

The Sunrise Project

2014 Review

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited ABN 65 159 324 697



Photo: Greenpeace/Michael Amendolia



Photo: Greenpeace/Tom Jefferson



Table of contents

Letter from the Board Chair	3
Letter from the Executive Director	4
Overview of The Sunrise Project	5
Objectives	6
Highlights from 2014	7
Protecting Water	7
Protecting Farmland	8
Protecting Health	9
Protecting the Great Barrier Reef	10
Protecting Biodiversity and Precious Natural Places	11
Hastening the Clean Energy Transition	12
Community Organising Fellowship	13
Protecting Our Heritage. Embracing The Future: Beyond Coal and Gas conference	14
Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign	15
Community Grants	16
International Small Grants Program	17
Organisational Report	18
Financial Statements	20

Letter from the Board Chair



2014 may well go down in history as the year that the decisive global shift away from coal and fossil fuels began in earnest.

When The Sunrise Project was founded in 2012 the Australian coal boom was at its height. Massive new coal mines, ports and railways were being proposed right across the country and gigantic coal seam gas projects were being approved. Some huge new projects were under construction and state and federal governments were hyping the prospect of Australia becoming an 'energy superpower'.¹

Chinese coal imports, they said, would go on growing at a phenomenal rate for a decade or more, driving prices and demand ever higher. On the domestic front the coal industry was demanding the abolition of the Renewable Energy Target while fossil fuel power generators were trying to cripple the phenomenal rollout of rooftop solar.

Unchecked, the coal and gas industry plans would have had profound consequences for the global climate and done irreparable damage to communities, farmlands, our air quality and water resources.

There were courageous people – farmers, Aboriginal leaders, religious groups, scientists, residents and citizens – standing up to protect the land they love and our right to a clean environment. To a casual outside observer their efforts could all too easily have been dismissed as a valiant but doomed struggle.

Now – as community momentum for a more sustainable future grows by the day – I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of individuals and communities around Australia who are driving the transition to a more sustainable future. The Sunrise Project is humbled to work with such inspiring leaders to help protect our climate and the community's right to clean air and water.

Today the outlook is far less daunting. The much hyped coal boom has rapidly turned to bust. Concern about air pollution in China has spurred decisive government action to the extent that coal consumption in 2014 fell for the first this century. The knock-on effects of China's actions have been profound. For the first time in 40 years, carbon dioxide emissions have plateaued even though the global economy grew. Global export prices for coal – and for different reasons gas – have plummeted, exposing the financial risks of many of the boom time investments. Other projects slated to be built have been shelved or withered for lack of funding.

While major challenges remain, it is now possible to sense that the tide has turned.

The role played by The Sunrise Project in the growing fossil-fuel free movement has been made possible by our members and donors, the members of the Board who have so generously given their time and expertise, and all the extraordinary staff and volunteers at The Sunrise Project. A special thanks goes to the founding Executive Director of The Sunrise Project, John Hepburn, whose skill and dedication have established a strong foundation for the organisation.

2015 promises to be an even more momentous year as the transition to a fossil-fuel free future looks set to accelerate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Burton'.

Bob Burton
Board Chair, The Sunrise Project

¹ <http://www.smh.com.au/business/mining-and-resources/australia-to-be-an-energy-superpower-20131216-2zgaw.html>

Letter from the Executive Director

One thing that was clearly established in 2014 is the power of local communities to shape their own future when faced with coal and gas development.



We'll look back on 2014 as the year of transition, where momentum shifted from the old fossil fuel economy towards a cleaner, more positive future. It was the year in which Chinese coal demand started to decline for the first time in living memory; the year in which global emissions de-coupled from economic growth; and it was a year in which one in five Australian households were powered by the sun and the fastest and sexiest cars on the road ran on 100 per cent renewable electricity.

Global energy markets are in a state of incredible flux, changing faster than anyone thought possible. Many of the world's political leaders are aligning behind this transition, as market and technological forces set a clean energy and climate agenda that politicians have been fumbling for decades.

For its part, the Australian Government is trying to buck what is now an unstoppable global trend. While the market and community move decisively in one direction, Australian policy makers are still clinging to past ways. As perhaps the most extreme example, Prime Minister Tony Abbott's plea that "coal is good for humanity" is at least fifty years out of date and reflects a view that is out of touch with both the community and with market realities. But political leaders can only swim against the tide of history for so long...

We are witnessing the transition that lies at the heart of The Sunrise Project's mission. Our challenge is to make sure that local communities and the natural environment do not lose out as part of this process. It simply doesn't make sense to be sacrificing our best farmland, our drinking water catchments or our special natural places for coal mining and gas expansion.

For many local communities facing the brunt of the coal and gas boom, there is a growing sense of relief that many projects have been put on the back burner. However, in the absence of regulatory protection the uncertainty and anxiety remains. It has also been a tough year for mining communities that have seen extensive job losses. The failure of successive State and Federal Governments to manage the boom and to plan for the inevitable economic transition will only make it more difficult.

One thing that was clearly established in 2014 is the power of local communities to shape their own future when faced with coal and gas development. The successful community blockade against unconventional gas drilling at Bentley on the NSW North Coast ruptured the comfortable understanding that industry and government will always be able to force their will on local communities. It was an extraordinary moment in a social movement that has spread from one end of the country to the other, with more and more Australian communities saying a resounding and powerful yes to a future beyond fossil fuels.

I'd like to thank the remarkable Sunrise Project staff who have worked tirelessly over the past year. I'd also like to thank the Board for their ongoing guidance and support and of course to our donors for investing in the future and for placing their trust in us. Hopefully this annual report captures at least some of the highlights of what was a truly remarkable year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'John Hepburn', is written over a faint, light blue grid pattern.

John Hepburn
Executive Director

Overview of The Sunrise Project

At The Sunrise Project, we share a vision for the 21st century where our homes, schools and workplaces are powered by the sun, wind and waves. Where a healthy democracy means that local communities make their own development decisions guided by a concern for community health and an ethic of stewardship for the earth.

Our mission is to support and empower Australian communities to protect our land, water, community health and the global climate from the negative impacts of the fossil fuel industry, and to hasten the inevitable shift to an efficient, renewable energy economy.

We pursue our mission in line with our **charitable purposes** which are to:

1. Protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment;
2. Protect the natural environment from pollution and over-exploitation;
3. Support and empower individuals, communities, governments and industry to make changes required to prevent dangerous climate change;
4. Facilitate public education about, and to promote the transition to, a clean energy economy; and
5. Educate, empower and support communities to protect natural assets and promote the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources in their local areas.

What we do

Our view of social change is that it is social movements that change the world rather than individual organisations working in isolation. The climate crisis and the challenge of shifting beyond fossil fuels to a clean energy economy is so large and complex that it requires a society-wide response – with a diversity of organisations working for change across many different sectors at many different levels. Similarly, the challenges of protecting groundwater resources or the Great Barrier Reef include many different dimensions involving the community, industry, investors and all levels of government.

We see our role as nurturing and supporting the community-wide social movement to protect our natural heritage and to hasten the transition beyond fossil fuels. We work together with small community groups, big NGOs, academics, religious groups, investors, analysts, farmers, scientists, politicians, philanthropists, lawyers, economists and environmental activists, each of whom is focussed on one part of the puzzle. Our role is to take a “whole of systems” view and to encourage and support collaboration between the various different players, so that they work together to have the biggest possible impact in protecting the environment.

We do this by running a small grants program to help build the capacity of community groups, we conduct and commission research and analysis to help inform the community, we support training programs and we organise seminars and conferences.

Our model is based on the idea of Collective Impact – an approach that is gaining increasing prominence in a wide range of social change areas ranging from improving childhood education services through to environmental restoration and conservation. In a nutshell, Collective Impact encourages a wide range of community groups to work together to solve common problems. It recognises that social change is not a linear process and that many of society’s most difficult problems are so complex that they cannot be addressed by single organisations acting alone. It draws on the wisdom of local communities that are impacted by the problem and it recognises that through co-operation, the whole can become greater than the sum of its parts.

The role of The Sunrise Project is continually evolving as the world changes and as we learn from our successes and mistakes. Because we are an inherently collaborative organisation, we try make sure that we’re not duplicating work of other NGOs or community groups so we can use our limited resources for maximum effect.

Pictured: Sunflowers, Liverpool Plains

² http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/collective_impact



^ People's Climate March, Sydney

Objectives

Our overall **objectives** are to:

1. Protect natural assets and community health

- Secure 'no-go zones' and improved regulations to protect groundwater resources and river systems;
- Protect Australia's best farmland from the impacts of inappropriate industrial development;
- Protect community health from the impacts of pollution;
- Improve protections for the Great Barrier Reef and prevent inappropriate industrial developments that would impact negatively upon it;
- Improve protections for biodiversity hotspots and other special natural places from the reckless expansion of fossil fuel projects.

2. Hasten the transition to a clean energy economy

- Promote the uptake and expansion of clean, renewable energy;
- Reduce greenhouse pollution by preventing the large-scale expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure.

To achieve these objectives, we use the following **Strategies**:

Community Education

We conduct research and support community groups to run education programs in relation to the impacts of fossil fuel extraction and the transition to a low carbon economy. While we recognise that education and awareness raising alone is not sufficient to achieve change, it is a necessary and important part of the process.

Improve regulation and policy

We support efforts to improve regulation and government policy affecting resource extraction to make sure that important community assets are protected from inappropriate development and that the full social and environmental costs of the industry are accounted for.

Ensure Compliance

While existing laws are often inadequate to protect the environment, even they are often not complied with by companies that routinely breach license conditions with relative impunity. Ensuring compliance requires community groups to have technical, legal and organising capacity to hold industry to account.

Expose corruption and undue political influence

As the revelations of the Independent Commission Against Corruption have shown in NSW, the mining sector is no stranger to corruption of process. We support community advocates to shine a spotlight on the undue influence of mining companies over our political process.

Build community capacity

We support training and other initiatives that help to build the capacity of local community organisations so that they can more effectively participate in decisions concerning resource extraction in their local areas.

Highlights from 2014

Protecting Water

The rapid expansion of coal and unconventional gas mining is threatening our vital groundwater and river systems, from the Fitzroy Basin in the Kimberley to the desert uplands of Central Queensland and even Sydney's drinking water catchment. Poorly rehabilitated mine sites and their "final voids" in the landscape impact on groundwater for hundreds if not thousands of years – often leaving a toxic and costly legacy for future generations. In response, communities are standing together to demand better protections for our precious water resources.

"Well, we're groundwater irrigators which means that we rely on our most precious resource which is uncontaminated underground water, to irrigate our crops, but we also rely on that water for everyday living, for washing, for showering, for drinking. We have no other source of water."

Sarah Ciesiolka, farmer from Wee Waa in NSW, opposing Santos' proposed Narrabri Gas project.

Highlights:

Through our support of many different projects, we have helped to build public awareness of the water impacts of mining and the failures in the regulatory system in order to help secure 'no-go zones' to protect this most precious of resources. As a partner in the Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign, The Sunrise Project has continued to push for stronger laws to protect water resources in NSW, including ruling out mining and gas projects in drinking water catchments. Through our grants program we have supported community groups in Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales to do detailed research into the water impacts of mining and to engage robustly in project assessment processes.

▼ The Belyando River catchment will be impacted by Galilee Basin mines

Photo: Lock The Gate Alliance



Highlights from 2014

Protecting Farmland

From the black soils of the Liverpool Plains in NSW, to the rich farming areas of Gippsland, much of Australia's most important farmland is under threat from the expansion of industrial gas fields and large-scale mining. In response, rural and urban communities are uniting to call for stronger laws to protect our food growing areas from mining.

"There are areas within this state that cannot co-exist with mining....If we're going to get rid of the Liverpool Plains, we are seriously getting rid of the best agricultural land in Australia."

Susan Lyle, Liverpool Plains farmer and member of the Caroon Coal Action Group.³



Photo: Lock The Gate Alliance

Highlights:

The Sunrise Project has worked alongside many farming communities around Australia to help them to make their voices heard – providing expert advice, training and support.

In 2014 the controversy over the proposed Shenhau Watermark mine on the Liverpool Plains continued to intensify and The Sunrise Project was proud to be able to contribute a small grant towards technical studies into the impacts of mining on groundwater and farmland.

Through the Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign we provided training support to the people of Gloucester to run a community outreach and door-knocking program to raise community awareness of the dual threats of fracking and coal mining in their valley. This was but one example of many where the Land Water Future team helped to support farming communities that are being side-lined by multi-national mining companies and abandoned by governments.

Working with hundreds of volunteers, The Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign created opportunities for thousands of face-to-face conversations about the impacts of coal and gas through public meetings, stalls and door-knocking.

< Wendy Bowman, farmer, Camberwell

▼ Liverpool Plains farmland, NSW

Photo: Lock The Gate Alliance

³ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-03/farmers-call-on-premier-to-protect-prime-farming-land/6065084>

Protecting Health

Awareness of the impacts of fossil fuels on health is increasingly coming to the fore, locally in terms of air pollution from mining and coal-fired power, and globally due to coal's role as the key driver of climate change.

The fire that raged out of control for 45 days in the Hazelwood coal mine in Morwell, Victoria, in February and March 2014, exposing residents to hazardous levels of toxic pollutants, focused the Australian public's attention on the health risks of coal. Meanwhile, the National Pollutant Inventory showed emissions of toxic pollutants has doubled in the past decade, with coal being the leading source of particle air pollution.

Highlights:

Against this backdrop, The Sunrise Project continued to support local communities working on the health impacts of coal, including Newcastle in NSW, home to the world's largest coal port. The community's achievements included building a 10,000 signature petition, tabled in NSW Parliament, calling for mandatory covering of coal wagons, and a community poll demonstrating that only 20 per cent of Newcastle residents surveyed support the controversial T4 coal terminal expansion. The community's coal dust monitoring work led to exposure of a cover-up by the NSW Environment Protection Authority and the Minister for the Environment of clear evidence that coal trains increase pollution. This resulted in a referral to the Independent Commission Against Corruption and a review of the regulatory framework for the Hunter coal train network.

The Sunrise Project supported Environment Victoria's detailed submission and evidence at the Hazelwood mine fire inquiry, including evidence from mine rehabilitation experts which led to a commitment from the Victorian government to review rehabilitation bonds at Victorian coal mines.

Photo: Lock The Gate Alliance



^ Children with clean air signs

Through our grants program, we supported an alliance of community groups Clean Air Queensland (CAQ) to complete a coal dust study which revealed significant pollution at the Jondaryan stockpile west of Brisbane. Following advocacy by affected residents and CAQ, the Queensland ALP state conference passed motions supporting mandatory covering of coal wagons and stockpiles, and a cap on coal train traffic through residential areas.

The Sunrise Project also supported the efforts of medical professionals' groups to disseminate expert information to the public and to regulators concerning the risks posed by coal mining, transportation and the burning of coal to public health.

A key highlight of the year was a national Air Pollution Summit of which we were a proud major sponsor. This meeting of experts, civil society organisations and coal pollution-impacted communities called for a National Air Pollution Prevention Act specifying national standards for air pollution that protect human health, and for an independent air pollution regulator.



Photo: Mackay Conservation Group

< Community stall on coal dust impacts

Highlights from 2014

Protecting the Great Barrier Reef

The campaign to protect the Great Barrier Reef from inappropriate industrial development has become a global issue due to the proposals by Indian companies Adani and GVK to build one of the world's largest coal export ports at Abbot Point. The World Heritage Committee has continued to express serious concerns over the Abbot Point proposal as well as the wider issues threatening the Great Barrier Reef. The failure of the Queensland and Federal governments to manage the threats to the reef (including, of course, the impacts of climate change) has resulted in a possibility that this most precious of natural icons may be included on the World Heritage "In Danger" list.

"We are concerned that not only Canberra is handing over environmental approval powers to the Queensland State Government on a matter of such high national and international relevance, but also other measures that have been taken that can deteriorate the health of the reef even more....I am referring to the four major developments within the site at Abbot Point and the Port of Gladstone relating to coal terminals, natural gas facilities and pipelines, as this involves the dumping of enormous quantities of dredge material at the site."

José Filipe Mendes Moraes Cabral, member of the Portuguese delegation, World Heritage Committee examining whether the Great Barrier Reef should be listed as 'In Danger', 2014.⁴

Highlights:

Through our grants program and work with our many partner groups, we supported local community awareness raising and education about the threats to the reef and what can be done to protect it. We supported documentation and research into the impacts of existing and proposed new industrial ports on the Great Barrier Reef so that we might learn the important lessons from the environmental management failures in Gladstone Harbour.

We continued our work with local reef communities and worked alongside international NGOs to help raise awareness of the role of global banks in financing the proposed Abbot Point coal port expansion. By the end of 2014 nine global banks had publicly ruled out involvement in financing the proposed port expansion.

"Citi is not involved and does not plan to be involved in any financing for the Abbot Point expansion."

Valerie C. Smith, Director, Corporate Sustainability, Citigroup.⁵

The remarkable efforts of the reef campaign resulted in the historic commitment to ban dumping of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. While this is an important step forward, the Federal Government has stopped short of extending this dumping ban to the entire World Heritage Area – which is what we and many scientists think is required. However, we are confident that the increased awareness and political interest in the Great Barrier Reef resulting from the campaign will lead to further reforms to help protect this global icon for future generations. Yet, the greatest threat to the future of the Reef remains climate change – making it all the more important to transition beyond fossil fuels and to secure a strong global climate agreement.

v The Great Barrier Reef

Photo: Greenpeace/Michael Amendolia

⁴ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-06-18/unesco-defers-decision-on-great-barrier-reef-danger-status/5530828>

⁵ <http://www.smh.com.au/business/carbon-economy/blow-for-giant-coal-port-expansion-as-us-banks-opt-out-20141027-11cfyz.html>

Protecting Biodiversity and Precious Natural Places

Australians have come to expect that precious natural areas are protected from inappropriate development. The reality is that many areas of important ecological and cultural significance are facing the destructive impacts of fossil fuel extraction. From the Pilliga forest of New South Wales to the Kimberley region of Western Australia, important conservation areas are threatened by proposals for large-scale expansion of coal and gas mining. Policies to “offset” the destruction of endangered ecosystems by reserving places in other areas are simply inadequate. The failure to create “no-go zones” for mining in high conservation areas is putting our heritage at risk.

“Our native wildlife is under severe pressure from the destruction and fragmentation of habitat. Many of these species are suffering a death by a thousand cuts as each coal mine chips away another chunk of habitat. It is time to draw a line in the sand and ensure that environmental laws provide what the community expects – protection of essential habitat in perpetuity.”

Kate Smolski, CEO, NSW Nature Conservation Council.⁶

Highlights:

In NSW, The Sunrise Project joined with over 75 community groups to roll out the Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign which aims to protect areas of high conservation value from mining and gas development. This campaign has really put the issue onto the political and public agenda.

Through our grants program we have provided support to community groups in the Kimberley region of Western Australia with a long-term aim of preventing the impacts of mining and gas extraction and of creating long-term protection for the Fitzroy Basin.

Another important area of our program has been providing support to grassroots community groups to engage in the environmental assessment process for major projects. Community input is an important part of the regulatory system however many local communities simply do not have the resources to scrutinise projects adequately. As well as supporting community organising efforts, we have provided grants for technical analysis and baseline ecological studies so that it is at least possible to properly understand what is under threat from proposed developments and developers can be held to account.



Photo: Lock The Gate Alliance

^ Eastern Pygmy Possum, Pilliga Forest



Photo: Sandra Gallienne

^ Helmeted Honeyeater



Photo: Greenpeace/Tom Jefferson

^ Carmichael River, Galilee Basin

⁶ <http://www.nature.org.au/news/2014/12/approving-warkworth-would-set-a-dangerous-precedent-for-destruction-of-environmental-offsets/Greenpeace>

Highlights from 2014

Hastening the Clean Energy Transition

It is clear that the world needs to take urgent action to reduce greenhouse pollution if we are to have any chance of preventing the most dangerous impacts of global warming. Decades of denial and obstruction by the fossil fuel industry mean that government action has been slow and we are rapidly running out of time to make the shift from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy.

Despite the lack of government action, the transition to renewables is happening at an ever increasing pace due to technology and market forces. Energy markets are in the midst of a disruptive revolution that has seen the cost of renewable energy plummet while China, India, the US and other major economies smash records for renewable energy investment. In Australia, over twenty per cent of households now have solar panels on their roof and this number is growing every month.

As a result, both public and market sentiment about the future of coal is shifting rapidly. An increasing number of global banks are declaring that the global coal industry is in structural decline, leaving behind many politicians and policy makers who are clinging to an outdated understanding of how world energy markets work. This shift is being exacerbated by the incredible growth of the global divestment movement that is changing the perception of fossil fuel investment risk.

"We downgrade our long term price forecast to US\$65/ FOB Newcastle (down 18%) to reflect cost deflation and the prospect of peak demand post 2020. Nonetheless, the golden years for thermal coal demand and prices are clearly behind; we argue they are unlikely to return."

Goldman Sachs, Commodities Research, "Thermal coal reaches retirement age".⁷

Highlights

As part of our program to promote renewable energy, The Sunrise Project continued to support Solar Citizens to develop a series of briefing papers to provide up-to-date information to policy makers on the incredible growth of solar PV in Australia and the rapidly falling costs of renewable energy. In October 2014 we organised a speaking tour of Australia by Debi Goenka from the Conservation Action Trust in India to highlight the reality of energy poverty in India. We also supported research projects to document the scale of Federal and State government subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. We backed research and analysis into the dynamics and future trends in the global coal market, to raise awareness of the rapid transformation of energy markets now underway. Through our grants program we also supported the grassroots divestment campaign to help underline the problem of the "carbon bubble" and to highlight why climate risk should be factored into investment decisions.

⁷ http://www.eenews.net/assets/2015/02/13/document_cw_01.pdf

▼ Global Divestment Day



Photo: 350.org

▼ Solar install



Photo: 100% Renewables



Photo: AYCC

^ Your choice = Our Future campaign launch



^ Workshops

Community Organising Fellowship

At The Sunrise Project, we believe passionately in the power of social movements to change the world for the better. Time and again movements have accomplished their goals by organising and mobilising communities to become so powerful that the people can no longer be ignored by decision-makers. From the civil rights movement in the United States, to workers rights in Australia, effective organising has been at the heart of countless successful campaigns.

Building a powerful, winning movement requires skilled and committed organisers who can engage and mobilise the community. But skilled organisers need to be trained.

One of our flagship programs in 2013 was our collaboration with The Change Agency and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW to create a Community Organising Fellowship. The Fellowship trains a new generation of skilled community organisers around Australia who can support the growth of a powerful social movement to protect our environment and to encourage the rapid transition beyond coal and gas to a renewable energy future.

The first year was a resounding success with 30 organisers successfully completing the program. The Sunrise Project continued our support for the fellowship in 2014 and we are excited at the prospect of this project helping to build the next generation of leaders of Australia's environmental movement.



Photo: The Change Agency

^ Community Organising Fellowship participants

Highlights from 2014

Protecting Our Heritage. Embracing The Future: Beyond Coal and Gas conference

From 25–27 October 2014, over 280 people from all over Australia gathered in Ipswich, South-East Queensland, for the Protecting Our Heritage. Embracing The Future: Beyond Coal and Gas conference. This was the second time that The Sunrise Project has organised this important national event. It provided an exciting opportunity for communities impacted by coal and gas expansion across the country to share experiences, learn from and support one another.

For many communities that inadvertently find themselves defending the place they love from a multinational mining company, it can be a hard and lonely experience. A big part of the gathering was about helping to connect these people with each other and with wider support networks, as well as promoting better understanding of the science of climate change and its impacts in diverse communities.

Highlights

The conference had a jam packed program of workshops and plenary discussions, with expert presentations covering diverse topics ranging from groundwater, climate science and minesite rehabilitation to community organising, the legal rights of landowners and the latest developments in renewable energy. As with the 2013 conference, the bulk of the program was defined by participants through an “open space” format that encouraged all participants to nominate and run their own workshop or discussion.

The highlight of the conference for many was the presentations from Indigenous people impacted by coal and gas projects around Australia. We are hopeful that the bonds built at the Beyond Coal and Gas conference will help to foster increasing collaboration between the environmental movement and Indigenous groups in their common cause of protecting country from the impact of destructive mining.

▼ Presentations and participants, Beyond Coal and Gas conference, 2014



Photo: Dean Sewell



Photo: Dean Sewell

Photo: Dean Sewell

Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign

The Our Land, Our Water, Our Future Campaign was launched in March 2014, bringing together over 75 community groups from around NSW, aiming to protect land and water resources from the impacts of coal and gas expansion in the State.

The campaign aims to achieve concrete regulatory reforms that will help communities to protect their livelihoods, and vital public assets – land, water, health – from the expansion of coal and gas. Specifically, Our Land, Our Water, Our Future is working to establish coal and gas no-go zones around farmland, water resources and drinking water catchments, high conservation value areas such as state forests and national parks, and residential areas. The campaign also aims to restore the community's rights to engage in planning and approvals processes around coal and gas.

Highlights

By the end of 2014, the campaign had managed to achieve one of its key objectives of bringing the coal and gas campaign out of the regional areas into Sydney, with sustained grassroots organising, media coverage and political pressure. The campaign has helped to combine local organising efforts into a unified, bigger push for regulatory reform that has put the issue of coal and gas expansion on the top of the public and political agenda.

During the year, Our Land, Our Water, Our Future worked with over 850 volunteers who held over 10,000 face-to-face conversations about coal and gas in Sydney and hosted over 100 public events. The campaign also developed a weekly social media reach of over 200,000 people, with thousands of supporters contacting their State Member of Parliament to raise concerns about the issue of coal and gas expansion.

While the campaign for better regulation of mining has a long way to go, the successful launch of the Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign in 2014 has helped to create the possibility of winning important outcomes in 2015.

Our Land, Our Water, Our Future members out campaigning



Photo: James Alcock

Highlights from 2014

Community Grants

Peter Gray Community Action Fund

The Sunrise Project is proud to be able to provide grants to community groups which are working to protect Australia's natural assets and the global climate from the destructive impacts of the expansion of the fossil fuel industry. The Peter Gray Community Action Fund was established in January 2013 to provide small grants to community groups in line with The Sunrise Project's vision and mission. Applications for grants of up to \$5,000 are open to non-profit community groups all over Australia through a simple online application form.

The fund is named after Peter Gray, an inspiring young activist from Newcastle in the Hunter Valley, who sadly passed away in 2011 following a battle with cancer. He is renowned for the landmark legal case Gray vs (NSW) Minister for Planning [2006] in which he successfully argued that the NSW Government needed to consider the greenhouse impacts of burning the coal from the proposed Anvil Hill mine in the Hunter Valley. Peter was a passionate grassroots campaigner for action on climate change and the protection of forests and was an inspiration to many. His memory embodies the spirit and passion of communities all over Australia who are standing up to protect the places they love.

Highlights

During 2014 The Sunrise Project provided a wide range of grants for projects including citizen science programs, community outreach campaigns, ecological baseline studies and trainings and strategy meetings for community advocates.



^ Residents opposing Anglesea coal mine and power plant



^ Ngaro Flotilla for the Reef, Queensland

> Residents opposing the T4 expansion in Newcastle



Photo: Hunter Community Environment Centre



^ Communities affected by the massive Cerrejon coal mine in Northern Colombia organised a “Popular Tribunal Against Cerrejon”

International Small Grants Program

From the Philippines to Nigeria, from Indonesia to Colombia, local communities are struggling to defend their land, their rights and their livelihoods from destructive coal projects. Very often lacking the necessary information, resources and tools to advocate for their rights, these communities face an uphill battle to ensure that their land and water resources are protected.

Highlights

Alongside its primary work within Australia, The Sunrise Project has a small international program that makes small grants to local community groups around the world to support them in their efforts to defend the environment and their rights. In 2014 The Sunrise Project gave grants to fourteen community groups in eight countries. Our community grants went to support projects such as studies on the water pollution impacts of coal facilities in Vietnam and Indonesia, on community organising activities in Sri Lanka, Colombia, Indonesia and Chile, and on policy and advocacy efforts around renewable energy in Mauritius.

These grants helped raise awareness about the impacts of coal mining and coal fired power plants in affected communities, giving them the tools to advocate for their rights, and to effectively oppose destructive projects.



Photo: NGO Forum on the ADB

^ Philippine protester against Asian Development Bank-funded coal projects

Organisational Report

2014 was another successful year for The Sunrise Project and we have now well and truly emerged from the 'start-up' phase while striving to maintain the agility of a start-up. We began the year with six staff and, after a number of key changes early in the year we finished the year with nine staff – reflecting the growth in scope and scale of our overall program. As a result of

this growth, we outgrew our office and were fortunate to find a great new (and reasonably priced!) office on Macquarie Street in the centre of Sydney.

We continued to work hard to expand our donor base as well as supporting grantees and partner groups to build their own fundraising capacity.

Compliance

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited was registered as a company limited by guarantee in mid 2012 with the following charitable objectives:

1. Protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment;
2. Protect the natural environment from pollution and over-exploitation;
3. Support and empower individuals, communities, governments and industry to make changes required to prevent dangerous climate change;
4. Facilitate public education about, and promote the transition to, a clean energy economy; and

5. Educate, empower and support communities to protect natural assets and promote the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources in their local areas.

The Sunrise Project has endorsement as a charity from the Australian Taxation Office, is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and is on the National Register of Environmental Organisations.

We continue to place a high priority on governance and compliance and will carefully monitor foreshadowed developments in charity regulation so as to ensure that the Company responds quickly and appropriately to any changed regulatory environment.

Governance

The Sunrise Project is directed by a volunteer Board that seeks to uphold the highest standards of governance in the pursuit of our mission. As such, The Board seeks to ensure there is a range of appropriate experience and expertise represented within it. During the year, Bob Burton replaced Mark Wakeham as Chair of the Board and Erna de Vries replaced Miranda Nagy as Company Secretary. In addition to monthly board meetings, there were also regular meetings of the FRAC

(Finance, Risk, Audit and Compliance) sub-committee, consisting of John Hepburn, Miranda Nagy and Erna de Vries. The FRAC Sub-committee is advised by Beverley Pope, our Finance & Operations Manager.

In 2015, the Board will continue to monitor and improve our governance processes and will work towards Board succession.

Board of Directors



Bob Burton (Chair)

Bob is an Australian-based contributing editor of CoalSwarm, an online wiki on global coal issues. Active on a broad range of environmental issues since the late 1970's, Bob has extensive experience as a campaigner and researcher on mining issues including as editor from 1996–2003 of Mining Monitor, a quarterly investigative news-magazine published by the Australian non-government organisation, the Mineral Policy Institute. In 1992 he was entered on the United Nations Environment Program Global 500 Roll of Honour for an outstanding contribution to the protection of the environment. He is also the author of *Inside Spin: the dark underbelly of the PR industry* (2007) and with Nicky Hager, co-authored *Secrets and Lies: the anatomy of an anti-environmental PR campaign* (1999). With Guy Pearse and David McKnight he co-authored *Big Coal: Australia's Dirtiest Habit* (2013).



John Hepburn (Executive Director)

John grew up in Central Queensland where his father worked as an engineer in the coal industry. He completed degrees in business and engineering from the Queensland University of Technology and worked for several years as a production engineer making components for the coal, gas and oil industries, before making a career about-turn. After establishing several successful non-profit recycling businesses, John was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study community based environmental programs in the US and Europe. He has worked on a wide range of environmental issues for over fifteen years including ten years at Greenpeace Australia Pacific where he performed a wide variety of roles including managing the climate and energy campaign, the genetic engineering campaign, and the outreach and mobilisation department. During this time, he also worked for Greenpeace International as an advisor to campaign teams in India, China and Japan.



Erna de Vries (Director and Company Secretary)

Erna is a retired petroleum geologist and financial analyst with a keen interest in sustainability and corporate ethics. She grew up in the Netherlands where she studied Earth Sciences before starting a career as a geologist with international oil and gas companies including Shell, BHP and Ampolex. After working in the UK and Brunei, her career brought her to Australia in the early 1980s. She was immediately struck by the beauty of the landscape and decided to stay. After obtaining her MBA in Sydney, Erna worked as a senior executive in corporate and institutional banking. After working with Bankers Trust, Erna was appointed as Head of Resources Research with Westpac Corporate Banking before moving to a senior risk management position with Commonwealth Bank. During this time she was involved in the financing decisions of many major mining and energy projects. In 2003 she moved to rural NSW, where she became active in community and social justice issues with various volunteer organisations. Besides a passion for protecting the environment, Erna has an interest in philosophy and corporate governance. She is committed to helping steer Australia on a genuinely sustainable course.



Mark Wakeham (Director)

Mark is the CEO of Environment Victoria (EV), one of Australia's leading environmental charities. In his previous role as Campaigns Director with EV he led campaigns for the decarbonisation of Victoria's energy supply, the successful campaign to prevent the proposed HRL coal-fired power station in Victoria, and numerous other Victorian and national campaigns. Prior to working at EV, Mark worked as a campaigner with Greenpeace Australia Pacific for three years where he successfully campaigned for the introduction of renewable energy and energy efficiency targets in Victoria, New South Wales and nationally. Before that he was Coordinator of the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory for five years where he grew the organisation considerably and ran successful campaigns to prevent uranium mining in Kakadu National Park and land clearing in the Daly Basin. He has degrees in economics, Australian History and Adult Education.



Carmel Flint (Director)

Carmel has lived and worked all her life in regional NSW, having spent most of her time in north-west NSW. Carmel trained as a botanist and linguist and now works as an environmental consultant. In her role as Campaign Co-ordinator for the Lock The Gate Alliance, Carmel works with a wide cross-section of the community, including farmers, Traditional Owners, environmentalists, and town residents, to prevent the uncontrolled expansion of coal and gas mining. Carmel is committed to providing support for people and communities that are facing massive pressure from mining giants who threaten their land and water resources. She recognises the power of collective effort and the importance of genuine participation from grassroots groups and the community to deliver lasting social change.



Miranda Nagy (Director)

Miranda is Special Counsel at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, Sydney. She has advised and conducted litigation on behalf of various environmental organisations on many occasions and also practises in the areas of class actions and human rights. From 2004 to 2006 she was a co-chair and board member of the Mineral Policy Institute Inc. She has worked with the Central Land Council and with an Aboriginal community corporation in the Northern Territory and has a particular interest in the interaction between mining development and Indigenous land and native title rights.

Financial statements

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited
ABN: 65 159 324 697

Statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014 (12 months)	2013 (18 months)
REVENUE		
Grants and Donations	\$4,541,750	\$4,042,442
Other income	\$173,228	\$15,391
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,714,978	\$4,057,833
EXPENSES		
Grant funding and donation expenses	\$(2,868,602)	\$(1,992,657)
Program expenses	\$(1,120,492)	\$(487,010)
Operations and administration expenses	\$(634,298)	\$(625,891)
Other expenses	-	\$(63,624)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$(4,623,392)	\$(3,169,182)
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR / PERIOD	\$91,586	\$888,651
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR / PERIOD	\$91,586	\$888,651

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited
ABN: 65 159 324 697

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,180,977	\$924,096
Trade and other receivables	\$115,898	\$79,123
Other current assets	\$8,676	\$7,574
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,305,551	\$1,010,793
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant and equipment	\$6,422	\$6,069
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$6,422	\$6,069
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,311,973	\$1,016,862
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	\$159,580	\$100,473
Other liabilities	\$136,214	-
Short-term provisions	\$35,942	\$27,738
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$331,736	\$128,211
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$331,736	\$128,211
NET ASSETS	\$980,237	\$888,651
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	\$980,237	\$888,651
TOTAL EQUITY	\$980,237	\$888,651

Note: The financial statements have been extracted from the audited financial statements. Surplus funds as at 31 December 2014 will be used to continue the work of The Sunrise Project in 2015.



www.sunriseproject.org.au

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited
ABN: 65 159 324 697