

The Sunrise Project

2016 Annual Review

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited ABN 65 159 324 697



Rally at Gautam Adani's visit to Australia in Townsville, Queensland. Photo: Natasha Mulhall




**We acknowledge
the Traditional Owners
of this country we call
Australia, and their
continuing connection
to land, waters
and community.**

**We pay respect to
their elders past and
present and to the
role that Aboriginal
and Torres Strait
Islander people
continue to play in
caring for country.**

Photo: CSIRO

Table of contents

Letter from the Executive Director	5
Letter from Co-Chairs of the Board of Directors	6
The world we live in	7
Who we are and what we do	8
Our Goals	10
Our Strategies	11
Highlights from 2016	
Protecting the Reef	12
Protecting water, farmland and nature	13
Driving the energy transition	14
Shifting money out of fossil fuels	15
Beyond Coal and Gas Conference	16
Peter Gray Community Action Fund	17
International Program	18
Board and Governance	20
Financial Statements	22

A satellite image of Earth from space, showing a large, swirling storm system over the ocean. The storm has a distinct eye and is surrounded by dense, white clouds. The surrounding ocean is dark blue, and some landmasses are visible in the upper left corner.

**Driven by
the imperative
of climate change,
our mission is to
grow social movements
to drive the transition
from fossil fuels to
renewable energy
as fast as
possible.**

Photo: NASA

Letter from the Executive Director

The clean energy revolution continues to roll on in fits and starts. The centralised and polluting energy systems of the 1900s are showing ever more signs of cracking in the face of the disruptive innovations in clean energy that are sweeping global energy markets. But like the climate system, social and economic change is not linear. And at a time when we need to be running at full speed, it still feels like we are taking two steps forward, one step back.



There is a growing split in Australia between the attitudes and actions of the wider community and the majority of the business community on one hand, and the actions and attitudes of our political representatives on the other. While the community is embracing the clean energy revolution, our Federal Government is actively obstructing renewable energy while pushing ever more subsidies for polluting coal and gas projects.

Perhaps the most extreme example is the proposal to give a \$1 billion concessional loan to support the building of a rail link to open up the Galilee Basin in Central Queensland. At a time when we need to be rapidly reducing carbon pollution and keeping fossil fuel reserves safely sequestered in the ground, it is nothing short of madness for our Government to be using taxpayer subsidies to open up one of the largest untapped deposits of low grade thermal coal on the planet.

The Adani mine exemplifies everything that is wrong with our environmental laws, economic policy and with the mindset of so many of our elected representatives. As a result, the community campaign to stop the Adani mine is shaping up to be the fight of our times.

Our mission at The Sunrise Project is to grow social movements to drive the transition from dirty to clean energy as fast as possible. With governments increasingly obstructing action and lagging behind, our focus has turned to shifting financial markets out of fossil fuels. 2016 saw a real shift in the business and finance community due, in large part, to the momentum generated by the Paris Climate Agreement. Concerns over climate risk have well and truly shifted to the mainstream with global investors increasingly seeing climate change as one of the biggest risks to the financial system.

Our finance program developed significantly in 2016 as we began exploring interventions in the international arena to shift finance from dirty to clean energy. With the election of Donald Trump setting back political action on climate change, maintaining the momentum for climate action in the finance sector is more important than ever. We're excited to be scaling up this work in 2017 and beyond.

As I reflect on another successful year for The Sunrise Project, I'd like to thank the Sunrise team who continue to amaze and inspire me with their tenacity, brilliance and commitment to changing the world for the better. We're a small team but have an oversized impact.

I'd also like to thank the many community groups we have the privilege to work with who, together, are building a social movement that is changing the world. And, as always, I'd like to acknowledge and thank our donors for their steadfast support and for placing their trust in us. Without them, none of our work would be possible.

Onwards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Hepburn', written over a faint, light blue grid background.

John Hepburn
Executive Director

Letter from Co-Chairs, Board of Directors

Against a backdrop of rapid technological and economic change, 2016 felt like a year of disruption. Brexit and Trump sent environmental and social movements around the world into a state of shock, disbelief and fear for the future.



Meanwhile, the ecosystems of the earth showed even more strain from the effects of climate change: the Great Barrier Reef underwent its most significant bleaching event ever, with some regions losing more than 80% of their coral. To make matters worse, in February 2017 scientists confirmed that a second mass coral bleaching event was occurring this year, further threatening the integrity of Australia's best loved ecosystem. Arctic sea ice reached its lowest level ever over the northern summer, making the prospect of an ice-free summer ever more imminent. Australia experienced its hotter summer on record, and yet again 2016 was the hottest year ever recorded.

At the same time, energy use around the world is changing, and it's changing fast. The number of coal-fired power plants under development worldwide saw a dramatic drop in 2016, mainly due to shifting policies in China and India. The Chinese and Indian markets are changing so quickly that the Australian coal export industry should be very worried about its future.

Meanwhile, much of the developed world is shutting down coal plants, with a record-breaking 64 gigawatts of coal plant retirements in the European Union and the US over the past two years, equivalent to almost three times Australia's coal-fired capacity.

The good news is that with a slowing of new coal construction and the retirement of existing plants, we still have a chance of holding global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius, but it will require a momentous acceleration of the energy revolution.

In Australia, a decision was made to close our largest and dirtiest coal plant, the Hazelwood coal plant, by its French owners Engie. This is the ninth, and largest, coal-fired power station to close in Australia in just the past 5 years. However Australia still lacks a national plan to shift its energy and economy away from coal and to renewable power.

Instead, the Australian government seems intent on trying to ignore the energy revolution that is happening across much of the world. There are plans afoot to expand our coal export industry, and proposals for Australia to build a new fleet of coal plants subsidised by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

Throughout all the turmoil of 2016, The Sunrise Project has been working to support social movements across the country and around the world to hasten the transition away from fossil fuels and towards renewables. We owe a huge thank you to the dedicated and brilliant staff of The Sunrise Project who work tirelessly to defend our planet from climate devastation. We would also like to thank our donors who continue to place faith in this organisation and its mission, and acknowledge the work of fellow Board members who give so much of their time to the organisation.

Last but certainly not least, we are deeply indebted to the many community groups, NGOs, ordinary citizens, farmers, traditional owners and community activists who are standing up every day for a better future for all of us. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is for Mark Wakeham and the second is for Aviva Imhof.

Mark Wakeham
Director and Co-Chair

Aviva Imhof
Director and Co-Chair

The world we live in

2016 was the hottest year ever recorded. Before that, 2015 was the hottest year ever recorded, and before that, 2014.

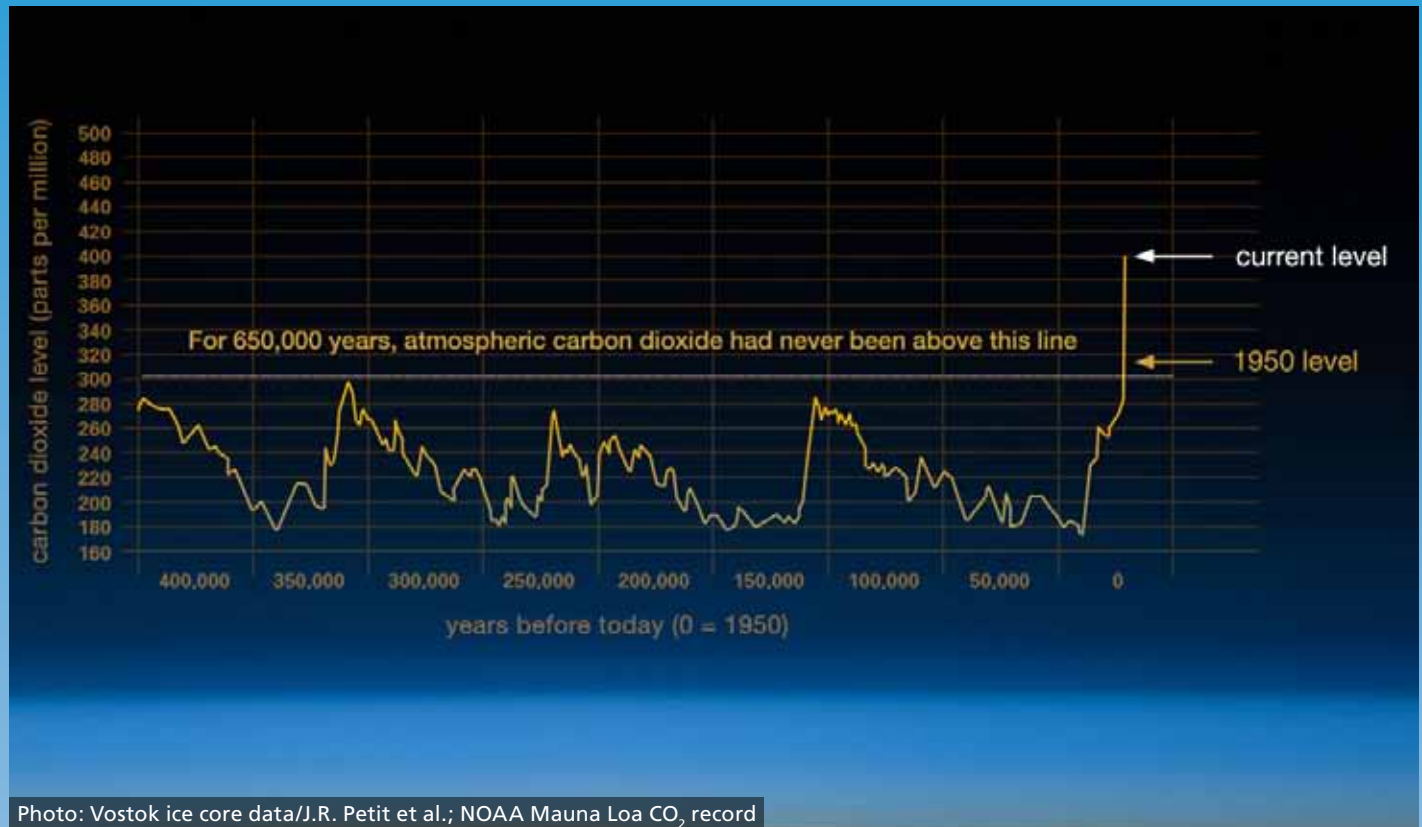
Temperature records continue to be smashed in 2017 making it clear that global warming is not just an issue for future generations, it is happening now.

From unprecedented bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, to the melting of the Arctic ice sheet, sustained drought to extreme flooding, global warming is impacting our world today. For many, it is a life and death issue. The World Health Organisation estimate that between 2030 and 2050 climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000

additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.

For all the talk of limiting global warming to 2 degrees, and staying within 'carbon budgets', the ongoing failure to cut greenhouse pollution means we're on track to create a world of 4, 5 or 6 degrees of warming – with disturbing consequences for life on earth.

It is no exaggeration to say that we face a climate emergency. The time for gradual shifts and half measures is well and truly over. We are rapidly running out of time.





Rally in Melbourne during Gautam Adani's visit to Australia, December 2016
Photo: Julian Meehan

Who we are and what we do

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.

Founded in 2012 out of the need for more urgent and coordinated action to drive the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we're a small organisation with an oversized impact. While the majority of our focus has been Australia, we also do some work at an international level.

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 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.



Hazelwood power station
Photo: Greenpeace/Hunt

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.

One of our roles is nurturing and supporting communities 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 environmental puzzle. We take a ‘whole of systems’ view and 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 provide funding to community organisations through our grants program which supports organisations around Australia and internationally. In addition, our research and analysis provides valuable insight and information on environmental issues to communities to help make environmental protection work more effective. And we support training programs, seminars and conferences to help build skills and relationships across communities working to protect the environment and cut greenhouse pollution here in Australia and internationally.

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 impacted by the problem and it recognises that, through co-operation, the whole can become greater than the sum of its parts.

Our Goals

Cut carbon pollution and hasten the transition to a clean energy economy

- Prevent new fossil fuel projects;
- Help to shift the finance sector out of fossil fuels and into clean energy;
- Hasten the replacement of coal plants with clean, renewable energy;
- Encourage energy efficiency;
- Build public support for stronger climate action at all levels of Government.

Protect nature

- Secure 'no-go zones' and improved regulations to protect groundwater resources, river systems and prime farmland from the impacts of mining;
- 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;
- Build public support for improved environmental protections.



Coral bleaching at Heron Island, February 2016
Photo: The Ocean Agency



Beyond Coal and Gas Conference 2016 Photo: Jeff Tan

Our Strategies

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 fossil fuel industry are accounted for.

Community Education

We 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.

Build community capacity

We support training and other initiatives that build the capacity of local communities to more effectively advocate for the protection of the environment.

Ensure Compliance

While existing laws are often inadequate to protect the environment, even they are often not complied with by companies that routinely breach licence conditions with relative impunity.

Ensuring compliance requires technical, legal and organising capacity to hold industry to account.

Expose corruption and undue political influence

Fossil fuel companies have far too much influence over government. We support those who expose corruption and shine a spotlight on the undue influence of the fossil fuel lobby over our political process.

Highlights from 2016



Protest in Townsville during Gautam Adani's visit to Australia, December 2016
Photo: Natasha Mulhall

Protecting the Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is a global icon and is arguably our most important natural treasure. While it has intrinsic value as a place of immeasurable beauty and biodiversity, it is also the backbone of the Queensland economy, with almost 70,000 directly dependent on the Reef for their livelihoods.

The Reef is facing an existential threat as a result of climate change. 2016 saw unprecedented bleaching taking place that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority estimates resulted in the death of two thirds of the coral in the northern part of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Reef is in danger and our elected politicians continue to fiddle around the edges of the problem. For the Reef to have any chance of surviving, we need to reduce the many local impacts (such as nutrient runoff) and seriously cut greenhouse pollution. There isn't a shortcut or a silver bullet. As custodians of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia has a vested interest in driving global action on climate change and an urgent transition away from coal to clean energy.

Highlights:

Through our grants program and work with our many partner groups, we helped to build pressure for stronger political action to protect the Reef and to cut greenhouse pollution.

During the 2016 coral bleaching, we supported a network of NGOs and scientists to bring public attention to this unprecedented event and to draw the links between climate change and the future of the Great Barrier Reef. We continued our work with local reef communities and international NGOs, helping to raise awareness of the threat posed by the expansion of the Australian coal industry to the Reef.

We continued to support the campaign against Adani's Carmichael coal mine and the proposed expansion of the Abbot Point coal terminal. If built, the Adani project will not only result in increased industrial impacts on the marine environment around Abbot Point, it would also unlock the vast coal reserves of the Galilee Basin – which is incompatible with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.



Farmer Nicky Chirlian who has been fighting coal expansion on the rich farmland of the Liverpool Plains Photo: Kate Ausburn

Protecting water, farmland and nature

In the context of global warming, clean water, good farmland and robust ecosystems are among our most valuable assets. They're also the assets that the coal industry has been treating with disregard for decades. The world renowned Bylong Valley in New South Wales is now all but vacated by farmers as it awaits the opening up of coal mining in some of the most spectacular and rich farmland in Australia. Shenhua continue to push their controversial Watermark project, leaving local farmers in limbo over their economic future. The cancellation of BHP's Carroona coal mine on the productive farmland of the Liverpool Plains was a bright spot in a year that continued to see groundwater and farmland sacrificed to mining companies, with scant regard for the long term impacts.

The sale of two coal mines in Queensland for \$1 each has focussed public attention on the lack of rehabilitation bonds and the ability of mining companies to just walk away from communities, leaving a legacy of environmental destruction.

Highlights:

Through our small grants program we provided financial support to community organisations in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia to commission research into the environmental impacts of mining. We supported independent research into the failure of minesite rehabilitation in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, to help improve the regulatory system that allows miners to avoid their rehabilitation liabilities.

As part of this work, our partners at Environment Victoria and Environmental Justice Australia secured significant improvements in mine rehabilitation bonds in Victoria, creating a new benchmark to help push for stronger reforms in New South Wales and Queensland.

Highlights from 2016



Photo: Charles Cook

Driving the energy transition

Australia has the highest per capita emissions of any nation and has one of the dirtiest electricity supply systems in the world. Last year, Australia's coal-fired power stations burned over 100 million tonnes of coal to produce over 70% of our electricity from large-scale generation facilities. This created over 150 million tonnes of greenhouse pollution. This is the single biggest source of greenhouse pollution in Australia and it is also the key driver of climate and energy politics.

As well as the greenhouse pollution, the costs of health damage associated with the whole Australian coal power station fleet are estimated at \$2.6 billion per annum.

Renewable energy creates more jobs, is safer and is becoming cheaper by the month. Australia is blessed with some of the best solar and wind resources in the world but the growth of renewable energy is being blocked by support for the dirty, old and cheap coal plants that continue to dominate

our electricity system. Here and around the world, the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy is underway. The question for our community, our economy and the global climate, is how quickly it happens and how well it is managed.

Highlights:

We have continued to support Solar Citizens to conduct community education about the benefits of solar power and the speed to which Australian households have been embracing the technology. While politicians continue to bicker and squabble over energy policy, Australian families are leading the way with practical, clean solutions to their energy needs. We commissioned research and supported campaigns that showed that replacing coal plants with 100% renewable energy is not only possible, it is cheaper and easier than most people expect.



Protest at Westpac offices in Melbourne to ask the bank to rule out funding Adani's Carmichael coal mine
Photo: John Englart

Shifting money out of fossil fuels

Increasingly, Governments and policymakers are lagging a long way behind the public and the business community in terms of the transition to a low carbon economy. If we are waiting for elected leaders in the US Congress or the Australian Parliament to act on climate we are in serious trouble.

Financial markets can exhibit herd-like characteristics and are likely to move far more rapidly to create or destroy industries. While they are governed by regulations and policy, it is also clear that financial markets shape the political context in which they operate and in which many other policy decisions are made.

Throughout history, social movements have demonstrated their power time and time again. In most cases their power has been deployed to shift government policy (for example on civil rights, women's rights and labor rights and also to better protect the environment) but movements have also influenced corporate behaviour. Over recent years, in response to the

political stalemate following the Copenhagen Climate Change meeting, the climate movement has increasingly turned its attention to the finance sector. Engagement on climate issues within the finance sector, combined with a thriving and disruptive divestment movement building pressure from the outside, has resulted in huge progress in just a few short years.

Highlights:

The Sunrise Project has supported the divestment movement over recent years. In 2016 we began to explore how we might increase our global impact, hosting workshops in Sydney and San Francisco that brought together senior players from across the finance sector to map out interventions to more rapidly shift finance out of fossil fuels and into clean energy. As a result of these workshops, we have begun an international program focussed on the insurance sector. Our work in Australia continues to focus on ensuring Australia's banks rule out financing new coal projects.

Highlights from 2016



Attendees of Beyond Coal and Gas Conference 2016

Beyond Coal and Gas Conference

The 2016 Beyond Coal and Gas Gathering was bigger and better than ever, with over 300 participants, including over 60 Aboriginal activists from communities impacted by mining and gas extraction. This inspiring event continues to play an invaluable role in building relationships and connections across the movement, cross-pollinating between campaigns and energising and inspiring grassroots community activists.

This year there were over 50 workshops ranging from technical workshops on air pollution, environmental law, groundwater and climate science to detailed training sessions on how to run effective campaigns.

The strong representation from Aboriginal communities enriched the conference and helped to highlight the different challenges facing Indigenous communities as they struggle for land rights and for the protection of country.

For the first time we invested more in building the artistic side of the event, with workshops on how to use art to create more powerful social change, as well as a great lineup of bands and a fantastic impromptu gig by The Sandridge Band from Borroloola in the Northern Territory.



Peter Gray Photo: Jon Reid

Peter Gray Community Action Fund

The Sunrise Project is proud to be able to provide grants to community groups 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.

During 2016 The Sunrise Project provided a wide range of grants for projects. For example, we supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to travel to the Community Energy Congress to explore renewable energy solutions for their communities, which helped see the creation of the First Nations Renewable Energy Alliance.

We provided a grant to the National Centre for Climate Restoration to produce and distribute information to policy makers summarising recent developments in climate science. Other projects supported through our small grants fund include a wide range of community education initiatives, baseline scientific studies, and the provision of expert scientific advice to community organisations.

Highlights from 2016



Protest by groups including Friends of the Earth Japan in front of the Ministry of Finance in Tokyo, Japan, 19 May 2016
Photo: JBIC No coal, Go green project

International Program

The Sunrise Project has been proud to be able to make small grants available to local community groups outside Australia to support them in their efforts to defend their land and rights from destructive, polluting energy projects. Over the past few years we have made small grants to community groups across South East Asia, Africa and South America and in 2016 made grants to groups in The Dominican Republic, Zimbabwe and Japan.

For many communities on the frontline of fossil fuel expansion in the global south, they cannot rely on the rule of law to protect the environment or human rights. We see our solidarity with these communities as an important part of our commitment to climate justice.

Building on our experience working with The Change Agency and the Community Organising Fellowship here in Australia, we worked with partner groups in South East Asia to scope the development of a similar leadership program for climate activists in the region. We are hoping to roll out a pilot program in 2017.

Now that the international small grants program is well established and has an international advisory group, we have passed management of the program to one of our international partner organisations.

While we will no longer be running this small grants program, we will be substantially expanding our international work in 2017 with a focus on shifting finance into clean energy.



Photo: Dean Sewell

Board and Governance

Board of Directors



Aviva Imhof, Director and Co-Chair

Aviva is the Deputy Director of the International Energy Programme at the European Climate Foundation (ECF), which she joined after two years with The Sunrise Project as Pacific Coal Network Coordinator for the international coal network. In this role she supported the activities of a diverse set of groups in the Pacific coal region, working to develop the support structures and infrastructure for the international coal network. Prior to joining The Sunrise Project, Aviva worked with International Rivers first as Southeast Asia Program Director and then as Campaigns Director, managing the organisation's Latin America, Southeast Asia, Africa and re-granting programs. Aviva has extensive experience in campaigning, fundraising, grants management, and financial and organisational management.



Mark Wakeham, Director and Co-Chair

Mark is the CEO of Environment Victoria (EV), one of Australia's leading environmental non-government organisations. He has led successful campaigns to close Hazelwood power station and prevent the proposed HRL coal-fired power station in Victoria. Prior to working at EV, Mark worked as a campaigner with Greenpeace Australia Pacific where he successfully campaigned for the introduction of renewable energy and energy efficiency targets in Victoria, NSW and nationally. Before that he was Coordinator of the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory 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.



John Hepburn, Executive Director

John is the founder and Executive Director of The Sunrise Project. Prior to founding The Sunrise Project in 2012, John spent ten years working in senior positions with 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 mobilization department. Prior to working for Greenpeace, John co-founded several non-profit recycling businesses and worked on a wide variety of environmental campaigns at a grassroots level. John holds degrees in Manufacturing Systems Engineering and Business Management from the Queensland University of Technology and before becoming an activist worked for several years as an engineer making components for the oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries.



Miranda Nagy, Director

Miranda is Principal in Class Actions at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers. Her legal practice is centred on corporate governance, market integrity and consumer protection. She has a long standing interest in environmental protection and has advised and conducted litigation on behalf of 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, Indigenous land and native title rights.



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.



Erna de Vries, Director

Erna is a retired petroleum geologist and financial analyst with a keen interest in sustainability and corporate ethics. She studied Earth Sciences and worked 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. Erna obtained her MBA in Sydney and went on to work as a senior executive in corporate and institutional banking with Bankers Trust and then Westpac as Head of Resources Research and Commonwealth as a senior risk manager. She has been involved in the financing decisions of many major mining and energy projects. For the last 15 years Erna has been an active volunteer in various local community campaigns.



Julie Lyford OAM, Director

Julie is a strong, dedicated and experienced advocate for rural and regional communities. As a former registered nurse, local councillor and mayor, Julie is committed to the core values that build progressive and resilient societies. Her priorities are sustainable, liveable communities with fair, transparent and trustworthy political processes. Julie has extensive board and decision-making experience with Hunter Councils, Regional Development Australia (Hunter), Mid Coast Water, Upper Hunter Arts, tourism and economic development committees. As a young mother concerned about climate change, Julie co-founded the Gloucester Environment Group in 1990 and went on to chair Groundswell Gloucester; a volunteer team protecting the Gloucester and Manning Valley from coal and coal seam gas extraction.



Dave Copeman, Director

Dave is the Lead Organiser of the Queensland Community Alliance, a local alliance of faith groups, charities, unions, community organisations and ethnic associations based on the community organising tradition of the United States. The alliance identifies and trains people to become community leaders and builds stronger communities by encouraging active citizenship across diverse groups. Dave has previously worked as a human rights campaigner for Amnesty International in Queensland and East Africa, after volunteering with the Movement for Democratic Change, the political opposition in Zimbabwe, in 2002-2004. He has also worked on trade union campaigns and for the Queensland Government. Dave grew up in a family committed to environmental activism and preserving our ecology and recognises the importance of communities organising around their common interests through mechanisms other than just electoral politics.

Senior management team

Sam La Rocca, Deputy Director

Sam has over twenty years experience as an activist committed to building people powered movements for a socially just and ecologically sane world. While completing his honours thesis on activist mobilisation, Sam co-founded activist education outfit The Change Agency to deliver campaign training for NGOs and community groups around Australia and the Pacific. He has worked as a senior advisor to the Australian Greens and managed the campaign to successfully re-elect the first Greens lower house federal MP. This campaign is widely regarded as one of the best organising campaigns in recent Australian political history. More recently, Sam facilitated a process within the Climate Action Network to reset the Australian climate movement strategy, before moving to GetUp to lead their Environmental Justice, election and organising strategies.

Beverley Pope, Finance & Operations Manager and Company Secretary

Bev manages The Sunrise Project's office operations, finances and information systems and helps to ensure The Sunrise Project meets its regulatory reporting and compliance obligations. She has many years of experience in both non-profit and commercial environments, working as an Information Analyst for a global energy company and as a Budget Analyst and Project Manager in the insurance, electronics and IT/business systems industries on three continents. After a stint as a Business Management Consultant in Singapore, Bev brought her extensive experience to Australia as Data Analyst and Database Project Leader at Greenpeace Australia Pacific, where she worked to improve data management systems and processes. In mid-2015 Bev was appointed as Company Secretary of The Sunrise Project Australia Ltd.

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 2016

	18 months 2012–13 \$	2014 \$	2015 \$	2016 \$
REVENUE				
Grants and Donations	4,042,442	4,541,750	5,089,393	4,665,541
Other income	15,391	173,228	98,369	70,326
TOTAL REVENUE	4,057,833	4,714,978	5,187,762	4,735,867
EXPENSES				
Grant funding and donation expenses	(1,992,657)	(2,868,602)	(3,093,202)	(2,957,712)
Program expenses	(487,010)	(1,120,492)	(1,088,498)	(1,408,765)
Operations and administration expenses	(625,891)	(634,298)	(650,228)	(610,718)
Other expenses	(63,624)	–	(633)	(44,923)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(3,169,182)	(4,623,392)	(4,832,561)	(5,022,118)
NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	888,651	91,586	355,201	(286,251)
Other comprehensive income	–	–	–	–
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	888,651	91,586	355,201	(286,251)

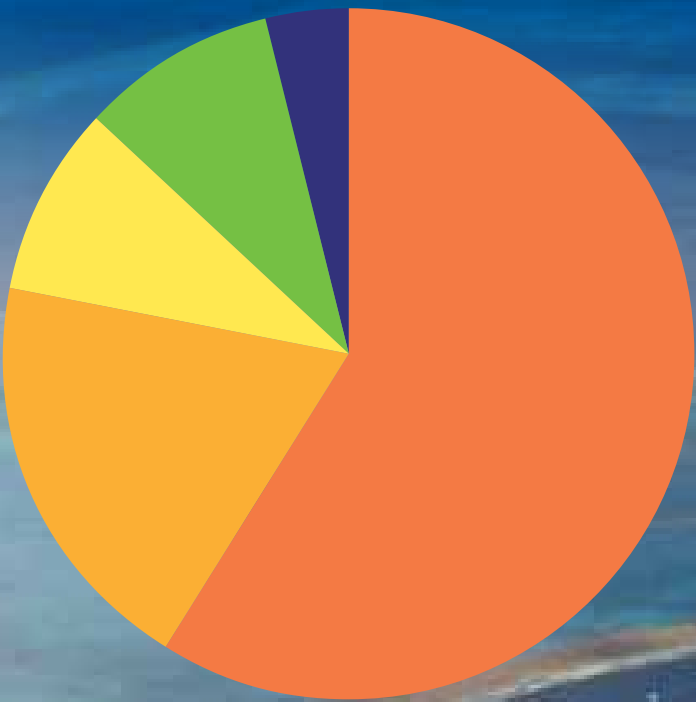
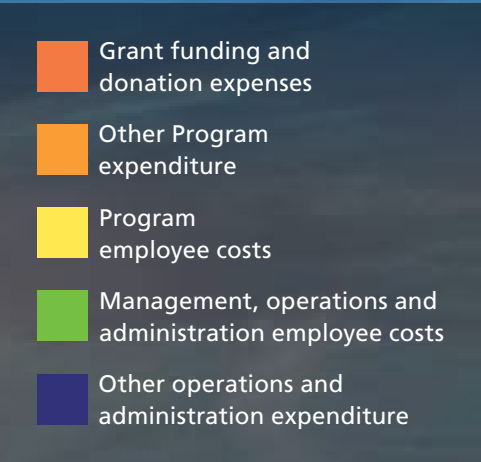
Note: The financial statements have been extracted from the audited financial statements.
Surplus funds as at 31 December 2016 will be used to continue the work of The Sunrise Project in 2017.

Photo: Michael Amendolia

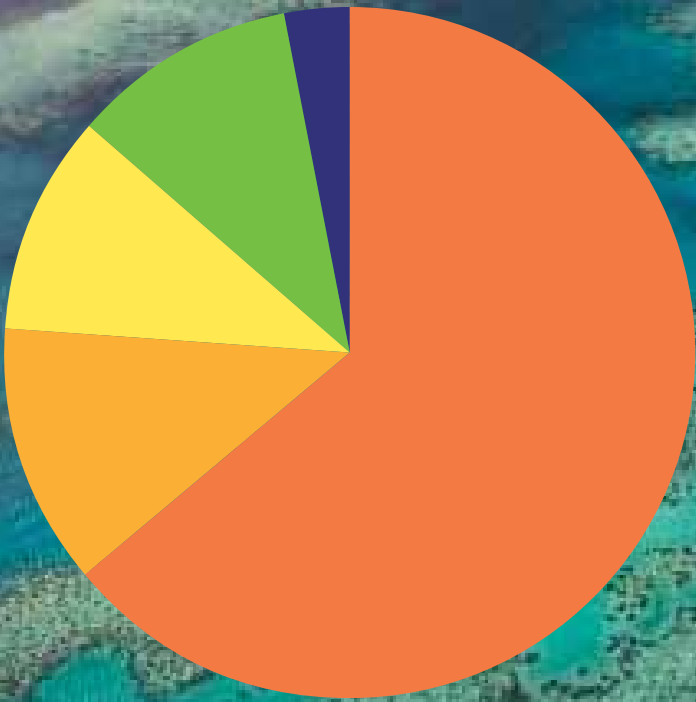
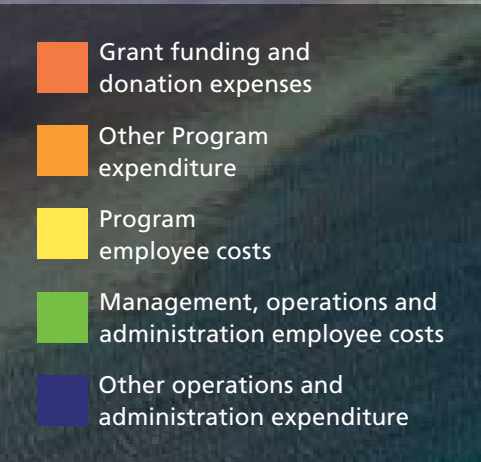
Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016

	18 months 2012–13 \$	2014 \$	2015 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	924,096	1,180,977	1,350,801	964,569
Trade and other receivables	79,123	115,898	158,129	210,672
Other current assets	7,574	8,676	22,152	9,714
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,010,793	1,305,551	1,531,082	1,184,955
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Plant and equipment	6,069	6,422	5,045	9,143
Other assets	–	–	17,000	17,000
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	6,069	6,422	22,045	26,143
TOTAL ASSETS	1,016,862	1,311,973	1,553,127	1,211,098
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Trade and other payables	100,473	159,580	104,156	92,053
Other liabilities	–	136,214	59,680	–
Short-term provisions	27,738	35,942	53,853	51,891
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	128,211	331,736	217,689	143,944
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Provisions	–	–	–	17,967
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	0	0	0	17,967
TOTAL LIABILITIES	128,211	331,736	217,689	161,911
NET ASSETS	888,651	980,237	1,335,438	1,049,187
EQUITY				
Accumulated surplus	888,651	980,237	1,335,438	1,049,187
TOTAL EQUITY	888,651	980,237	1,335,438	1,049,187

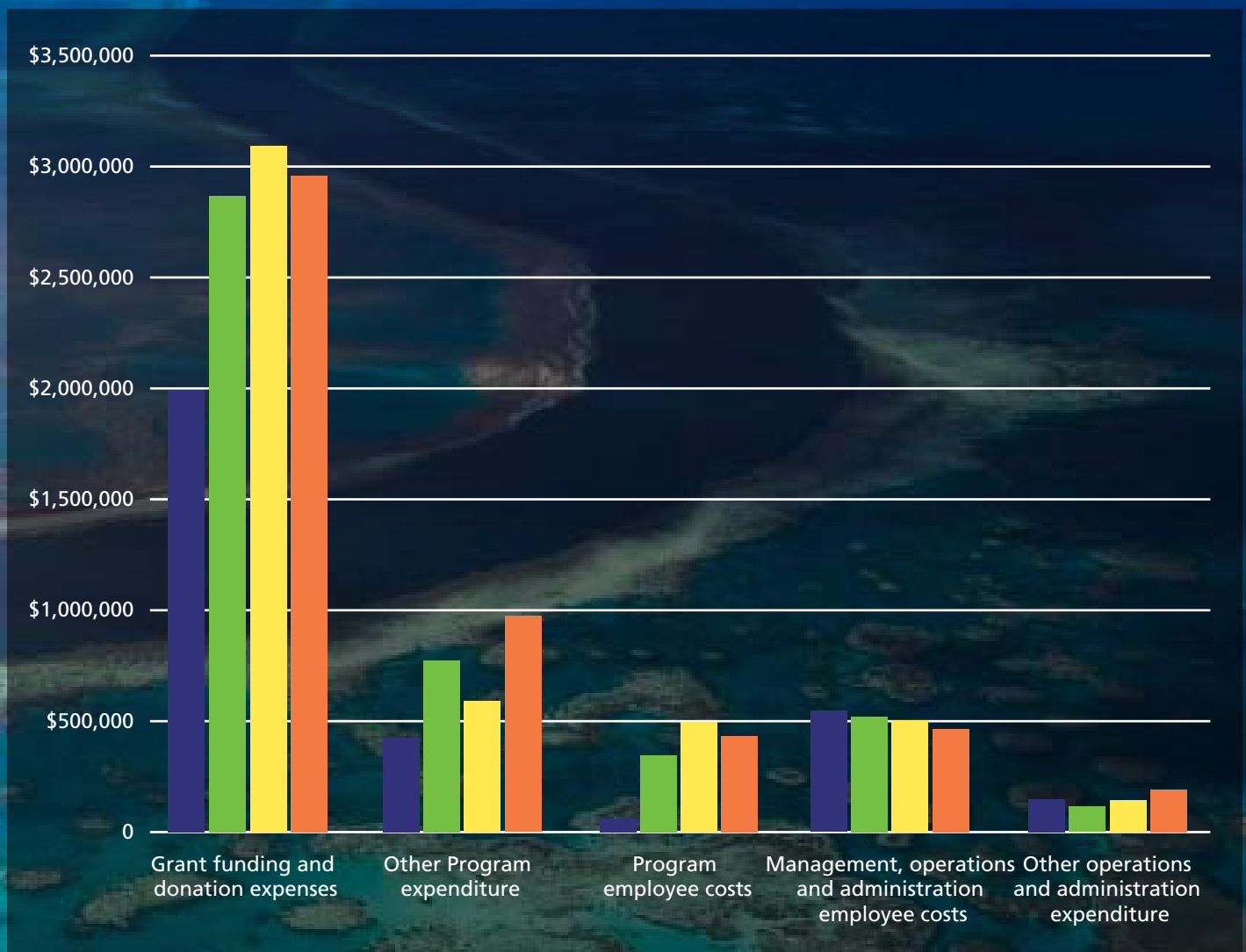
Breakdown of Expenditure 2016

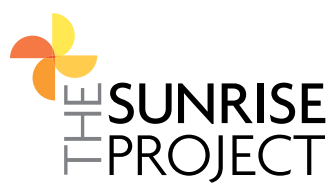


Breakdown of Expenditure 2015



Breakdown of Expenditure over Years





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