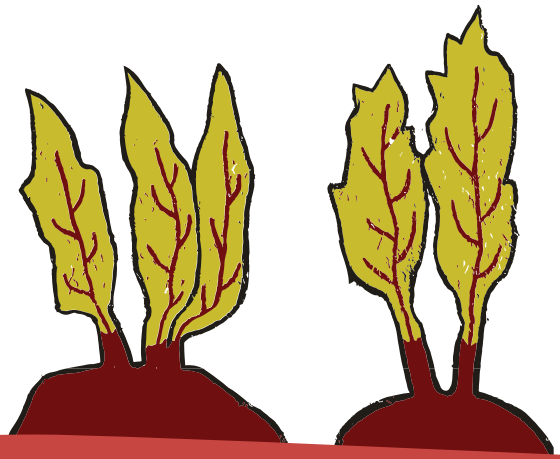
Volunteer involvement has remained strong, with new and returning volunteers helping us across the cafe, shop, social media and community projects. We've formed some lifelong relationships even with those who have since moved away but continue to support us in one way or another. Marcela, a volunteer 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.



OUR ORGANISATION

Friends of the Earth Melbourne's Committee of Management (called the Policy and Advisory Committee, or PAC), has responsibility for oversight of finances, strategic development, and governance and risk assessment for the organisation. A separate Gift Fund Committee is responsible for decisions regarding allocations of donations received via our public fund.

The members of the PAC in 2024/25:

- David Robertson - Co Chair
- Kirsty Lau - Co Chair
- Rodney Vlasis - Treasurer
- Jemila Rushton - Secretary
- Sanja Van Huet
- Sam Cossar-Gilbert
- Beth Cameron
- Campbell Walker

On a day-to-day level all campaign collectives manage their own affairs. Once a month all campaigns attend the Strategy Collective meeting, which is where whole-of-organisation decisions are taken. There are weekly campaigners' meetings to stay informed and working groups are established as needed within the organisation.

All Friends of the Earth Melbourne active financial members are encouraged to take an active role in the organisation and are eligible to stand for the PAC and Gift Fund Committee which are appointed each year at the AGM.

Staff

- Food Co-operative Coordinators: Beth Cameron, Pauline Renkin & Karri Cameron, Esala Liyanage, Tash Epstein
- Food Co-operative Casuals: Ale Quinteros, Sachiko Kuwahara, Josh Backstrom and Oliver Graham
- Operations Coordinator: Samantha Castro
- Campaigns Coordinator: Cam Walker
- Campaigns Coordinator: Chloe Aldenhoven
- Finance Coordinator: Hilda Rebollo
- Finance Coordinator: Lisa Arnold
- Membership & Fundraising Coordinators: Jemila Rushton, Rocky Humphrey and Frances Evans
- Forest Collective Coordinator: Alana Mountain
- Forest Collective Coordinator: Kim Croxford
- Act on Climate Community Organiser: India Rowles
- Act on Climate Community Organiser: Vicky Rae Ellmore
- Act on Climate Community Organiser: Kim Croxford
- No More Gas Campaign Coordinator: Freja Leonard
- No More Gas Decommissioning Campaigner: Stan Woodhouse
- Strzelecki Koala Action Team Coordinator: Anthony Amis
- Yes 2 Renewables Coordinator: Patrick Simons
- Yes 2 Renewables Gippsland Community Campaigner: Wendy Farmer
- Yes 2 Renewables Community Campaigner: Coco Venaglia
- Yes 2 Renewables Community Campaigner: Anna Mackiewicz
- Sustainable Cities Coordinator: Elyse Cunningham and Grace Eyre
- Nuclear Free Collective Coordinator: Sanne de Swart and Manju Lahrech





- **Act on Climate:** Hamish Macrae, Sarah Powers, David Robertson, Inge Christinawaty, Molly Franzke, Lucien Greville-Mac, Hugo Kelly, Harin De Soysa, Nayan Talmale, Emily Rose, Bella Hindman, Emma Rilo Fernandez, Yasuyo Yoshil, Simone Van de Burgt, Kathy Wilson, Joe Hammond, Ben Welsh, Cyrus Raco, Kimmi Bebendorf, Kristen Hunt, Erin Lee, Sonia Kulkarni, Bethany Spiers, Kelly Bebendorf, Kahlia Clarke, Carlo Hengstler, Annabel Holt, Harriet Forster
- **Forests:** Sanja Van Huet, David Robertson, Jill Koppel, Simone Collins, Simon Birrel, David Carlisle, Amy Calton, April Golder, Sandra Geitz, Carla Scott, Jye, Audrey Josefski-Beard.

- **Nuclear Free:** Michaela Stubbs, Jemila Rushton, Jim Green, David Robertson, Jayne Alexander, Noel Warchaupe, Frances Evans, Stella Bruyn, Tamar Chaya Gordon, Maju Lahrech, Christine Pape, Tom Freire, Minalee Busi, Laurel Mackenzie, Winniata Puru.
- **SKAT:** Lillian Azuli, Carol Tocknell, John Tait, Anda Banikos, Anne Abbott, Janette Connard, Anthony Amis
- **Sustainable Cities:** Adam Bain, Adele Vosper, Afia Khan, August Wylanko, Caleb Li, Caitlin Mayer, Charlie Bevis, Christine Crowley, Freda McGlade, Finn Scicluna-O'Prey, David Robertson, Georgie, Grace Eyre, Hannah Ehlenfeldt, Hayden Chan, Hudayfa Osman, Jack Taylor, John Stone, Kirsty Lau, Kshaniah Aluwihare, Marcelo Paternoster, Nur-e Dipha Muttaqi, Ponraj Krishnapandi, Saptharishi Suresh, Senthill Sundaram, Simon Tran, Thomas Curkowskyj, Xavier Menta, Yvonne Kirk. We would also like to thank our student interns Adisa Smajic, Patrick Osborn, Paulia Paez, Sheree Turner, and Sophie Mclaughlin.
- **Yes 2 Renewables:** all volunteers assisting in the collective, on events and at community actions
- **No New Gas:** all volunteers assisting throughout the year
- **Communications Collective:** Kristine Phillip.
- **Strategy Collective Co-Convenors:** India Rowles and Patrick Simons, Kim Croxford
- **Everyone who volunteered to help paint our new mural with TextaQueen**
- **All the wonderful Food Coop and other collective volunteers!**





In kind and generous support:

3CR Community Radio
Artist: Trace Bella
Artist: Judy Kuo
Artist: Nicky Minus
Artist: TextaQueen
Artist: RasingTheGrain
Black Rainbow Printing
Cooperative Power
Commonground
Food Not Bombs
Graphic Design: Tess Sellar
IT Support: ActionSkills
Qualitops
Versus Merch
Website Support: CodeNation
Catalyst Social Centre
Glou Wine Bar



With thanks to our financial supporters:

All our members and donors
Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation
Bank Australia
Bright Brewery
Cathedral Wildlife Ltd
City of Yarra
Climate Action Network Australia (CANA)
Corio Generation (Great Eastern Offshore Wind Farm Project)
Crisp Nominees
Euphonic Investments
Elanora Offshore Dev Co PTY Ltd
Foundation for Young Australians (FYA)
Goodwill Wine
Iberdrola Australia
Isaacson Davis Foundation
Latrobe Health Assembly
Latrobe Valley Authority
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Youth in Philanthropy Program
Marinus Link
Patagonia
The Public Transport Users Association
Rendere Trust
Running Waters Fund (Australian Communities Foundation)
The Star of the South Trust
The Stobart Strauss Foundation
The Sunrise Project
The Tucker Foundation
Varnish Software



FINANCIAL REPORT 2024/2025

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (MELBOURNE) INC.

ABN 68 918 945 471

COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The committee members submit the financial report of Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc. 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:

David Robertson (Chair)
Kirsty Lau (Co Chair)
Rodney Vlasis (Resigned as Treasurer 29 May 2025)
Sam Cossar-Gilbert (Appointed 14 November 2024, Appointed as Treasurer 29 May 2025)
Jemila Rushton (Secretary) (Appointed 14 November 2024)
Beth Cameron
Campbell Walker
Anthony Amis
Sanja Van Huet (Appointed 14 November 2024)
Samantha Castro (Resigned 14 November 2024)
Sarah Powers (Resigned 14 November 2024)
Aleesha Hanczakowski (Resigned 14 November 2024)
Jay Iwasaki (Resigned 14 November 2024)

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

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

- to participate in the protection and enhancement of the natural environment,
- to promote individual and community issues, and provide support to protect the natural environment,
- to participate in, and provide facilities for education and research in the areas of environmental, climate and social justice, and the protection of the natural environment,
- to provide support to like-minded organisations working to protect the natural environment, and address climate change issues in frontline communities, and
- to carry out any other activities as per the Rules of Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

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

OPERATING RESULT

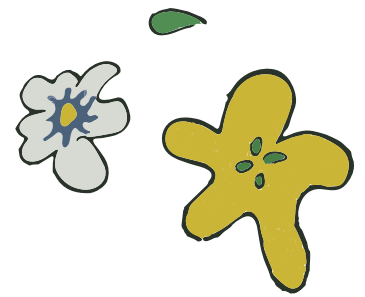
The operating result for the year is a deficit \$93,528 (2024: Deficit \$235,909).

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

Jemila Rushton
Secretary
Collingwood, VIC
17/10/ 2025

Cam Walker
Member
Collingwood, VIC
17/10/ 2025





Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalent	1,041,963	1,425,887
Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors	36,967	54,204
Inventories on hand, at cost	28,312	29,364
Other Current Assets	29,513	33,826
Total current assets	1,136,755	1,543,281
Non-current assets		
Plant and equipment	29,449	36,682
Right-of-use Asset	183,352	275,020
Total non-current assets	212,801	311,702
Total assets	1,349,556	1,854,983
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Other Payables	53,128	260,134
Grants Received in Advance	77,130	144,471
Provisions	313,709	362,401
Lease Liability	95,693	91,948
Total current liabilities	539,660	858,954
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	29,818	26,730
Lease Liability	91,140	186,833
Total non-current liabilities	120,958	213,563
Total liabilities	660,618	1,072,517
Net assets	688,938	782,466
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained Surplus	489,415	590,691
Future Savings Reserve	199,523	191,775
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	688,938	782,466

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

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue		
Food Co-op Sales	806,417	750,661
Membership Subscription	14,036	15,609
Donations and Funding	614,894	645,248
Grant Income	487,206	582,265
Sponsorship Income	7,727	66,909
Bank Interest	31,297	22,108
Secretarial Funding - FoE Australia	120,049	245,993
Miscellaneous Income	5,816	61,815
	2,087,442	2,390,608
Expenditure		
Cost of Goods Sold	(310,115)	(316,088)
Employee Benefits and Related Expenses	(1,543,598)	(1,888,742)
Administration Expenses	(129,280)	(147,642)
Campaigning and Fundraising Expenses	(72,700)	(127,092)
Donations	(1,122)	(377)
Depreciation & Amortisation	(100,401)	(102,762)
Audit Fees	(14,000)	(25,000)
Interest Expense	(9,754)	(18,814)
	(2,180,970)	(2,626,517)
(Deficit) for the year	(93,528)	(235,909)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive (loss) attributable to the members	(93,528)	(235,909)





McBAIN
McCARTIN & Co

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 (MELBOURNE) INC.
ACN 68 918 945 471**

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

We have audited the financial report of the Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) Inc (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 described in 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.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entity or business activities within the entity to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the entity audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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.



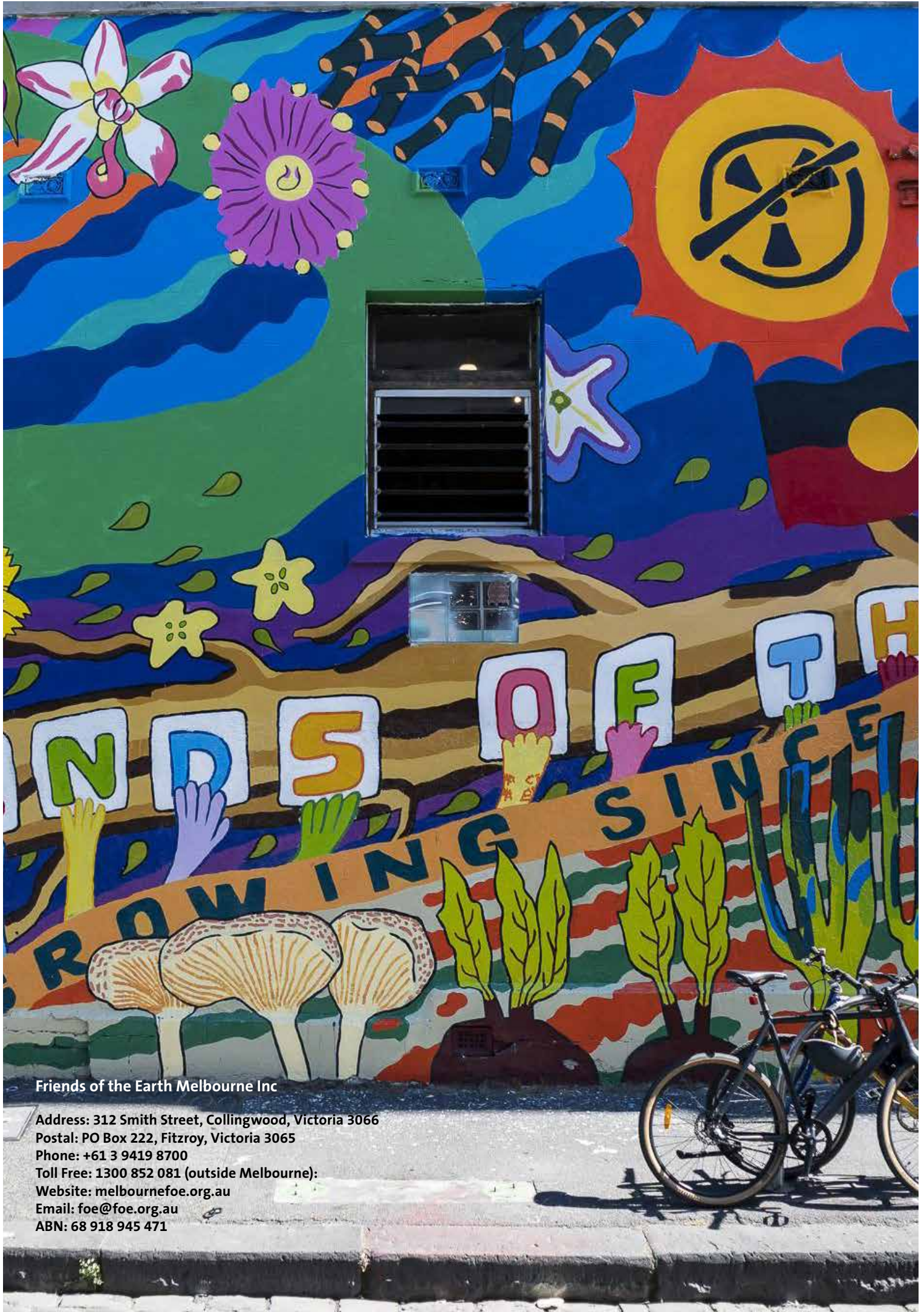
McBain McCartin & Co
Chartered Accountants



Simon Aukstin (CA)
Partner

123 Whitehorse Road,
Balwyn VIC 3103

Dated this 24th day of October 2025



Friends of the Earth Melbourne Inc

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