



Annual Report
Climate Action Network Australia
(CANA)
2013-2014



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1. Vision

A strong, united and sustainable civil society, working collaboratively for action on climate change in Australia.

Mission

CANA is a network of over sixty civil society groups working for action on climate change in Australia. It is the Australian node of Climate Action Network International.

Our mission is to create stronger, more confident and trusting working relationships among the CANA members from different parts of civil society.

We do this by initiating, facilitating and coordinating collaborative efforts by member groups in order to strengthen their collective contribution towards climate action at both a national and international level.

CANA is a transparent, accountable and sustainable organisation.

CANA adds value to the efforts of civil society groups working on climate change in Australia by enabling member groups to work together in key areas and by facilitating the pooling of resources (including knowledge, funding and staff) to achieve joint outcomes.

Strategic Approach

CANA's approach to reaching its mission is concentrated on helping our membership cooperate towards common objectives using complementary strategies and tactics. We will provide the space, facilitation and energy behind collaborative and shared campaign and policy work in order to reach these common objectives.

Nationally, CANA will ensure that the membership are supported and informed to play an active role in advocating for the implementation of climate-related policies.

Internationally, CANA will continue to coordinate and facilitate the engagement of CANA member groups within the Australian NGO delegation at international climate negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

What will CANA aim to do?

Goal 1: CANA's members have access to information they need to campaign effectively to tackle climate change.

Goal 2: CANA's members have the skills and understanding they need to succeed in their campaigns.

Goal 3: Successful collaboration between CANA's members, and with external stakeholders.

Goal 4: CANA members effectively influence international climate negotiations, and help maximise Australia's contribution to a strong international agreement.

Goal 5: CANA is a sustainable organisation.



A Letter from the President

Campaigning for urgent action on climate change has always been a tough gig, but never more so than during the first year of Tony Abbott's Prime Ministership. Over the last year, the Abbott Government set out to systematically dismantle many of the hard-won institutions established to tackle climate change in Australia. After years of debate and turmoil, we no longer have a price on carbon in Australia, the Renewable Energy Target (RET) is under threat, and no credible emission reduction policy is in place at the national level. Australia has become an obstructer in the international climate change negotiations, to our shame.

But it could have been a lot worse. The Climate Change Authority and Clean Energy Finance Corporation still survive, and the risk that the RET will be abolished entirely has receded. While the Senate has played a critical role in these victories, the climate action movement has been crucial in keeping the pressure on the politicians and keeping climate change in the public eye. Through big rallies, human signs, coalition building and many other tactics, the climate action movement has made sure that climate change never slips off the agenda.

We have seen amazing progress in the fossil fuel divestment movement, with the likes of the Australian National University, HESTA, Local Government Super and the Anglican Church making decisions to divest from fossil fuels. Many ordinary Australians have also made the decision to move their money to banks and super funds that do not invest in fossil fuels. CANA members like the Sunrise Project and 350 have played a pivotal role in ensuring that the tide continues to turn against the fossil fuel industry.

At the same time, groups like Solar Citizens have campaigned tirelessly to support solar power, to discredit the Warburton Review of the RET and to make it politically difficult for the government to abolish the RET. As a result, the government has been forced to the negotiating table.

Yet, while there have been important victories, it is difficult to claim that we are in a position to win the urgent action on climate change that we all seek. We didn't build enough power to embed carbon pricing and the clean energy package as a lasting institution. As a result, the

Australian climate action movement has been going through an important period of soul searching and reflection. The Climate Movement Strategy Project has reached out across the movement to facilitate reflection and ask what it will take to change the rules of the game so that we can win in the medium and longer term. More immediately, what will it take to build the support for action on climate change we will need to secure progress under a hostile government and in the lead up to the Paris COP in 2015?

To be frank, CANA in its current form is not up to the job of building a network with the power to win. CANA lacks the resources, systems, commitment and breadth of membership to win this fight. For CANA's Steering Committee, the choice was to let CANA slide into obscurity, or to throw the dice one more time and transform CANA into a new network that can deliver the collective impact we need. We have chosen the latter path but it will only succeed if we have the support of all CANA members, and many others besides. You will be hearing much more about the proposed changes in the weeks and months ahead.

Choosing this path would not even have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of new CANA Director Laura Kelly. We hired Laura because her passion and enthusiasm for the job, and her experience in building broad coalitions, shone through. Her tireless work to reach out across member groups and generate a vision for what the climate action movement needs has exceeded all our expectations.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to CANA over the past year. Previous Director Anna Malos left us to pursue her long-term interest in climate policy work but her contributions, both as Director and as a volunteer for the CANA Conference, are greatly appreciated. Annette Mayne also resigned as CANA Administrator and I thank her for all her contributions. Jen Rae was an essential addition to the CANA team during the year, providing the driving force behind the CANA Conference and then staying on to help with the challenging task of managing CANA's finances. Many thanks to Jen. Silvia Fernandez has recently taken on the task of whipping CANA's systems into shape.

Finally, thanks to the Steering Committee, which has navigated this difficult period with an eye firmly on what is best for the climate action movement. Jamie Hanson stepped down during the year but the Steering Committee has otherwise been stable, which has been important in a turbulent time.

I am convinced that CANA, in a new and very different form, can support the climate action movement to develop the power we need to achieve collective impact. But is up to all of us, as people that care deeply about climate change, to build and support a network that genuinely helps us to be more effective in our ongoing struggle. We all need to be part of the conversation in the months ahead about how to make that happen.



A Letter from the Director

My first reaction to starting as Director at CANA was sheer overwhelm – at the amount that has to change, and quickly. Welcome to the world of climate change, I suppose? But no, it was more than that. It was clear that the climate movement was in a crucial moment of flux. While mobilising to defend the progress we had made on carbon pricing and renewable energy, we were at the same time working to carve out a space for reflection on just what went wrong. What could we have done differently to prevent this attack on our core values from succeeding? What will we need to do differently to build the necessary power to force serious action on climate change – action that reflects that we are almost half way through the critical decade – that small window of time we may have left to try to prevent catastrophic tipping points in the climate system.

During this process of reflection it became clear that we haven't done enough to build real people power – a powerful movement of people who won't stop until politicians and business leaders act. To achieve this, consultations with the movement have indicated that we need to do 3 key things:

1. Work together better;
2. Agree on what we are working together for – that means developing a common agenda, which we can measure our progress against;
3. Shift from an advocacy-focused model, to a broad and deep community organising model.

To be able to support the movement in this work, CANA needs to restructure. While 'working together' might sound straight-forward, deep collaboration between diverse organisations is difficult. First we need to align our goals and strategies, and then we need to be able to maintain this alignment over the lengthy period of time it takes to build and deploy real power.

There are however, some inspiring developments in the climate and environment movements which throw light on a future path for CANA. One of them is the Sunrise Project – a network model for supporting coal and gas campaigning. Sunrise works behind the scenes to provide a forward-looking view on strategy and provides crucial resources for movement building, like

organising and communications training, and grants to local communities working to protect their land, water and health from the deleterious effects of coal and gas mining.

Places You Love, an alliance of forty-one organisations dedicated to building a movement of people for protecting nature, is another example of how diverse organisations are working together to build power. The alliance is based on an approach to collaboration called 'Collective Impact'. Collective Impact recognizes that large-scale social change requires investment in the process of broad, cross-sector collaboration. This collaboration is held together by a common agenda, which diverse groups have agreed to work together to achieve.

So, what is the common agenda which CANA members are working together to achieve? While fostering agreement on the core objectives which can align the work of diverse stakeholders is a complex task, it is the very task that will begin to weave the new, revitalised network that CANA will become.

Because weaving a network is very different to creating an organisation, I can't offer a picture of exactly what the new CANA network will look like – its shape and leaders will emerge in the process. I can point to the outcomes of similar efforts to weave and support a collaborative network to fight polluters and boost solutions. The [Re-Amp Network](#) in America's north-west is a great example of diverse groups taking 12 months to develop a common agenda. In the process of producing this agenda, a number of working groups emerged, which the network then supported and which most importantly, were led by network members with the greatest amount of buy-in to achieving their contribution to the common agenda.

This year has been a watershed moment in CANA's history. It has been the year when the organisation reflected on the need for significant change and consulted with members and experts about what it would take for CANA to become a powerful network owned by the many leaders around Australia that make-up the climate movement.

Next year will be the year that we start to create change. We will start the process of developing a common agenda which is robust enough to inspire and connect the work of the multiple, distributed leaders that make-up the climate movement in Australia. This will involve working with climate and environment groups who are already actively campaigning for climate change solutions. It will also involve reaching out to the full diversity of civil society groups whose members are impacted by climate change, which doesn't discriminate along political lines and therefore isn't solely a concern for the 'green left'.

Developing a common agenda that reflects the work of organisations with skin in the game – those who are actively campaigning for solutions and those whose members will be hardest hit by climate change impacts – is just the first step in developing a collective impact network. But if we can pull it off, we will be one step closer to achieving something that we simply can't win without – finding a way to work together successfully over time, despite our differences.

CANA's member organisations

International

- Greenpeace Australia Pacific
- WWF Australia

Environment and Climate Organisations (national)

- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Australian Forests and Climate Alliance
- Climate and Health Alliance
- National Toxics Network
- The Climate Institute (Assoc. Member)
- 350.org

Youth and social justice

- AYCC
- Global Voices (Assoc. Member)
- The Verb
- GetUp!
- Sustainable Population Australia

Aid and Development Organisations

- CARE Australia
- Oxfam Australia
- Tear Australia
- World Vision Australia

Labour unions

- United Voice

Faith-based Organisations

- ARRCC
- Catholic Earth Care
- Edmund Rice Centre
- Sisters of the Good Samaritan
- Uniting Church, Justice and International Mission

Renewable Energy Organisations

- 100% Renewable Energy / Solar Citizens
- CORENA
- Moreland Energy Foundation

Beyond Coal and Gas

- The Sunrise Project

Legal and Research Organisations

- Climate Justice Program
- Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS
- Institute of Environmental Studies, UNSW
- SEARCH Foundation

State and territory environment organisations

- Conservation Council of SA
- Environment Tasmania
- Nature Conservation Council NSW
- Conservation Council of WA
- Environment Victoria
- Queensland Conservation Council

Regional Environment Organisations

- Act on Climate
- Coffs and Coast Climate Action Group
- North Qld Conservation Council
- Community Climate Action Network
- Climate Action Monaro
- Climate Action Newtown
- Climate Action Sydney Eastern Suburbs
- Climate Action Now Wingecarribee
- Climate Action Balmain Rozelle
- Green Music Australia
- Lighter Footprints
- Mackay Conservation Group
- Cairns and Far North Environment Centre
- Mount Alexander Sustainability Group
- Sustainable Living Armidale
- ParraCAN
- North Coast Environment Council
- Quit Coal
- Climate Action Hobart
- Climate Action Newcastle
- Climate Action Tomaree
- Climate Change Australia
- Climate Emergency Network
- Darebin Climate Action Now
- Lake Macquarie Climate Action
- Locals into Victoria's Environment
- Rising Tide
- Bathurst Community Climate Action Network
- Wodonga and Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)
- Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc (BREAZE)

CANA Steering Committee

The CANA steering committee (SC) is primarily responsible for the governance of CANA, not its operations. It is responsible for approving the organisation's mission and strategic direction, its budget and its major financial affairs, its policies on governance, management, and program implementation. It does not set specific policy direction on climate change.

The SC is responsible for providing support and direction to the Director and, where appropriate, other CANA staff. The Director is responsible for the operational management of the organisation. The Director may delegate tasks to other staff, but remains accountable to the SC for his/her performance. The SC includes the following current and retired members:

Committee members

- Dr Chris Riedy, *Institute of Sustainable Futures* (**President**).
- Carolyn Ingvarson, *Lighter Footprints* (**Secretary**).
- Duncan Jinks, *Climate Action Newcastle* (**Treasurer**).
- Kellie Caught, *WWF Australia*.
- Phil Bradley, *ParraCAN*.
- Dr Ian McGregor, *Climate Action Sydney Eastern Suburbs*.

Committee members who retired since the 2013-2014 AGM

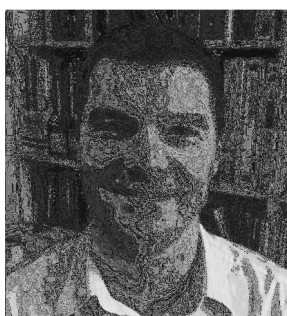
- Jamie Hanson, *Australian Conservation Foundation*.

Public Fund Committee members

- Dr Chris Riedy, *Institute of Sustainable Futures* (**President**).
- Duncan Jinks, *Climate Action Newcastle* (**Treasurer**).
- Dr Ian McGregor, *Climate Action Sydney Eastern Suburbs*.

CANA Staff

- Director Anna Malos (departed April, 2014)
- Director Laura Kelly (commenced April, 2014)
- CANA Administrator Jen Rae.



Treasurer's Report

Every year is a challenge when confronting climate change, though 2013/14 was particularly a challenging year for Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) and its member groups. In 2013/14 CANA witnessed; a 100% turnover in staff; some member organisations experiencing significant financial difficulties; the very poor state of climate politics in Australia; and a comprehensive review of CANA and its leadership role within the broader climate movement.

Whilst much work remains to be done in settling on a sustainable future for CANA, I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of the CANA Director, Laura Kelly, and all those who have participated to date in the climate movement strategy work of which CANA has been an active participant. This work is vital for the future of the climate movement, and by extension, critical to the future of CANA.

CANA recorded a **deficit of (\$4,633) in 2013/14, compared with (\$22,831) in 2012/13**. Whilst the 2013/14 result is an improvement on the previous year, and represents just 3.4% of total income it remains a concerning result.

Total **income declined by 35% in 2013/14 to \$138,050.93** compared with \$212,072.00 in 2012/13. This decline is due largely to a significant reduction in specific campaign income which relates to the hosting of projects on behalf of specific member groups, which does not impact on CANAs underlying operations. This loss was partially offset by additional member contributions of \$12,500.

However two significant items have combined to have the effect of overstating CANAs financial performance in 2013/14 by a total of \$28,226.82:

- A prepayment of membership fees of \$10,045 for 2014/15. This payment was recorded as income in 2013/14 instead of a liability and therefore has the effect of overstating CANAs performance in 2013/14.
- An additional \$18,181.82 in project income. Expenses equalling this project income were committed in 2013/14 to be expended in 2014/15 however these expenses were not recorded on either the 2013/14 income statement or the balance sheet at 30 June 2014, therefore having the effect of overstating CANA performance and position.

Total membership fees year-on-year **remained broadly consistent with 2012/13 at \$72,225.50** (ordinary membership fees only) despite moderate increases in membership fee rates, largely due to some members experiencing financial difficulties in 2013/14.

Whilst total expenses declined by almost 40% due to a decline in specific campaign funds (as outlined above relating to income), underlying expenses increased only marginally (**0.6%**) to \$130,684.10. Personnel expenses continued to represent the majority (76.1%) of **CANAs total expenses in 2013/14 at \$108,596.2, down 1.3% on 2012/13.**

CANAs underlying financial position (net assets) at 30 June 2014 was \$50,541.08 (up 67.3% for the year), due in large part to a significant decrease in liabilities, in addition to adjustments to the 2013 balance sheet as per auditor recommendations. **CANAs cash balance was just \$38,388.86 at 30 June 2014** (down 7.4% for the year).

Clearly, CANA is not in a state of sound financial health, with limited and declining cash balance, an improved yet inadequate balance sheet, and 2 consecutive years of deficits. These financial indicators, in combination with CANA member groups expressed wishes for an enhanced climate movement network organisation to better serve theirs and the community's interests are the primary drivers of CANAs current strategic focus to reshape the organisation in consultation with members, and develop a sustainable financial future for the organisation.