



1972-
2024


**Total
Environment
Centre**
Impact Report



Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's first people and the local Traditional Owners as the original custodians of the land and water on which we rely and operate. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the continued cultural, social and spiritual connections that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land and waters and recognise and value that Traditional Custodians have cared for and protected these lands and waters for thousands of generations. We recognise and value the essential and continuing contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A photograph of a dense tropical forest. The scene is filled with tall, slender trees and a thick canopy of green leaves. Sunlight filters through the branches, creating a dappled light effect. The ground is covered in fallen branches and dense undergrowth. The overall atmosphere is lush and vibrant.

“We are facing a climate crisis, we are facing a biodiversity crisis, we need to think about what kind of a world we leave for our children and grandchildren, we have to have hope otherwise how do we get up every day and do this work.”

- Cerin Loane, Special Counsel for Nature, Environmental Defenders Office

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Director's Message

Fighting for a Greener Future

Total Environment Centre was formed by pioneer environmentalists in 1972. Since then, in our fight for a greener future, we have had over 100 eco-victories!

Our brief is broad. Over the last 52 years, it has included new national parks, protecting rainforests, curbing plastic pollution, preventing mining of pristine coastal landscapes, new laws to reduce carbon emissions, lead-free petrol, drink container refund schemes and assisting local groups in their campaigns.

I have the privilege to lead our lean, talented, passionate team. We use our skills, experience and much valued support, from donors, volunteers and research, to get results. We develop effective policy aimed at the root causes of environmental threats, mobilise community action, and drive advocacy to get results.



It can take years to achieve our goals, but we persist.

Today, we continue to fight to give nature and the community a voice. We are committed to realising our vision, which is a world where nature is a fundamental concern in every decision.

Thank you so much to all of our supporters for helping us create an impact over the last 52 years. We are deeply grateful for your donations, volunteer time, encouragement, and dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jeff Angel". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jeff Angel
Director, Total Environment Centre

01 Total Environment Centre was born out of society's changing views on the environment. There was a desperate need for skilled campaigning on big and small issues; support for community groups; and real solutions in the fight against giant corporations and allied governments. A real 'David v Goliath' story.

We wanted to help address the imbalance by supporting both the community and nature for a green future.

“The natural world is under threat, we’ve got to intervene to save it.”

- Bob Carr
Former NSW Premier

What we do

TEC uses a range of public campaigning, field research, development of policy and law, advocacy and networking tools to:

- 1** Inform the public about environmental problems
- 2** Undertake independent investigations
- 3** Write legislation and protection plans
- 4** Mobilise community action and collaborate with local and peak NGOs
- 5** Lobby decision-makers
- 6** Initiate and actively participate in media coverage
- 7** Liaise with green businesses and call for reform of polluting industries
- 8** Assist Environment Protection Agencies in preparation of action plans

We are fighting for a world where each day our system of decision-making stops projects with adverse environmental impacts; and instead is working to restore nature and advance sustainability.

We aim to mobilise the drive to a green future where government, the community, and business beat the same drum.

We support innovators and seek wide acceptance of green practices and economics.

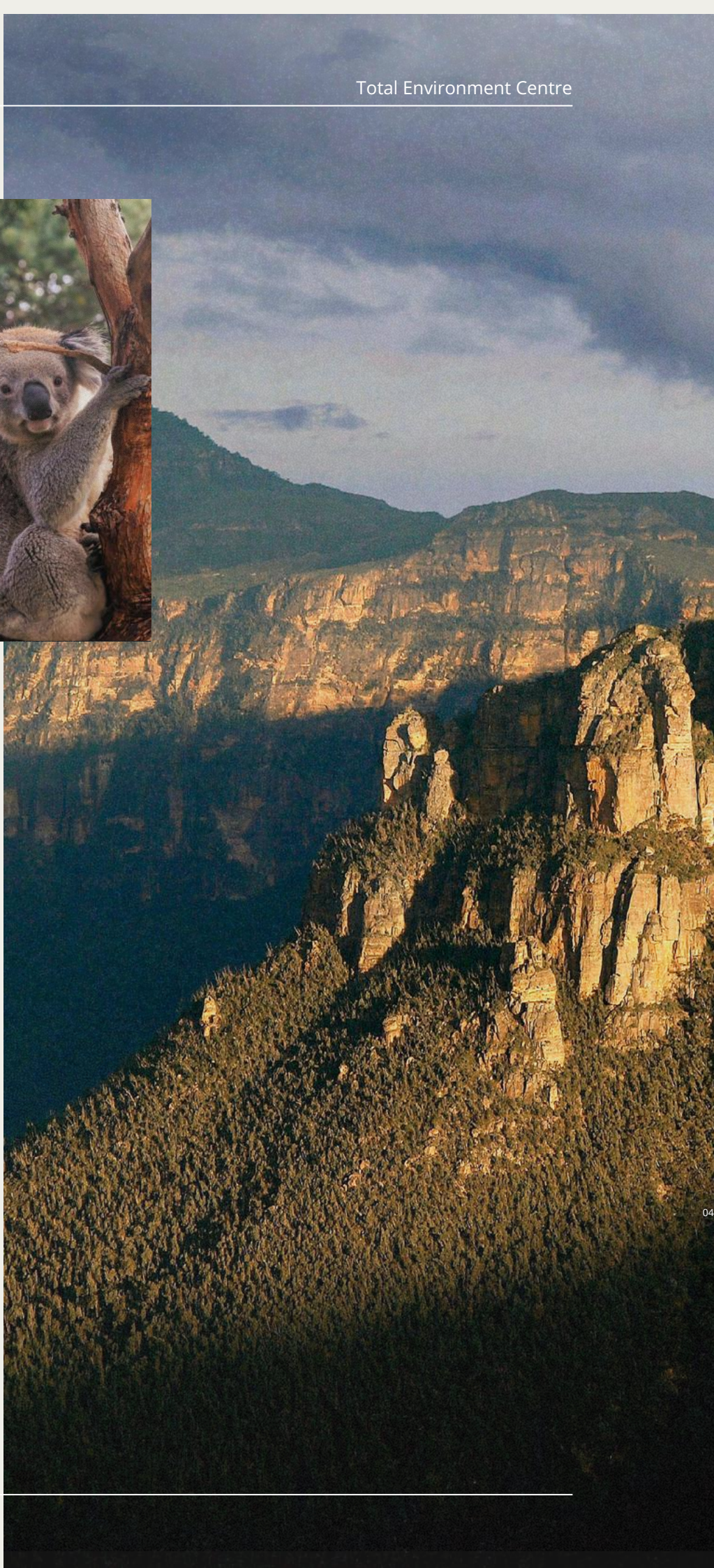
We are trusted across the political spectrum, which enables us to influence whoever is in power.



**1972-
2024**

**“Society in
Australia is
organised to
exploit the
environment.
It's not
organised to
conserve the
environment.”.**

Milo Dunphy, First Director,
Total Environment Centre



Our Purpose and Mission

We act for a green future by giving nature and the community a powerful voice with real solutions

Our Values:

Leadership

We initiate and propel environment campaigns that need attention. We are forward-looking.

Trust

We are independent, not party political. We act with integrity.

Perseverance

We are effective at making a difference. We never give up on the things that matter.

Who we reach



Parliaments

Federal and State Ministers

Corporates and Peak Business Bodies
Government Agencies

National and State media

Local Communities and the broader public
Councils
Schools
Universities
NGOs

“Every environmental issue is a political problem. The more we see it that way and the more we focus on political pathways to getting change the more successful we are going to be”

- Peter Wish-Wilson,
Australian Greens Senator

**Big
impact.
Bigger
action.**



Over the next five years



Ramping up climate protection efforts by government and industry:

- Rapid transition to renewables (solar, wind, batteries, energy conservation)
- CO2 emission reductions across the economy
- No nuclear



Stopping plastic pollution and growing the circular economy:

- Expand container refund schemes
- National microplastic reduction plan
- Battery, e-waste and solar panel recycling
- 30 new microplastic hotspot investigations



Stronger laws to conserve nature:

- Rights for nature (local, state, national)
- Abolish dodgy offsets
- Endangered species on the path to recovery

we will focus on...



Protecting and expanding green spaces to combat urban heat & protect remnant biodiversity:

- Embed the Blue-Green Grid across cities
- Keep mature urban trees
- Restore degraded bushland



Save koala colonies and their habitat from urban sprawl:

- Wide and connecting corridors to allow expansion in and to habitat
- New permanent reserves
- Protection from cars, fire, dogs
- 100 new koala citizen scientists

50 Years of Impact

Some key highlights

4



major energy conservation and climate laws

20 billion



drink containers recycled by refund schemes since 2017

100



community groups helped

Banned single use plastic bags



1.1 million tonnes saved



ct



1600+

trained microplastic citizen scientists and over 350 sites surveyed across Australia, putting microplastics on the map.



ion hectares of natural land ed - rainforest, eucalypt, st, wetland & wilderness



National and state laws listing and targeting protection for 100s of threatened species



Lead-free petrol and reduced vehicle emissions cleaning the air for millions



Development blocked on dozens of coastal areas and migratory bird habitats

A few 'David v Goliath' stories

- The modern environment movement grew out of the bushwalking clubs active in the first half of the 20th century. It's still important to visit the forests and wilderness we are trying to save and let their beauty speak to decision makers. Total Environment Centre hosted several Premiers on overnight trips, which led to new national parks being declared.
- Not all government ministers are as sympathetic. In one infamous episode, a Forests Minister accused us of translocating Koalas into an old growth forest that was set to be wood chipped. It was a ridiculous claim, but it shows how far some opponents will go, to try to discredit your campaign.
- One of many actions in the Cash for Containers push involved our director, Jeff Angel, along with the CEOs of Greenpeace and Cleanup Australia, delivering waste drink bottles and cans outside the corporate HQ of Coca-Cola. Coca-Cola, who opposed 10c refund schemes, called the police — an overreaction that produced excellent media coverage!
- In the early 1980s, the plight of an injured white ibis spurred a conversation at Total Environment Centre about the need for better wildlife rescue efforts. With the support of the Fund for Animals, WIRES NSW was born, and now it rescues and rehabilitates thousands of native animals for release back into the wild.
- With the balance of power held by progressive crossbenchers, a lot can be achieved. In one instance, we worked with three independent MPs and the Minister in charge of Sydney Water to reform the organisation from a water wasting and polluting agency largely disinterested in environment protection, by rewriting its legislation to incorporate water efficiency targets, ecologically sustainable development and recycling.
- A gas company mistakenly allowed access on their website to a confidential plan to drill in a pristine water catchment. A local informed us and, despite threats from the company, we released it to the public. The controversial plan was eventually dropped.
- Recently, when we took an Environment Minister on a tour of a threatened Koala colony near the city. He took the opportunity, there and then, to ring his senior colleague about a protection plan and immediately announced it to the waiting media, as the Koalas looked on.
- The operator of a major toxic waste dump was insistent it was safe and not leaching hazardous chemicals into the groundwater and neighbouring properties. Our volunteer hydrologist examined the geology and water flows. He found that pollution would most likely be occurring. The government ordered a review, resulting in closure of the site.



Our Campaigns



Total Environment Centre is here for the long haul

Each year we can track change as our campaigns move forward. What we know is that without continuous effort and positivity – things will get undoubtedly worse.

“What science teaches us about nature is that we are part of it and we can’t survive without it.”

- Tim Flannery, Scientist and Environmentalist



Current projects

Plastic Pollution

Stopping it at source and action on microplastics

Healthy Cities, Healthy Planet

Blue-Green Grid

Circular Economy

For everything

Saving Koalas

Reversing the path to extinction

Taking action on Global Warming

Reforming the economy

Fighting for a Green Future

Short film series and outreach

Stopping Plastic Pollution

Building a movement...

“I realised that the plastic pollution was pervasive, worldwide and it wasn’t going away.”

- Laura Wells, Science Communicator and Environmentalist

1600+

Citizen Scientists Trained

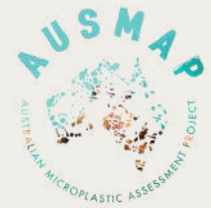
350+

Sites sampled across the country

40+

Microplastic hotspots identified

Single use plastic bags and foodware items banned across Australia



BOOMERANG ALLIANCE

- ➔ Boomerang Alliance established in 2003
- ➔ Microplastic alert sounded
- ➔ AUSMAP established in 2018
- ➔ Supporting avoidance, reuse and recycling



Jeff Angel
Total Environment Centre & Boomerang Alliance Director



Dr Michelle Blewitt
AUSMAP Program Director

Total Environment Centre was one of the first groups to start campaigning on plastic pollution. Plastic, in particular microplastics, are being found everywhere, including in our bodies. The evidence keeps growing about the impact on wildlife, the food chain and, potentially, human health.

"We played a major role in the banning of billions of plastic bags and the inception of container refund schemes that have now spread across the nation. We host and continue to work closely with the Boomerang Alliance and with its 55 NGO allies to stop plastic pollution," says Jeff.

The Container Refund Schemes in Australia have reduced litter volume by 57% and doubled recycling to 65% — but more needs to be done — expanding the number of eligible containers; greater refund point convenience; raising the refund to 20c to maintain the financial incentive; and setting a target of 90+% recovery.

"We are also seeking a national microplastic reduction strategy and preventing microfibre and rubber crumb pollution," says Michelle.

Healthy Cities, Healthy Planet

“Most people live in the city. Total Environment Centre has and continues to be a key voice in making our cities liveable and sustainable. A green city also conserves the homes of our unique plants and animals,” says Saul.

TEC saves green spaces and works for sustainable cities



Saul Deane
Campaign Lead

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (caused by energy use, construction materials and transport) from our urban areas is a vital task. It's also compatible with healthier lifestyles and decreasing the cost of living.

Total Environment Centre produced the first *Greenprint for Sydney* in 1999 and was a leading participant in the making of Sydney's green Olympic Games. We have persistently pursued the protection of remnant biodiversity; the creation of new green spaces; and supported campaigns and new laws to stop park sell-offs.

In 2023, we released *the Blue-Green Grid* – a vision for hundreds of hectares of interconnected and protected green spaces, river, and creek foreshores and tree canopy in Sydney, extending from the Koala greenbelt in the west to the coast.

The benefits are enormous – improved air quality and mental health, biodiversity conservation, creation of active and passive recreational areas and urban heat mitigation.



1970's Sydney frequent air pollution - due to motor vehicle emissions, successfully addressed by TEC's clean air campaign



Circular Economy – for everything

*Once fierce opponents,
many in the waste
industry now support
our push for a
circular economy*



Mark Zihrul
Campaign Lead

**"I've only recently
joined Total
Environment Centre
and it's a great
pleasure to be part
of helping make
environmental
change. My first
campaign on end-of-
life batteries has
been an eye-opener
and we are getting
traction with
decision makers and
stakeholders,"
says Mark.**

After years of failed voluntary programs, it is time for genuine efforts to avoid landfilling and incineration, and instead reuse resources, again and again.

We have achieved new waste recovery, recycling and producer responsibility laws ; the closure of toxic dumps that were leaching into the environment; winning the national TV and computer recycling and container refund schemes.

Our plan for a federal scheme for small e-waste and solar panels is being seriously considered by the government. With projections revealing batteries reaching end of life will increase to more than 230,000 tonnes by 2030, and double by 2050 – we are currently advocating a comprehensive end-of-life battery recycling and collection program.



over 50,000t of TV & computer waste collected for recycling each year



30 countries show our film, WasteNot, celebrating recycling and zero waste





Save Sydney Basin Koalas

“Damaging developments are being opposed through the successful establishment of our Sydney Basin Koala Network (funded by WIRES and working with 20 groups). Based on benchmark legal and ecological research, we have the tools to advocate for a better future at local and state levels and will be also be issuing annual progress reports holding government and developers to account,” says Stephanie.



Stephanie Carrick
Campaign Lead



Extinction is the next stop for our treasured Koala, unless we save their habitat and migratory corridors. We are highlighting the plight of the species near urban areas and have worked over the last four years to give them a future.

The Sydney Basin bioregion was once home to many healthy Koala populations – but **now just five small colonies are left and heading for extinction.**

This is due to the massive 2019/2020 bushfires, ongoing mining, logging and urban sprawl.

The koala is an icon species and saving its habitat saves many other species. This campaign builds on TEC's our record of producing Australia's first listing of endangered animals and successfully campaigning for protection and recovery laws.

Taking Action Against Global Warming



Jeff Angel
Total Environment
Centre Director

Commonwealth and state governments have legislated useful emission reduction targets for the next 25 years that are a 'minimum' and subject to independent review. A wide range of new policies across the economy need to be implemented.

A core challenge is converting our energy mix and preventing new coal and gas mining. We actively participate in the NSW Government's Climate Roundtable and

recommended amendments to the founding legislation of the Net Zero Commission.

Total Environment Centre was one of the first groups to appoint a Greenhouse Campaigner in the 1990s; and the only NGO pursuing reforms to the key framework rules - National Electricity Market - to remove barriers to renewables and energy efficiency. This ten year campaign has recently succeeded.

Shining a light on industry

Green Energy & Electric Car Guides

Total Environment Centre's *Green Electric Car Guide*, alongside the *Green Energy Guide* both developed by our Energy Advocate, Mark Byrne, offer a comprehensive resource for consumers seeking to make environmentally conscious decisions.

The Green Electric Car Guide compares the environmental benefits of electric vehicle models, advancements in EV technology, and practical advice on choosing the right vehicle.

The Green Energy Guide helps consumers navigate the complexities of renewable energy options, offering advice on selecting green energy providers and understanding the benefits of solar, wind, and other renewable sources.

These guides empower individuals to make sustainable choices.



"This is a long fight but we owe it to future generations to maintain our efforts. At Total Environment Centre we try to make strategic interventions that will lead to systemic change and put society on a greener footing," explains Jeff .

Fighting for a Green Future



What are your hopes for a green future?

- 1** Birth of a Movement
- 2** Clean Air
- 3** Save the Rainforests
- 4** WasteNot
- 5** Voice for Nature
- 6** Green Politics
- 7** The Future

To mark our 50th anniversary, we spent 12 months producing the series of 7 short films on key issues; about the development of environmental campaigning; and how green ideas are seeking to change economics, the law, society, and politics. *Fighting for a Green Future* will be progressively released over the coming months on YouTube and at community screenings.

Our 7-part documentary series aims to make an impact and encourage campaigners, young and older, to keep up the fight.

"An excellent reflection on what has been achieved, giving us hope for future campaigns"

- Screening Attendee

FIGHTING FOR A GREEN FUTURE

1. Campaign to protect what's left. Use our voice.

2. Massively regenerate nature. Get involved!

3. Recognise that nature is also us – a cultural shift.

4. Change our social, economic and political institutions.

5. Achieve systemic change.



Our premiere screening of "Fighting for a Green Future" saw **80 TEC supporters** attend and a panel discussion with TEC Director Jeff Angel, Sustainability Educator, Jo Taranto and Young Activist and Scientist, Juniper Riordan.

Milestones



1972-1977

Our Cooks River- Environment Survey and Landscape Design - implemented over next 30 years by governments bringing life back to a once polluted urban river.

Campaign to **stop coastal sand mining** succeeds with new national parks.

Blue Mountains Wilderness Campaign — Southern Blue Mountains, Wollemi, Mt Werong, Nattai, Gardens of Stone **all eventually declared national parks.**

1984-1989

First **national training course** for environmentalists.

Founding member/chair of **WIRES**

New pollution laws and green charter for **EPA.**



1996-2001

Successful campaign to **return water to the starved snowy river.**

Joined local rural communities to fight for controls on **aerial spraying of pesticides.**

New **land clearing** legislation brought in.

After **10 years** of campaigning **324,000 hectares** of old growth & coastal forest in S-E NSW become national park.

1990-1995

Founding member (and chair) of Green Games Watch 2000, to **advocate & audit Sydney's Green Olympics.**

Conceived the emergency **Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act, to protect species.** Full scale Threatened Species Conservation Act eventually passed.

1978-1983

Clean Air for Children Campaign leading to strong new vehicle emission control laws, lead-free petrol.

Terania Creek protest starts statewide effort to protect all remaining rainforest. We became the nerve centre for the **successful save rainforests campaign.**



1972-Present



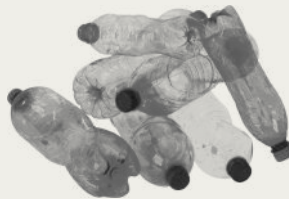
2008-2012

Launch **'Buying Better'** – to prevent confusing product labels with environmental claims and greenwash.

Our Award Winning short documentary film **WASTENOT** about the beauty of recycling - translated into 4 languages and screened in over 30 countries.

National **TV and computer waste recycling campaign** win.

Revealed secret plan for **gas drilling in Sydney Water Catchment** - plan dropped.



2017-2021

Container deposit schemes achieved in NSW 2017, QLD 2018, WA 2020.

Spearheaded **change in energy efficiency & decarbonisation laws** in the national electricity market.

AUSMAP pioneering awareness on the dangers of microplastics and solutions.



2013-2016

Green Electricity Guide released.

Defended land clearing laws.

Began community campaign on **plastic pollution**.



2002-2007

Won 'BASIX' law so all new housing & renovations **meet significant energy and water reductions standards**.

ReByte! electronic waste recycling campaign.
Review of carbon offset industry exposes carbon cowboys.



2022-Present

Sydney Basin Koala Network to save koala colonies in Sydney Basin.

Blue-Green Grid maps web of open spaces across Sydney.

Green Electric Car Guide.

Fighting for a Green Future film series.

Plan to **stop battery waste**.

Who we are



Jeff Angel
Executive Director

A dogged and fearless campaigner since 1973. Jeff's achievements have included - improving city air quality, restoring urban rivers, conserving our forests, coasts, wetlands and wilderness, combating climate change, preventing plastic pollution, controls on broad-scale land clearing and more. He has also led major NGO collaborations including South East Forest Alliance, Green Games Watch 2000, WIRES and Boomerang Alliance; and represented the environment movement on senior government advisory bodies and boards.



Marijs Vrancken
Deputy Director

A marketing and strategy expert with double Master's degrees in Business Economics, and Culture & Arts Management, Marijs focuses her expertise on boosting the efficiency and effectiveness of our campaigns. Marijs started as a volunteer for AUSMAP and as a plastics educator for the Ocean Action Pod in 2019. In her role as Deputy Director, she helps create a streamlined and powerful Total Environment Centre.

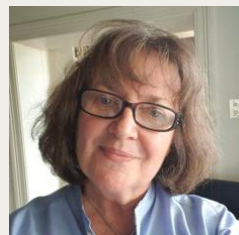
Our Board



Caroline Atkinson,
Chair
Change
Management
Consultant



Bob Wallace,
Treasurer
Senior financial planning
& reporting Executive



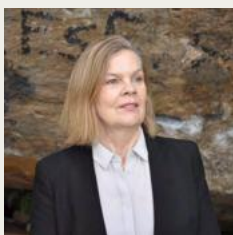
Gerri Ormonde,
Secretary
Ex-Senior
Government official



Belinda Raymond,
Board member
Senior
Environmental
Legal Counsel



Leigh Martin,
Board member
UTS lecturer in life sciences,
Previous Total Environment
Centre Campaigner in
water conservation & river
protection.



Ann Hoban,
Board member
Chair, Non-Executive
Director, past CEO.
Sustainability
and creative industries.



Jennifer Kent,
Board Member
Council sustainability
engagement officer



Bianca Stinson,
Board member
Strategy & fundraising
support, Sales &
Marketing. General
Manager at Faunatech.



Susan Goldie,
Board member
Generalist, Non-
Executive Director

Finances

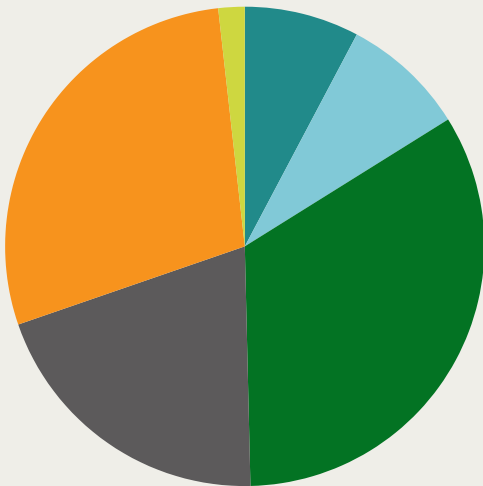
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS

PERIODS 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

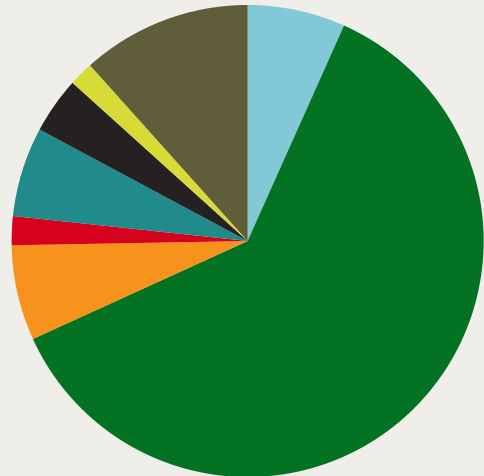
Account	1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Income			
Interest, Fee For Service, Auspice, Other Income	95,531	35,218	46,469
Project Admin Fees	103,422	156,523	91,807
Donations	413,566	655,434	204,857
AUSMAP Income	247,956	183,486	161,806
Sydney Basin Koala Network Income	351,913	261,880	41
Other Grants, Fees for Service, & Reimbursements Income	0	116,181	165,127
Total Other Income	21,914	45,882	42,456
Total Income	1,234,303	1,454,604	712,563
Operating Expenses			
Administration Expenses	87,039	158,525	131,361
Employment Expenses	799,271	710,012	617,437
Office Expenses	84,793	2,942	2,129
IT Expenses	25,711	64,610	8,430
Projects, Campaign and Merchandise Expenses	79,783	117,450	115,503
Project and other Travel Expenses	50,249	38,353	19,462
Expenses Paid for Other Organisations, and Reimbursed	0	0	270
AUSMAP Specific Expenses	21,692	888	3,672
Sydney Basin Koala Network Expenses	151,250	0	0
Total Operating Expenses	1,299,787	1,092,779	898,263
Income Minus Expenses	(65,484)	361,825	(185,700)

INCOME AND EXPENSES 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024

- Interest, Fee For Service, Auspice, Other Income
- Total Project Admin Fees
- Total TEC Core Income - Donations
- AUSMAP Income
- Sydney Basin Koala Network Income
- Total Other Income

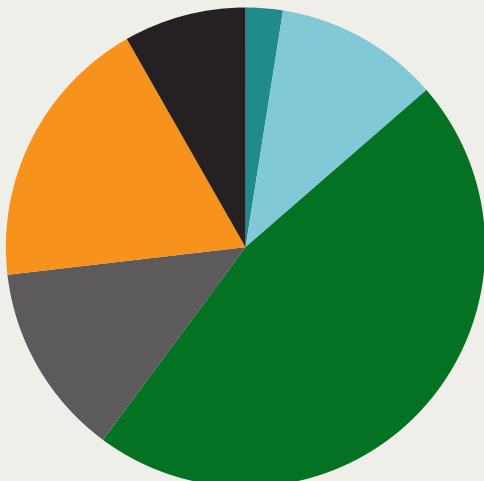


- Administration Expenses
- Employment Expenses
- Office Expenses
- IT Expenses
- Projects, Campaign and Merchandise Expenses
- Project and other Travel Expenses
- AUSMAP Specific Expenses
- Sydney Basin Koala Network Expenses

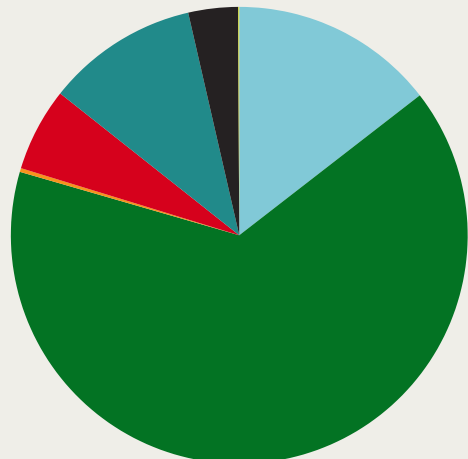


INCOME AND EXPENSES 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

- Interest, Fee For Service, Auspice, Other Income
- Total Project Admin Fees
- Total TEC Core Income - Donations
- AUSMAP Income
- Sydney Basin Koala Network Income
- Other Grants, Fees for Service, & Reimbursements...



- Administration Expenses
- Employment Expenses
- Office Expenses
- IT Expenses
- Projects, Campaign and Merchandise Expenses
- Project and other Travel Expenses
- AUSMAP Specific Expenses



Photography by Henry Gold

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