

The Sunrise Project

2012–2013 Review

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited ABN 65 159 324 697



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Letter from the Board Chair



Since The Sunrise Project was founded in mid 2012 it has been an amazing journey. The Sunrise Project was conceived as a response to two critical threats. Firstly the reality of global warming and the imperative to cut greenhouse pollution as soon as humanly possible. Secondly, the growing sense that decision-makers in Australia are increasingly prioritising short-term vested interests ahead of the longer-term community interest.

Climate change not only threatens the environment, left unchecked it poses an existential threat to humanity itself. As the International Panel on Climate Change released its stark warning and call to action in March 2014 I was struck by a Sydney Morning Herald headline: "Climate change could make humans extinct, warns health expert".¹ That's a pretty big news story, but it's one many of our political leaders would prefer remained under wraps.

However, our world is changing rapidly and there is also reason for optimism.

The renewable energy revolution has arrived. It is forever altering the energy pathway of both developed and developing nations. When it's cheaper to build and operate a wind farm or solar plant than a polluting coal-fired power station, finance will flood to renewable energy projects and abandon fossil fuels. That moment has already arrived for many parts of the world and is arriving in a new community each day.

Local communities are also getting organised and active, articulating their own vision for a fair, safe environment and a clean energy powered world. And in many cases these communities are winning significant protections for their communities and the climate. At The Sunrise Project, we're proud to be playing a key support role for these communities.

In less than two years we've established an effective and influential new organisation that is playing a vital role in protecting our natural heritage and in the struggle for a safe climate.

I'd like to thank all those who have made The Sunrise Project possible. Our members and donors who have supported our vision, my fellow Board members who have contributed enormously to building an organisation with strong governance, and all the staff and volunteers at The Sunrise Project. And of course I'd like to thank our inspiring founding Executive Director John Hepburn. As the engine room of the organisation, our staff have worked tirelessly and skillfully since day one. Thanks to all of these efforts, The Sunrise Project has a strong foundation upon which to build in coming years.

Finally I'd like to acknowledge those communities and individuals throughout Australia who are working together to protect their homes and the places they love, and to create a safer and better future. We stand with you, are inspired by your vision, and respect your work deeply.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wakeham', followed by a small dot.

Mark Wakeham
Board Chair, The Sunrise Project

¹ <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/climate-change-could-make-humans-extinct-warns-health-expert-20140330-35rus.html>

Letter from the Executive Director

For many of us who are deeply concerned about climate change, the denialism, stop-start policies and power-politics of vested interest groups can be pretty depressing. To make things worse, while our elected representatives delay taking action to cut emissions, they are allowing the destruction of many of the most important assets needed for our community to be resilient in a changing climate – clean water, good farmland and healthy ecosystems. But the world is changing. And there are two unstoppable forces of history on our side.



Just as nobody uses typewriters anymore, our children will not rely on burning coal to boil water for their electricity – they'll just plug directly into the sun via panels on their roof like over three million Australians are already doing. Through the convergence of technological innovation, economies of scale and innovations in finance, renewable energy has finally hit critical mass. It is rapidly becoming a disruptive and unstoppable force of history. The only question is whether renewables will replace fossil fuels fast enough for us to avoid the worst climate change impacts.

The other unstoppable force is people power. Around the world, the people's movement to protect land and water and to hasten the shift beyond fossil fuels is gathering serious momentum.

Here in Australia, over-reach by mining and gas companies at the peak of the boom saw an open-slatheer approach to regulation with companies being given the green light to trample both the natural environment and the rights of local communities from one end of the country to the other. The understandable backlash has seen farmers, tourism operators, fishing communities, conservationists, doctors, religious leaders and climate scientists, and a wide variety of community groups and NGOs, raising their voices to speak up for their environment, communities and jobs, and to oppose the reckless expansion of the Australian coal and gas industries.

For many of these communities, they didn't make a conscious choice to get involved in a conflict with a multinational mining company. They are just doing whatever they can to protect their property, their farm, their community, their livelihood. And they just want it to be over with. Over the past two years there have been two refrains that I've heard over and over again: *"I just wish they'd go away and leave us in peace"* and *"I'm not a greenie but..."*.

The Sunrise Project has taken a "collective impact" approach to supporting these genuinely disparate grassroots social movements, working with them to build common ground between local and global, environmental, social and economic concerns. These movements came together for the first time at the inaugural "Beyond Coal and Gas" movement gathering at Kurri Kurri in the Hunter Valley in May 2013, where over 250 people spent 3 days sharing experiences and skills, listening and learning. This was the first big undertaking by The Sunrise Project and we were proud to be able to create a genuinely open and participative space in which the many different parts of the community could come together.

This conference was a highlight in a truly remarkable year. We started 2013 with two staff, a handful of donors, a pile of ideas and whole lot of determination. We finished the year with a thriving office of six staff, a diverse funding base, a small grants program in place supporting community groups in five states, a global small grants program covering eight countries and a proud list of achievements. Far too much has happened during the year to capture everything, so this report captures just a snapshot of some of the highlights of 2013.

I'd like to thank each and every one of the brilliant staff at The Sunrise Project, our interns and volunteers, the Board and of course our generous donors who share our vision and have placed their confidence in us. But most of all, I'd like to thank all of our grantees and partner groups who are doing the hard work of protecting their communities and creating a better world – day by day.

For the future

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.

Our operating 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.²

In a nutshell, the collective impact model encourages a wide range of community groups to work together to solve common problems. 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.

Collective Impact recognises that social change is not a linear process and that many of society’s most difficult problems are complex and cannot be addressed by single organisations acting alone. As a result, NGOs and philanthropists around the world are increasingly exploring the potential to use a collective impact model to solve a whole range of vexing social and environmental problems.

“The process and results of collective impact are emergent rather than predetermined, the necessary resources and innovations often already exist but have not yet been recognised, learning is continuous, and adoption happens simultaneously among many different organisations. In other words, collective impact is not merely a new process that supports the same social sector solutions but an entirely different model of social progress.”

John Kania & Mark Kramer in the Stanford Social Innovation Review January 2013.³

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

“Collective Impact recognises that social change is not a linear process and that many of society’s most difficult problems are complex and cannot be addressed by single organisations acting alone.”

Pictured: PS10 Solar Plant

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

³ http://www.ssireview.org/blog/entry/embracing_emergence_how_collective_impact_addresses_complexity



Objectives

Our overall **objectives** are to:

1. Protect natural assets and community health

- Protect clean water resources
- Protect farmland
- Protect community health
- Protect the Great Barrier Reef
- Protect biodiversity and special natural places

2. Hasten the transition to a clean energy economy

- Promote renewable energy
- Prevent large scale greenhouse pollution from fossil fuels

To achieve these objectives, we use the following **key strategies**:

- Facilitate and promote community education in relation to the impacts of resource extraction and the transition to a low carbon economy;
- Monitor and ensure industry compliance with existing regulations;
- Improve regulation and government policy affecting resource extraction;
- Expose corruption and undue political influence in the regulatory process relating to mining and energy;
- Build the capacity of communities to participate in decision-making concerning resource extraction in their local areas.

Highlights from 2012–2013

Protecting Water

From Sydney's water catchment to the desert uplands of Central Queensland, the rapid expansion of coal and coal seam gas mining is threatening our vital groundwater and river systems. Underground mining in Sydney's drinking water catchment has cracked riverbeds, while there is growing concern over aquifer contamination from coal seam gas. In response, communities are standing together to protect clean water – our most precious of resources.



^ Protecting Our Water

"We all suffer if food growing regions and water resources are damaged. Without a secure water supply we have nothing."

Coonamble farmer, **Anne Kennedy**, president of the NSW Artesian Bore Water Users Association.

Highlights:

Through our small grants program and as a partner in the *Our Land, Our Water, Our Future* campaign, The Sunrise Project has played an important role in supporting local communities in NSW and around Australia to preserve clean water resources. Our grants have enabled several community groups to engage scientific and technical experts to consider the water impacts of large-scale mining projects in sensitive areas, to develop educational materials, to hold public meetings, and help to ensure that companies and decision makers are accountable to the community.

v Sydney Water Catchment, Nattai



Highlights from 2012–2013

Protecting Farmland

From the black soils of the Liverpool Plains in NSW, to the celebrated Margaret River region in WA, from the rich farming areas of Victoria's Gippsland, to the Belyando River floodplain in Central Queensland, much of Australia's most important farmland is under threat from the expansion of industrial gas fields and large-scale mining.

"The future of beautiful Gloucester hangs in the balance. We face two open-cut coalmines and gas fields that threaten to fully industrialise our idyllic home. We will not stand aside as mining companies profit while doing long-term damage to our sustainable agriculture industries."

Julie Lyford, Chair, Groundswell Gloucester, former Mayor of Gloucester, Hunter Valley, NSW.⁴

Highlights:

The Sunrise Project has worked alongside many farming communities to help them to make their voices heard. Through our small grants program we supported the community of Gloucester to open up a shop front in the main street of this historic town. Here community members can learn about the impacts of mining and gas development on the farmland and unique hydrogeology of the Gloucester Valley. The Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign is bringing together farmers and communities from across NSW to create "no-go zones" for mining and gas so that our precious drinking water catchments and farmland can be protected for future generations.



> Coal mine,
Liverpool Plains,
NSW

v Liverpool Plains farmland, NSW



⁴ <http://www.groundswellgloucester.com>



^ Coal Terminal Action Group billboard, Newcastle, NSW

Protecting Health

The health impacts of coal are becoming increasingly acute, with regular breaches of air quality standards in the Hunter Valley and in other towns and regions affected by coal mining. Plans to build a fourth coal export terminal in Newcastle have created widespread concern among residents already impacted by dust from coal trains and stockpiles – concerns echoed by communities in Brisbane, Jondaryan, Mackay and elsewhere.

In an explosive revelation in 2013, the Newcastle-based Coal Terminal Action Group uncovered evidence that a report on levels of particulate matter from coal trains, commissioned by the Australian Rail Track Corporation and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, had been doctored to significantly downplay pollution levels.

“Newcastle residents are already, according to the World Health Organisation, experiencing levels of particulates in the air that they breathe that are injurious to their health.”

Doctors for the Environment Australia.⁵

“Newcastle is the world’s largest coal exporting port, and most people are concerned about the potential health impacts of coal dust. We grew impatient with the EPA’s failure to monitor pollution from the 4 million uncovered coal wagons that pass through our city each year, so we did our own pollution monitoring.”

James Whelan, Coal Terminal Action Group.

Highlights:

The Sunrise Project provided seed funding for the creation of a community-led coal dust monitoring program in Newcastle. Our initial funding enabled the local community group to bring in expert technical assistance on air quality monitoring, and to build the capacity to crowd-source additional funding for the program. We also supported health professionals to provide technical support to communities suffering the negative health impacts of fossil fuel extraction and transport.

⁵ http://dea.org.au/images/uploads/submissions/T4_Coal_Port_Expansion_-_Newcastle_05-12v2.pdf

Highlights from 2012–2013

Protecting the Great Barrier Reef

In Queensland, the rush to approve massive liquid natural gas (LNG) developments on Curtis Island in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area saw a serious failure of the regulatory system and widespread negative environmental impacts in Gladstone Harbour – triggering an investigation by UNESCO. With a series of large coal export ports proposed from one end of the Great Barrier Reef to the other there are concerns that, in the rush to expand coal exports, the problems that occurred in Gladstone will be repeated elsewhere.

Concern over the multitude of threats to the reef, including industrial port developments, has led the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO to warn that the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area may be placed on the “World Heritage in danger” list.

The threat to the reef has generated an unprecedented level of community engagement, with over 1.5 million people from around the globe lobbying the Australian Government to protect this irreplaceable natural asset from inappropriate development. A combination of UNESCO scrutiny, growing public concern and poor market conditions saw a range of companies withdraw from port developments in the World Heritage Area during 2013, including Glencore Xstrata, BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Anglo, and Lend Lease.

✓ Gladstone Port Development, Great Barrier Reef



✓ Rally for the Reef, Brisbane, Qld, 2013



The [UNESCO] World Heritage Committee...

Notes with great concern the potentially significant impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value resulting from the unprecedented scale of coastal development currently being proposed within and affecting the [Great Barrier Reef], and further requests the Australian Government to not permit any new port development or associated infrastructure outside of the existing and long-established major port areas within or adjoining the property, and to ensure that development is not permitted if it would impact individually or cumulatively on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Decision 36 COM 7B.8 of the World Heritage Committee, 2012.⁶

“I just don’t understand, why are we allowing international companies to come here and establish a coal export industry that we know will be the end of the Great Barrier Reef? ... It’s our grandchildren who will have to live through the damage they do.”

June Norman, 72 year old great grandmother of eight.

Highlights:

A grant from The Sunrise Project assisted the Keppel and Fitzroy Delta Alliance (KAFDA) to host the Fitzroy Delta Festival and raise awareness of this important marine ecosystem and the threat of industrial port development there. KAFDA had a big win in their campaign to protect the Fitzroy Delta, with Glencore Xstrata pulling out of the controversial Balacava Island coal port and then Opposition Leader Tony Abbott voicing opposition to new ports in the area in the run up to the 2013 election. Our small grants program also supported Queensland great-grandmother June Norman in her epic and inspiring “Reef Walk” – 1,200km from Cairns to Gladstone – to raise community awareness of the threats to the reef.

⁶ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4657>

Protecting Precious Natural Places

Australians have come to expect that precious natural areas are protected from industrial development. The reality is that state forests, nature refuges, drinking water catchments and other high conservation value areas are now at threat from coal mining and gas expansion. The gentle pursuit of bushwalking is banned from some areas of Sydney's drinking water catchment, yet NSW laws permit long-wall mining to undercut these same areas, causing subsidence and cracking the beds of great rivers such as the Nepean. The Bimblebox Nature Refuge – one of the last wildlife refuges in the desert uplands region of Central Queensland – faces devastation from a proposed open cut coal mine. The botched rehabilitation of subsidence from a coal mine underneath the Sugarloaf state forest in the Hunter Valley created a river of concrete. The list goes on...

"Over 95% of Bimblebox Nature Refuge is composed of remnant woodland... saved from clearing when most properties around here were having their vegetation knocked down. It contains some of the richest plant diversity in the region. [If the Galilee Coal Mine goes ahead] we will lose so much we will never get a chance to know and understand what we have lost."

Paola Cassoni, Farmer and Bimblebox co-owner.⁷

v Sugarloaf Creek, NSW, botched repair of coal mine subsidence creates river of concrete



Photo: Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Highlights:

In NSW, where 78% of the state is subject to mining licences and applications, The Sunrise Project has joined with over 70 community groups in the *Our Land, Our Water, Our Future* campaign. One of the campaign's key aims is to establish no-go zones to protect areas of high conservation value from mining and gas development. Through our grants program we have provided technical support to a number of community groups in Queensland and NSW to conduct baseline ecological studies, to enable comprehensive research and evaluation of the environmental impacts of major projects.



^ Bimblebox Nature Reserve, Qld

⁷ http://www.cccqld.org.au/media/Bimblebox_Palmer_gaffe_1-12-2011.pdf

Highlights from 2012–2013

Hastening the Clean Energy Transition

There is increasing consensus 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. While many governments and organisations, from the World Health Organisation to the US Department of Defense, are responding to the threat of climate change, the pace of action falls far short of what is required.

However, despite the lack of a sufficient global political response to climate change, the world is already in the midst of a clean energy revolution. The combination of technological developments, economies of scale and innovations in finance are driving down the costs of renewable energy (particularly solar photovoltaic) at a speed that was thought impossible just a few years ago.

Three million Australians now live with solar panels on their roof and this number grows every month. This is changing not only the economics of electricity generation but also changing the relationship that Australians have with their power. Renewable energy is becoming increasingly accepted and widespread. Increasingly, the structural decline of fossil fuels is seen as inevitable. As often happens, policymakers are lagging behind the community and investors.

“The world is making policy decisions which mean that coal usage, in my view, will progressively decline. It’s a long-term structural change and that should not be dismissed as something that is purely cyclical.”

Colin Barnett, West Australian Premier. 29 July 2013⁸

Highlights

As part of our program to promote renewable energy, The Sunrise Project supported the Solar Citizens campaign to develop a series of briefing papers on solar energy to provide up-to-date information on the costs of renewable energy to policy makers. In May 2013 we organised a visit to Australia by Srinivas Krishnaswamy from the Vasudha Foundation for a speaking tour about the reality of energy poverty in India and the role of distributed renewable energy. We also provided a grant to Environment Victoria to document the scale of federal government subsidies to the fossil fuel sector and to advocate for these massive subsidies to be redirected to socially beneficial purposes.

⁸ <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/in-depth/coal-facing-a-structural-decline/story-fnivd8cj-1226671643971>

▼ Hastening the clean energy transition



Photo: Solar Citizens



Photo: Dean Sewell



^ v Community Organising Fellowship

Community Organising Fellowship

At The Sunrise Project, we believe passionately in the power of social movements to change the world. Time and again movements have accomplished their goals by organising and mobilising the community to become so powerful that they can no longer be ignored by decision-makers. From the civil rights movement in the US, to worker 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 to take action. 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 to help train 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 project will develop, trial and evaluate a comprehensive training course for community organisers that integrates the best international experience with the learnings of the Australian environment movement over the last decade. The first cohort of 25 participants was recruited in late 2013 and undertook the first intensive ten-day training program in March 2014.



Highlights from 2012–2013

Our Land, Our Water, Our Future – Beyond Coal and Gas conference

From 18-20 May 2013, over 270 people gathered in Kurri Kurri in NSW for the inaugural Our Land, Our Water, Our Future – Beyond Coal and Gas conference. It was the first major undertaking for The Sunrise Project and was a resounding success. The “Kurri Kurri meeting” as it is now known, was an historic event, which brought together farmers, scientists, students, climate activists, health professionals and representatives from large and small community organisations. Participants spanned three generations, drawn from both rural and urban communities from every state and territory in Australia except the Northern Territory. Around 85 different organisations were represented, ranging from large NGOs to volunteer-run community groups based in rural and regional areas.

The aim of the meeting was to bring together communities from one end of the country to the other concerned about climate change or impacted by coal and gas expansion in order to share experiences, learn from and support one another. For many communities that find themselves defending the place they love from a multinational mining company, it can be a hard and lonely experience. An important role of the Kurri Kurri meeting was to connect these people with each other and with wider support networks.

We took a risk with the program and allocated a substantial part of the agenda to “Open Space” workshops whereby the participants shaped the agenda through an open, participatory and transparent process at the start of the meeting.

In addition to the open space workshops, there were also keynote talks from a wide number of prominent thinkers, experts and community leaders. Some highlights include:

- Paul Gilding, author of *The Great Disruption*, discussed the mega-trends sweeping the global energy economy;
- Srinivas Krishnaswamy from the Vasudha Foundation talked about the reality of energy poverty in India and the growing movement for decentralised renewable energy there;
- Mark Diesendorf from the University of New South Wales gave a detailed overview of how Australia can shift to 100% renewable energy;
- Ailun Yang from the World Resources Institute gave participants an overview of recent developments in Chinese energy policy.

We’ll be building on the success of the 2013 event with a follow up conference in October 2014.



Photo: James Alcock



Photo: Jon Reid



Photo: Jon Reid



Photo: James Alcock





Photo: James Alcock

^ v Beyond Coal and Gas conference, Kurri Kurri, NSW



Photo: Jon Reid



Photo: Jon Reid



Photo: James Alcock



Photo: James Alcock



Photo: James Alcock

Highlights from 2012–2013

✓ Farmers and Traditional Owners present NSW MPs with 10,000 signature petition, campaign launch



Our Land, Our Water, Our Future campaign

In response to the need to build a common voice for the countless communities that are standing up to protect the places they love, The Sunrise Project partnered with over 75 community groups from around NSW to launch the *Our Land, Our Water, Our Future* campaign.

The *Our Land, Our Water, Our Future* campaign comes from an appreciation of the old adage, “united we stand, divided we fall”. By joining together, the groups are working to build a movement that is greater than the sum of its parts and attempting to restore some balance to the system regulating mining in NSW – a system that has been shown by successive Independent Commission Against Corruption inquiries to be tainted by corruption, and in which communities have increasingly lost faith.

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, the goal of the campaign is 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 participatory democracy and fundamental rights to planning and approvals processes around coal and gas; to enable landowners to refuse coal and gas companies access to their land, and local councils to veto mining; and to restore meaningful appeal rights to people affected by mining projects that would damage their social and economic futures.

The *Our Land, Our Water, Our Future* campaign will continue throughout 2014 and 2015 until the protections that are so urgently needed are secured.

✓ Our Land, Our Water, Our Future website





< Poowong, Vic, Coal & CSG Free Declaration, supported by Peter Gray Fund

Community Grants

Peter Gray Community Action Fund

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

During 2012–2013 The Sunrise Project provided a wide range of grants for projects as diverse as engaging musicians and artists in the campaign to protect water catchments from the impacts of coal and gas expansion; providing renewable energy briefings for policy makers; and enabling community groups to effectively participate in the regulatory process by engaging scientific and technical experts to evaluate the impacts of mining projects.



Photo: Philippines Movement for Climate Justice

International Small Grants Program

In 2013, with the generous support of a European philanthropic foundation, we established an international small grants fund to build the capacity of community organisations in developing countries. A key focus of the program is to build technical capacity to monitor air and water pollution and to support effective policy development to align energy and environmental policies with international best practice. The program consists of grants of up to a maximum of \$10,000 each.

< National Day of Action Against Coal, Philippines, supported by an International Small Grant

Organisational Report

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 and is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

The Sunrise Project started 2013 with two staff and finished the year with six. In 2012 and 2013 we worked hard to establish a diverse funding base for the core Sunrise program, as well as supporting grantees and partner groups to build their own fundraising capacity. During this time we built relationships with new major donors to support our program, including securing support for the international small grants program.

Governance

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited is directed by a Board that seeks to uphold high standards of governance in the achievement of the Company's mission so that our members, our donors, regulators, and the communities with whom we work can have confidence in the Company.

The Board seeks to ensure there is a range of expertise represented within it. Mark Wakeham was appointed Chair of the Board during 2013, replacing John Hepburn who had played the role of interim Board Chair during the establishment phase of the Company. Also during 2013, Erna de Vries joined the Board, bringing extensive financial management experience. Blair Palese left the Board due to other commitments and the Board is grateful for her contribution to the Company.

In its first financial year, the Board undertook training and implemented systems to assist it in meeting its legal and ethical obligations. This included expanding the scope of the finance sub-committee of the Board to include Finance, Risk, Audit and Compliance (FRAC) functions. This sub-committee consists of John Hepburn, Miranda Nagy and Erna de Vries.

In 2014, the Board will continue to build on its governance systems, work towards Board succession, and carefully monitor foreshadowed developments in charity regulation so as to ensure that the Company responds quickly and appropriately to any changed regulatory environment.

Board of Directors



Mark Wakeham (Chair)

Mark is the Campaigns Director for Environment Victoria (EV), one of Australia's leading environment non-government organisations. In that role he has led campaigns for the replacement of Hazelwood power station, 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 5 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.



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)

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 1980's. 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. Beside a passion for protecting the environment, Erna has a keen interest in philosophy, ethics and corporate governance. She is committed to helping steer Australia on a genuinely sustainable course.



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 has 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 and Company Secretary)

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.



Bob Burton (Director)

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).

Financial statements

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited
ABN: 65 159 324 697

Statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the period 3 July 2012 to 31 December 2013

	\$
Revenue	4,042,442
Other income	15,391
Grant funding and donation expenses	(1,992,657)
Employee benefits expenses	(603,864)
Operating expenses	(412,476)
Administration expenses	(72,854)
Occupancy expenses	(22,194)
Depreciation expenses	(1,513)
Other expenses	(63,624)
Net surplus before income tax	888,651
Income tax expense	-
Net surplus for the period	888,651
Other comprehensive loss	-
Total comprehensive income for the period	888,651

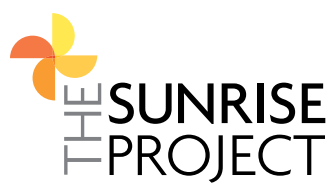
The Sunrise Project Australia Limited
ABN: 65 159 324 697

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2013

\$

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	924,096
Trade and other receivables	79,123
Other current assets	7,574
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,010,793
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
Plant and equipment	6,069
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	6,069
TOTAL ASSETS	1,016,862
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Trade and other payables	100,473
Short-term provisions	27,738
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	128,211
TOTAL LIABILITIES	128,211
NET ASSETS	888,651
EQUITY	
Accumulated surplus	888,651
TOTAL EQUITY	888,651

Note: The financial statements have been extracted from the audited financial statements.
Surplus funds raised in 2012-2013 will be used to continue the work of the Sunrise Project in 2014.



www.sunriseproject.org.au

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