



2021

Annual Review

A low-angle photograph of a tree with white bark and green leaves against a blue sky. The tree's branches and leaves are silhouetted against the sky, creating a complex pattern of lines and colors. The white bark of the tree is prominent in the foreground, while the green leaves fill the upper and right portions of the frame. The sky is a clear, light blue color.

We acknowledge and pay respect to First Nations Peoples around the world and the many communities who are on the front lines of the struggle for climate justice.

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Letter from the Chair

This year marks ten years since The Sunrise Project was established. From an audacious plan and inspiring idea by John Hepburn, and the support of a small handful of donors, we have grown into a truly global organisation with a team of over 100 people working across 12 countries.

Working in partnership with an increasingly diverse and growing network of think tanks, NGOs, investors, and grassroots activists, we're proud of the impact we've had over the past year, and the past decade, to hasten the transition beyond fossil fuels and to renewable energy.

In 2021, we significantly expanded our grants program, making over \$33 million in grants to organisations in Australia and around the world.

But as the latest IPCC reports demonstrate, the clock is ticking fast, so we need to continue to be bold, innovative and agile to scale our impact.

While global climate action moves forward in fits and starts, in Australia the community has spoken loud and clear - with voters making climate change a top priority in the 2022 election, bringing new optimism that Australia can finally transform from laggard to leader.

As Sunrise has expanded globally, the board has been focussed on ensuring our organisational structures and governance remain fit-for-purpose, lean and focussed



on maximising impact towards our mission. As a result of this work, we are in the process of developing a new global legal structure and governance model which we aim to transition to over the coming year.

Over the last year, the board has also done a major review of our risk management approach as well as a comprehensive review of our governance policies and practices to ensure we continue to uphold the highest standards of governance and remain compliant through this period of rapid growth.

As this annual review shows, we have achieved significant wins over the last year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made those wins happen.

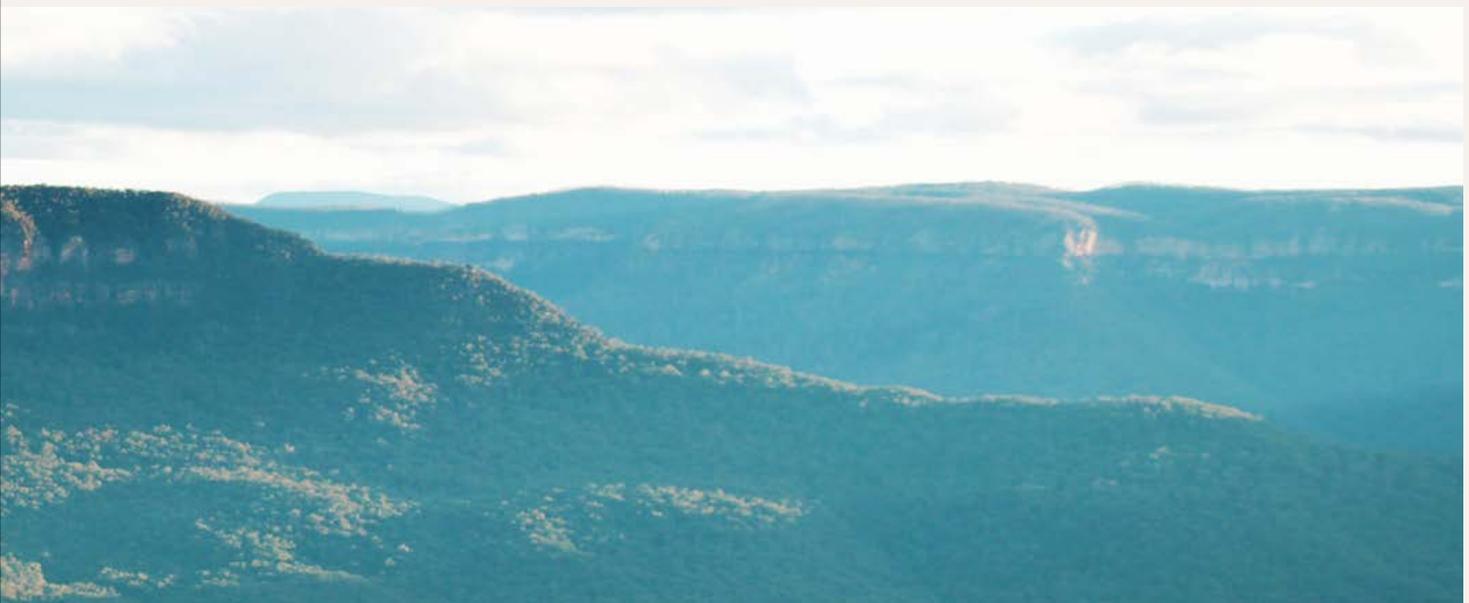
I would like to thank all my Board colleagues - Catherine, Erna, Giles, John, Miranda, Sam and Sudha - for their expertise, hard work, advice, support and wise counsel. And special thanks to Aviva Imhof, who is stepping off the Board after seven years of service, including as Board Chair.

As always, deepest thanks to our funding partners for their steadfast and ongoing support. Thanks to our dedicated staff team for their relentless passion, optimism, and skill, and to the incredible network of courageous partners and movements that we have the privilege to support and to work alongside.

2022 is shaping up to be another momentous year in the urgent but long struggle for climate justice.



Claire Mallinson
Chair of the Board



Letter from the Executive Directors

In November 2021, at the conclusion of COP26, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties in Glasgow, world leaders debated whether to “phase out” or “phase down” the use of coal-fired power. That seems a perfectly normal conversation to be having at a meeting of world leaders on climate change. But the remarkable thing is that 2021 is the first time it has happened.

The fact that it took 26 years for the single biggest cause of global warming (the mining and burning of coal) to be front and centre of the conversation about global warming is a damning indictment on the failures of global leaders to tackle climate change. And it demonstrates just how effective the relentless campaign of denial, obfuscation and opposition by the fossil fuel industry has been.

Now it seems that everyone supports climate action. Another feature of the Glasgow COP was the continual stream of net zero announcements devoid of any real substance, creating a massive risk that greenwash is becoming a new form of climate denial. We can't spin our way out of a climate catastrophe. Limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees is going to require keeping coal, oil, and gas in the ground - and that remains a key test for the avalanche of “commitments” coming from the corporate sector.

As the impacts of climate change intensify, the urgency to transition beyond fossil fuels has never been clearer. We're serious about the challenge of scaling our collective impact. As a result, Sunrise grew substantially in size in 2021, in terms of staff as well as grants made to our growing number of movement partners around the world. Amidst such rapid growth, we're committed to the work of building justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion into our programs,



United Nations
Climate Change

who we are as an organisation, and how we work. While we're making progress, the depth of structural inequalities mean that there is a vast gulf between the world as it is and the world as we would like it to be. We recognise that we have a long way to go to be powerful allies in the movement for climate justice.

We're incredibly proud of the amazing Sunrise team and the impact they're having. From shifting the world's biggest insurers to stop underwriting coal, oil and gas through to stopping new coal mines and winning ambitious clean energy policies in Australia, our teams have supported networks of organisations around the world to achieve some incredible outcomes that will have flow-on impacts in creating the systemic change that we so urgently need.

We'd like to thank the Sunrise team and our movement partners for their courage and creativity, relentless tenacity, and for their continued ability to achieve change that people thought was impossible. Our deepest gratitude goes to our network of funding partners, who place their trust in us to turn our shared ideas into real world change.

Onwards.



John Hepburn

Founder and Co-Executive Director,
Sunrise Australia



Sam La Rocca

Co-Executive Director,
Sunrise Australia



**UN CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Who we are & what we do

OUR MISSION

Driven by the imperative of climate justice, The Sunrise Project's mission is to scale social movements to drive the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy as fast as possible.

THE PROBLEM

We're rapidly running out of time to transition from fossil fuels to clean energy to avoid catastrophic global heating. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, the world needs to stop expanding fossil fuel production immediately and rapidly phase out legacy fossil fuel infrastructure. Yet governments and fossil fuel companies are planning to expand fossil fuel reliance, which will further deepen and accelerate the catastrophic climate impacts we are already experiencing.

Despite renewable energy being cheaper than fossil fuels, the fossil fuel industry's power and incumbency means that we need more than technology and economics alone to drive a clean energy transition at the scale and pace required.

But solving the climate crisis isn't just about the speed of the transition to clean energy. Climate change is fundamentally a justice issue – the people most affected by global warming are the least responsible for creating the problem. Building justice into climate solutions is critical.

OUR MODEL: SCALING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

To solve a problem as complex as global warming, we need a diverse range of strategies, led by diverse networks of individual, groups and organisations working towards common goals. In other words, we need social movements.

Over the past decade, The Sunrise Project has refined a model of “networked change” that supports networks of people and organisations to work together to achieve large-scale change that wouldn't be possible to achieve alone.

Supporting powerful movements to accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy and to advance climate justice requires in-depth understanding of the complex systems we're trying to influence. It requires an understanding of how power operates and how the interplay between political, economic, technological, social and cultural forces shape how decisions are made.

From working with impacted communities through to business leaders, from deep inside engagement to outside pressure, and from sophisticated policy analysis to mass public communications, our teams work with diverse networks to drive corporate and regulatory change that has flow-on impacts in the complex systems of the global economy.



WHAT WE DO

Our team of experienced change makers essentially do six things:

- 1** Research and analyse the political, social and economic systems driving the climate crisis

- 2** Design strategies for multi-partner efforts that create systemic change

- 3** Partner with philanthropies to resource these strategies
- 4** Fund networks of organisations and support them to work together for collective impact

- 5** Support organisations and movements to build their capacity and sharpen their impact

- 6** Drive strategic interventions that will hasten the transition beyond fossil fuels.

7 Our People & Culture

When Sunrise started in Australia in 2012, we envisioned winding up after 5 years. A decade later, we have a staff of over 100 people across 12 countries and continue to grow rapidly as we step up to the climate challenge.

As in any organisation, our people and culture are the most important thing. We work hard to hire great people and support them to do great work. Our teams operate with a high level of autonomy and flexibility to adapt to a rapidly changing world. Our general philosophy is to be tight on goals, aligned on values, and then give program teams the freedom to run fast, take risks, and change direction as needed.

We're serious about living our values and while this is a continual work in progress, we're proud of our efforts to create a vibrant, healthy, and creative team culture and a workplace where our people support each other and feel that they can bring their whole selves to work.



Our Values



Prioritise Relationships:

We understand that the quality of our relationships determines the effectiveness of our actions. We actively nurture honest, healthy relationships of mutual respect in our team and with our movement and funding partners.

We don't live single issue lives:

It is a long road to climate justice but we are committed to doing the work we can today so we are closer tomorrow. We challenge structural inequality and strive to bring justice in our programs, the movements we are part of, and our own organisation.



It's not about us:

We're here to play a part in scaling social movements that can change the world. We prioritise enabling others to do their best work rather than trying to do it ourselves. We understand how much can be achieved if you don't need to take the credit for it and we generously celebrate the work of others.



Come on, it's 2022:

We relentlessly ask:
'What is required to solve the climate crisis?'

We push ourselves to imagine and implement the scale of action required. We move quickly and are willing to risk failing (fast) in pursuit of large scale systemic change.



Dare to lead:

We support each other to have the courage to step up and lead, to take initiative and to solve problems when we see them.



The Australian Story

Australia has the resources to become a global leader in climate solutions by transforming the way we generate and export energy and engage in international diplomacy. When historian Donald Horne wrote that “Australia is a lucky country run by second rate people who share its luck,” he could well have been describing the recent generations of Australian political and corporate leaders and their failure to harness the bounty of renewable energy we are blessed with in Australia.

The biggest opportunity for Australia this century is to keep billions of tonnes of potential greenhouse pollution in the ground by replacing our current fossil fuel export industries with exports of renewable energy and renewably manufactured products, and energy sources such as green iron, hydrogen and clean-energy goods and services. As the world’s largest exporter of both iron ore and lithium, we can have a disproportionate impact on entire sectors of the global economy, such as steel production and transport.

Our geography gives us outstanding solar and wind resources alongside proximity to rapidly growing Asian energy markets that will need to import clean energy fuels and other inputs to meet their net zero emissions targets.

We are at a moment of choice in Australia. If we continue to push polluting old-economy products on nations in our region, we guarantee a hotter, drier and poorer future for ourselves and people worldwide. But if we scale up clean energy solutions and export them to the region, we hold the key that can unlock access to clean and affordable energy for Asia, and give the world a chance of avoiding the most damaging impacts of climate change.

As an Australian-born organisation, The Sunrise Project is committed to ensuring Australia becomes a facilitator of, rather than a barrier to, global climate progress. This is not just about energy transition. Australian social movements, campaigns and organisations have provided a “laboratory” where we can experiment, incubate, innovate, and create campaigns & organisations that translate into global impact.

Our overarching goal for Sunrise’s Australian work is to transform Australia from global laggard to world leader in climate solutions, through three programs:

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- 1. Australian Energy Transformation,** which aims to see Australia generate and export 500% renewable energy by 2040, closing all coal power stations in the National Electricity Market by 2030
 - 2. Australian Coal Mining,** which aims to prevent the expansion of coal mining in Australia and to create the conditions for the rapid and planned phase out of coal mining, aligned with the aims of the Paris Agreement
 - 3. Australian Gas,** which aims to prevent expansions and push Australian liquefied natural gas exports into decline by 2025.



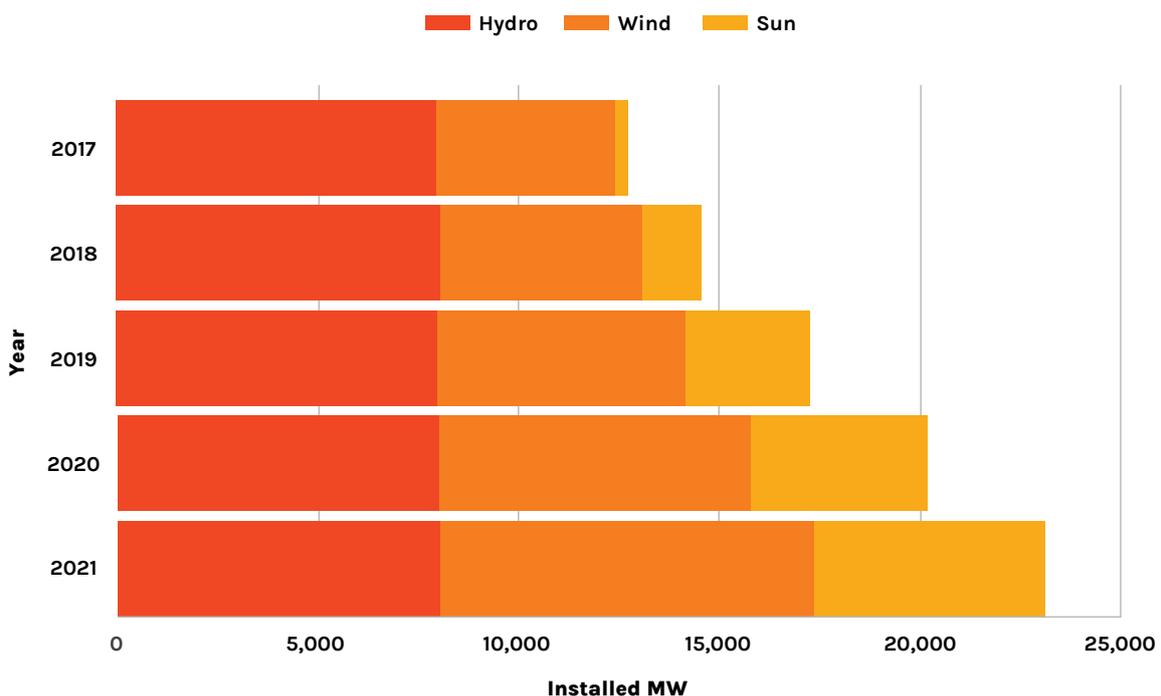
Australian Energy Transformation

Electricity generation, and the coal which powers it, remains the single biggest contributor to Australia's domestic emissions. But renewable energy is growing, and now provides over 30% of our electricity supply - forcing a change in the market as coal power struggles to compete with clean, cheap, and reliable renewable energy.

To ensure the inevitable replacement of coal and stabilisation of the grid, renewables need to grow even faster. The Sunrise Project's Australian Energy Transformation (AET) program works to shift the political equation on climate change from cost to opportunity by driving government and corporate policies to harness Australia's world-class renewable resources.

In 2021, the conversation shifted from being about "if" the transformation of our electricity grid will take place, to "when." In coal, a wave of early closures was announced - for Yallourn, Bayswater, Loy Yang A, Mt Piper and Eraring power stations - and the public and media discussion of coal closure by 2030 soared. As industries and government were grappling with the question of how the shift will take place, Sunrise Project was proud to work with thought leaders, the clean energy industry, environmental advocates and community leaders who are ensuring that Australia's energy transformation happens in ways that are fast, fair, and just - supporting income, jobs, and good outcomes for communities, and a cleaner future for everyone.

Installed Renewable Energy Capacity in Australia's National Electricity Market



Highlights from 2021

- Australia's energy transition accelerated, with two coal-burning power stations announcing earlier closure dates and 31% of the nation's total electricity now coming from renewable sources. By early 2022, another five coal-burning power stations were accelerating their closure plans
- Our partners secured wins on the pathway to establishing Renewable Energy Industry Precincts, with the federal government and multiple state governments all pursuing their own versions of policy.
- Our partners' work accelerated corporate demand for renewable energy and state government commitments: by year's end, a total of 38 of Australia's largest companies had committed to 100% renewables by 2030.
- Following sustained public and shareholder pressure, Australia's biggest climate polluter announced the early closure of two of its remaining coal stations.



Shifting Australia Beyond Coal

Coal remains the single largest source of global carbon emissions. In 2021, global coal consumption was at its highest ever.

Australia is currently mining record amounts of coal for record high prices, and proposed new coal projects would double Australia's current coal production.

Australia continues to compete for the spot of number one coal exporter globally at a time when the industry should be managing a phase out. This is why The Sunrise Project continues to work with partners to prevent Australian coal mining expansion – and to grow the movement's work to phase out coal production and have a chance of staying below 1.5 degrees of warming.

“This year’s historically high level of coal power generation is a worrying sign of how far off track the world is in its efforts to put emissions into decline towards net zero. Without strong and immediate actions by governments to tackle coal emissions – in a way that is fair, affordable and secure for those affected – we will have little chance, if any at all, of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.”¹

- IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol, December 2021

¹ Source: <https://www.iea.org/news/coal-power-s-sharp-rebound-is-taking-it-to-a-new-record-in-2021-threatening-net-zero-goals>



Highlights from 2021

- We stood with Wangan and Jagalingou people who led efforts to expose breaches of law relating to water, successfully prevent new mine financing, expose the destruction of Aboriginal cultural heritage, and exercise their rights under the Queensland Human Rights Act to conduct cultural ceremonies on Country.
- Thanks to work from a key partner, 16 of Australia's 30 largest super funds have divested from, or excluded investment in, thermal coal mining.
- Kepco's proposed new coal mine in NSW's Bylong Valley was defeated - avoiding the release of more than 400 million tonnes of carbon pollution.
- Our network of partner organisations continues to scrutinise and challenge coal mine expansions around the country, and provides invaluable support to farmers and local communities who are standing up to coal expansion.



Keeping gas in the ground

The ground-breaking report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in May 2021 sent a clear signal to investors and governments that there is no room for new gas if the world is to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. Towards preventing the expansion and accelerating the phase out of Australian gas exports, our gas program works to make sure this message is heard and that Australia shifts from being part of the problem to part of the solution in the global transition beyond gas.

In 2021, despite a resurgent and newly cashed-up gas industry, bolstered by handouts from the Federal Government, our partners achieved some impressive wins against proposed projects, in fomenting investor and shareholder resistance to companies' expansion plans, securing the first major Australian bank policies to restrict oil and gas lending, pushing major sporting organisations to dump sponsorship deals, and more. At the same time, we made significant headway in mainstream and financial media reframing gas as a polluting fossil fuel.



Highlights from 2021

- The New South Wales government reduced land available for gas exploration by 77%.
- The federal government cancelled the licence for PEP11, a proposed oil and gas project offshore Sydney.
- The state government in Victoria rejected AGL's Crib Point gas import terminal.
- Investor backlash to fossil fuel expansion: following shareholder votes, 5 super funds representing almost \$384 billion in assets substantially divested from, or made plans to phase out, oil and gas producers.
- Australia's big 4 banks began restricting lending to oil and gas.
- A world-first legal challenge to oil and gas giant Santos' net zero claims emerged.
- Tennis Australia, host of the iconic Australian Open, dumped its major sponsorship deal with Santos.



The Global Finance Story

Shifting finance has emerged as a key strategy in the global effort to transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. Levers for changes exist across the finance system, and policies adopted by financial institutions to limit support for fossil fuels are having a direct impact in the real economy, driving up the cost of capital and shifting the cost/benefit equation for new projects.

To a significant extent, the availability and cost of finance and other financial services will determine whether the pipeline of new fossil fuel projects is built and how quickly existing infrastructure is retired. At a wider level, the political and policy signals sent by the finance industry, combined with their muscle as active owners of the global economy, have the potential to create a potent countervailing force against the lobbying power of the fossil fuel industry, and shift the political and economic context that shapes government climate policies.

Over the past few years, a steady drumbeat of coal exclusion policies from the world's largest financial institutions, creating a growing perception of systemic risk in the coal industry. These policies are working, with a recent study by Oxford University showing that capital availability for the coal industry has contracted significantly, while the cost of capital has increased by 54% over the past decade. But despite the rising cost of capital for coal projects, fossil fuel finance is still increasing, due in large part to oil and gas. Now, we need to finish the job on coal by closing existing loopholes and expanding those restrictions to oil and gas.

At the same time, we need regulators to force these institutions to stop lending to fossil fuels to avoid the systemic threat they pose. Without financial regulation that systematically disincentivizes and restricts fossil fuel lending and exposure, the financial system remains dangerously exposed to climate and transition risk. Regulators have the power to force financial institutions to do what they won't do willingly.

Within the fossil fuel finance movement, our programs are expanding into new areas, and intensifying pressure in existing campaigns. Stay tuned for more in 2022.



Stop insuring oil and gas projects



CAMPAX
make change happen



Shifting insurers – the global arbiters of risk

Since 2017, Sunrise has coordinated the Insure Our Future campaign to pressure the global insurance and reinsurance industry to stop underwriting coal projects and to exclude coal from their investment portfolios.

2021 was the year when new coal projects became practically uninsurable. By the year's end, at least 35 companies had stopped insuring new coal projects and reinsurers had started phasing out cover for coal across all their business lines as well. Confirming that they had failed to attract cover after reaching out to more than 30 insurers, a subcontractor of the Adani coal mine confirmed the real-life impacts of these policies in a submission to the Australian parliament.

Nine Japanese and Korean insurers, including Japanese insurance giants MS&AD and Tokio Marine, adopted coal exclusion policies in 2021, thus largely closing the Asian insurance market for new coal projects. In March 2021,

Swiss Re, one of the world's two leading reinsurers, announced that it would phase out coal – not just from its project-specific facultative reinsurance, but across all business lines. Other reinsurers soon followed suit with similar announcements.

Expanding the coal exit momentum to oil and gas insurance has now begun. With strong oil and gas restrictions from Aviva and Generali, we secured some progress in the sector in 2021, and expect much more in 2022 and beyond.

“Reducing exposure to Oil & Gas should be the next environmental objective for insurers... and could help unlock an additional ‘green premium’ for the sector.”²

- Société Générale

² Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-08-25/insurers-risk-financial-harm-by-covering-oil-and-gas-firms-green-insight?sref=gPAG2MJ8>



Investors as a force for corporate change

As we witness the impacts of global warming becoming more acute, expectations on the corporate sector to show leadership on fossil fuels are intensifying. As major shareholders and long-term stewards of capital, investors – including giant asset managers like Black Rock and Vanguard – have a critical role to play and have the potential to drive rapid change across the global economy.

The last 12 months has been a significant year for The Sunrise Project's Investor Program, which saw us grow from a team of 8 staff and 15 partners working mostly in the US and Europe, to a holistic global program of 20 staff working with more than 50 partners across 13 countries.

We scaled our core strategies, including a concerted investor push to restrict fossil fuel financing from global banks, while testing and developing a few new ideas. Those included launching a Retail Investor campaign and holding proxy advisers accountable for the advice they provide clients in relation to climate resolutions.

For the year ahead, we are set to consolidate our work in North America and Europe, and build out our fledgling work in Asia, especially in Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong.

BlackRock

Every company in your portfolios must be on track to real emission reductions in line with science-based targets.

#DefundClimateChaos

#COP26

China Energy Program

China has the largest fleet of coal power plants in the world, and since 2000 has been playing an increasing role in financing coal power stations in other countries. The Sunrise Project is working closely with a global network of NGOs to support groups that are opposing Chinese coal projects in their country. The pressure that this movement has created has changed the positions of important host country governments and is changing the story within the Chinese coal industry about future investment opportunities overseas.

This work culminated in a historic announcement. In September 2021, President Xi announced that China would no longer build any overseas coal power plants but would instead “vigorously support green energy development in developing countries.” Once President Xi had made his announcement, we started monitoring Chinese overseas investments for potential loopholes and preparing the ground for advocacy work against Chinese overseas oil and gas projects, so that Chinese investors and financiers transition from coal to renewables rather than to oil and gas. We also plan to encourage Chinese institutions to commit to clean energy and support energy access and development goals in countries around the world.



Work for Climate

More and more employees around the world are looking to their corporations for leadership and action on climate. WorkforClimate aims to harness this untapped energy of employees, by inspiring and activating a movement of employee organisers within the world's largest corporations to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels and into a renewable, zero carbon economy.

In 2021, we officially launched www.workforclimate.org to provide a platform to provide corporate staff with the tools and inspiration they need to drive climate action in their

workplace. We also continued to test and evolve our cohort program to provide coaching and mentoring support to a cohort of corporate employees - helping support them to become climate leaders in their workplaces.

As we move into 2022, we're excited to be partnering with Project Drawdown and expanding the WorkforClimate platform to engage corporate staff in the U.S. and Europe.



Work»
forClimate

Banking on our Future

Banks around the world are worsening the climate crisis by pumping hundreds of billions into fossil fuels every year.

Banks in the USA, Canada, Japan, and the UK lead the pack as the worst fossil banks, with those in Germany, France and South Africa not far behind. Even progressive European banks, widely considered to have the strictest coal finance policies globally, continue to lend money to developers of coal plants.

In 2021, we saw movement from many global banks headquartered in Europe and very little action from laggards in North America. Moving forward, we plan to increase scrutiny and pressure of these banks to ensure they halt financing fossil fuel expansion and actively advocate for policies that enable a clean energy transition.



Central Banks Program

Voluntary commitments from banks and other financial institutions will only take us so far. Unless regulators pull their weight, those voluntary commitments will continue to be too slow and inadequate. This is where Central Banks and financial regulators come in. Regulating the financial system should take into account climate risks that fossil fuels pose – which means setting the rules in a way that disincentivises fossil fuel investment across the board to reduce systemic risk.

Our Central Banks program aims to bring campaign momentum to this policy space, to encourage central banks and financial regulators to adopt strong policies to limit the flow of finance and investment to fossil fuels. Specifically, we believe capital requirements are required to force banks and other financial institutions to stop lending and investing in fossil fuels.

A first step towards capital requirements is the deployment of stress tests to expose the risks banks face from fossil fuel finance. In 2021, the Bank of England published its much-delayed stress tests, which estimated that banks are set to lose US\$300 billion if they ignore climate risks. At the same time, The European Central Bank mandated a climate plan to tackle climate risk that includes stress tests and more.

Moving into 2022: higher capital requirements – one of our key policy asks – as a tool fit to address climate risk is alive and ripe for leveraging. Meanwhile, we initiated www.greencentralbanking.com which has carved an important niche for itself and speaks to a key audience within central banks on a regular basis.





Emerging programs

We are continually exploring new opportunities for systemic impact to shift our climate trajectory. In 2021, we set the groundwork for new programs in Private Equity and Auto supply chains.

Private Equity

Private equity is the buyer of last resort for stranded fossil fuel assets. With trillions of dollars in recently raised capital, the threat is that this sector could step in as large oil and gas firms seek to divest assets or coal companies go bankrupt - thus undermining net zero progress in the financial system.

However, with a string of poor performing fossil fuel funds, a broader shift across the financial system to tackle climate, and changing investor appetites, we have the distinct opportunity to shift this notoriously problematic sector.

What's the next step? Private equity has to raise its money from investors who often take climate change seriously (or at least purport to). We plan to educate those investors to push the private equity firms they work with to commit to excluding fossil fuels.



Decarbonising the automotive supply chain

Global automakers represent an enormously powerful lever for reducing global demand for oil and can also play a key role in reducing the carbon intensity of key supply chains. Global automakers are the single largest buyer of aluminium, and the second largest buyer of steel in the world. They're also big electricity users – via coal power. Given the size of their demand, and the profit margins they can provide (particularly for steel makers), they can have an outsized influence in shifting these supply chains beyond coal. For that to happen new, assertive, corporate campaigns targeting automakers are necessary to generate momentum and ensure accountability.

A growing gap between rhetoric and reality is creating a powerful opportunity to drive change. More than eight global automakers have climate commitments that incorporate the impacts of their supply chain. By ensuring accountability for existing commitments and building pressure to generate new, more explicit “beyond coal” supply chain commitments, we can help guarantee demand for low carbon steel and aluminium producers and jump start a new era of “coal-free” supply chains.

◀ We can help guarantee demand for low carbon steel and aluminium producers and jump start a new era of “coal-free” supply chains. ▶

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Racial, economic and gender justice are profound global imperatives that have continued to intensify over the last year, reminding us that the climate challenge is fundamentally intersectional – and that as a community, our movements must continue to grapple with how to imagine progress in a way that leaves no one behind.

One of The Sunrise Project's core values is to recognise that *we don't live single issue lives*.

We have a moral and strategic imperative to integrate Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) at the heart of our organisation and programs, which is why JEDI is one of our 2021–2023 organisational priorities.

In 2021, we focussed on transforming who we are and our work in the world. We invested in building awareness of our team's unconscious bias, and we diversified the membership of our board and staff to now 30% People of Colour. We developed a shared understanding of our orientation to climate justice and are in the process of integrating this perspective into our program goals, ensuring that we build and support a greater diversity of partnerships and resource allocation, while pursuing our mission to drive the transition beyond fossil fuels.



Who leads movements, and how issues of justice are centred, will define the nature of movement power to transform the systems responsible for the climate crisis. Expanding the diversity of experiences and perspectives makes way for stronger strategies, teams, and more powerful movements.

We still have a long way to go as an organisation and are committed to the ongoing work of becoming both a better workplace for everyone and a stronger ally to movements for justice.

Organisational priorities

As we continually adapt and grow, we're focussing on five organisational priorities for 2022–2023:

- 1 Embed Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI)**
Continue to do the work of building justice, equity, diversity and inclusion into who we are as an organisation, how we work together, and our programs in the world.

- 2 Consolidate strong organisational foundations**
In 2022, we'll move to a new global legal structure that will enable us to work efficiently across geographies while ensuring compliance and managing risk.

- 3 Cultivate a thriving and healthy culture**
Actively nurturing an inclusive, creative and life-affirming culture that supports people to do their best work – as we scale our impact.

- 4 Sharpen our impact, evaluation and learning**
Continually improve how we're evaluating our impact and sharing learnings across our team and movements.

- 5 Build powerful movements deliberately**
Look wider than our individual programs to proactively invest in building the capacity of movements to scale impact for climate justice.

Meet the team

With a growing staff around the world, we wanted to showcase a few of the people who make The Sunrise Project rock.

Casey Harrell, Senior Strategist

Casey lives with his family in Oakland, California, U.S. He's been with The Sunrise Project since April 2017.



What drew you to work at Sunrise?

When I started at Sunrise, there were about eight full time employees in Australia and one in the nascent finance program. Yet even then I was struck by the organisation's level of ambition and collaborative approach to solving seemingly intractable campaigns. I had met Sam the year before and was familiar with John's work ever since I met him at an internal Greenpeace meeting in 2010. It felt like they were creating something powerful and I jumped at the chance to be a part of it.

What's your experience been like so far?

It has varied and evolved a lot over the past five plus years! When we were first building the finance program, I had to wear a lot of different hats. I was developing relationships with partners who would be integral to our campaign success, all while playing the role of campaigner, occasional media officer and funder. It was difficult but exciting and rewarding work.

As Sunrise has grown and my ability to campaign has been limited (I have been battling ALS/MND [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/Motor Neurone Disease] for about three and a half years), I have focussed on building campaigns with my colleagues that take on the biggest investors in climate change.

Why do you enjoy working here?

To me, Sunrise is a finishing school for corporate campaigners. I learn so much from my colleagues and the network of changemakers we involve in our campaigns. I have realised that I have been hungering for a professional home where I have kindred spirits who also long for the tools, resources and mentality to help create social change to thwart a threat as large as the climate crisis. I enjoy what I do, feel supported by my colleagues to continue to do this work despite my disabilities, and am lucky to call many of my colleagues friends.

Deepa Rose Sealy, Grants Manager

Part of our Operations Team, Deepa was our Operations Manager before stepping into her current role. She lives on Darramurragal Country, near Sydney, Australia, and has worked at Sunrise since June 2020.



What drew you to work at Sunrise?

I was drawn to Sunrise's excellent, kick ass campaign work in the world, and also that Sunrise is plugged into the climate movement in a very strategic and thoughtful way. I was also drawn to how Sunrise deliberately flew under the radar - to focus attention not on the organisation, but on finding solutions to fixing the climate crisis. I knew it was the right place when there was an anti-bias job application process that addressed some of the challenges of normal recruitment processes.

What's your experience been like so far?

I often say that it feels like I am still in the honeymoon period, even after two years of working here! The organisation has tripled since I started, but changes have been careful and considered, to ensure that climate justice, staff support and equitable practices are key; not only internally but in the movement too. I have been supported and mentored to make transitions that were in line with my own growth, leadership development and areas of interest. I was also, within a few months of being here, supported to take on leadership in our JEDI program and have since been seeing the real, qualitative unfurlings of this work. I believe deeply in it, and feel assured Sunrise and its Board does too, in a deep and conscientious way - because what is our work without justice for all?

Why do you enjoy working here?

Never before have I felt so much hope for the climate movement than at Sunrise, thanks to the intersectional, critical, strategic and wide ranging campaign work it does.

I have also never felt so supported as a staff member. There have been many opportunities and I know there is constant work being done to consider and implement more measures to make Sunrise a safe and affirming place to work. Identifying as an Indian female, this is the first time I have felt seen in my work and humanness at an organisation.

I love my colleagues, who are so talented, full of wit and humour, and skill. They cover many geographic regions of the world (and still growing), bringing many perspectives and stories to the work "table" while 500% committed to driving the transition to renewable energy and scaling the climate and justice movements.

☞ Sunrise has overall a sincere and solid set of values that gives the organisation a heart where people are encouraged and supported to show up as themselves. ☞

Grace Regullano, Senior Strategist

Based in Los Angeles, U.S., Grace has been at Sunrise for less than a year.



What drew you to work at Sunrise?

Although I loved my time (nearly 20 years) in the U.S. labour movement, with the increased urgency of the climate crisis and having two young children, I wanted to find a way to bring my organising, research, and finance skills to the climate movement. I had looked at a few other climate organisations in the United States but felt that some were constrained by the unfortunate political atmosphere in the US. Sunrise's international perspective and assertive strategies really drew me.

What's your experience been like so far?

It's important to me to be able to support and work with communities and individuals most negatively affected by capitalism and the climate crisis, such as workers, women, immigrants, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities. Although there is more work to do on this front, with the climate movement's history of sidelining voices from impacted communities, I appreciate that Sunrise is trying to be thoughtful about its role in addressing this issue.

It's also important for me to be able to be strategic about the approach to the work, which means being willing to try new things, being willing to stick with strategies to give them time to work, and (somewhat contradictorily) to avoid path dependency when things aren't working. I think Sunrise tries to strike the tricky balance between all these things.

Why do you enjoy working here?

I really enjoy how my colleagues at Sunrise understand the urgency of the moment and are willing to be aggressive and experimental in their approach to fighting the climate crisis. I appreciate the focus on figuring out what's needed to win, and starting from there, rather than starting from a more constrained place. I love how motivated, intelligent, and collaborative my colleagues are. I also really appreciate Sunrise's focus on getting operational details right, so that staff can focus on the work. I've worked at a lot of different non-profits and I really appreciate having a clearly defined onboarding process, an emerging professional development program, and responsive operations staff when I have questions about processes or benefits.

« Sunrise's international perspective and assertive strategies really drew me. »

Governance

Our board of directors has deep expertise across climate change, social movements, impact investing, law, financial analysis, international NGO leadership and capacity-building.

As the organisation has grown rapidly, the operation of the board has undergone significant change to ensure compliance and good governance. In 2021, this included a major review of our risk management framework as well as a detailed review of the legal structures required to support such a rapidly growing and global organisation. As a result of this review, 2022 will see significant changes and the transition to a new global legal structure, in addition to significant board renewal.

As Sunrise has transitioned from an Australian to a truly global organisation we have expanded and diversified the skills on our board and over the next year will be transitioning to a new global legal structure with a new international advisory board.

The board is supported by committees including the Finance Audit Risk & Compliance Committee, Gift Fund Committee, Grants & Donations Committee and the Board Renewal Committee.

The Sunrise Project Australia Ltd is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and operates a Deductible Gift Recipient fund listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations.

OUR CHARITABLE PURPOSES ARE TO:



Protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment



Protect the natural environment from pollution and over exploitation



Support and empower individuals, communities, governments and industry to make changes required to prevent dangerous climate change



Facilitate public education about, and promote the transition to, a clean energy economy



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



Receive and grant funds for the achievement of the above purposes.

The Sunrise Project

Australia Board of Directors



John Hepburn Founder and Co-Executive Director

John is the founder and Co-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 mobilisation 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.



Sam La Rocca Co-Executive Director

Sam leads The Sunrise Project's Australian Program. He brings over twenty-five years experience building people powered movements for a socially just and ecologically sane world. Sam holds a multidisciplinary degree in environmental science, and while completing his first class honours thesis on grassroots mobilisation, he co-founded activist education outfit The Change Agency to deliver social movement education, campaign strategy and organising training programs to community groups around Australia and internationally. He's worked as a senior political advisor in federal parliament and led highly successful electoral campaigns. He has facilitated movement-wide processes for the Climate Action Network Australia and Friends of the Earth International's Asia Pacific Region; and he has a strong interest in building powerful networks to catalyse system change.



Claire Mallinson Chair

Claire joined the Board in December 2019, she is passionate about The Sunrise Project's mission and purpose and brings strategic expertise, business acumen and leadership experience. Claire has a deep understanding of campaigning and the power of activism across international boundaries with over 30 years of senior leadership experience with environmental, human rights, disability and cancer research INGOs/NGOs in Australia and around the world.

Claire was the National Director (CEO) of Amnesty International Australia (AIA) for twelve years and part of Amnesty International's Global Leadership Team for a decade. Whilst National Director of AIA Claire oversaw the growth of AIA's supporters by 400% and the delivery of significant human rights wins in Australia, Asia Pacific and globally. She built, led and developed key partnerships including business leaders, major funders, Indigenous communities and elders and civil society leaders and activist groups and was part of the Board team that developed and implemented major governance reform. Claire is an advisor, coach and mentor to CEO's, senior executives and Boards and is a Graduate and Member of AICD, Chief Executive Women, and Women on Boards. Claire has been Chair of the Board since June 2020.



Catherine Fitzpatrick Deputy Chair

Catherine has been involved in climate and energy campaigning with non-profits for four decades working primarily in Australia, the Pacific, Canada, China and Southeast Asia. She first became involved in activism during the Franklin campaign in the 1980s, and since 1996 Catherine has campaigned on climate and energy issues working for the David Suzuki Foundation and Greenpeace. She spent the last decade working in Asia on air pollution, coal transition, campaign strategy and audience segmentation. Catherine now focuses on mentoring and coaching leaders in the climate movement. She joined The Sunrise Project board in July 2019 and lives in Tasmania on nipaluna land.



Sudha Nandagopal Director

Sudha Nandagopal is a highly regarded organizer, facilitator, strategist, and movement builder focused on democratizing systems of power. Her career includes leadership roles in strategic communications, international organizing, program design, policy creation, and political campaigns. Through this work and her leadership in social, environmental, climate and racial justice organizations, Sudha has developed expertise in multi-sector stakeholder engagement, networks, collaborative problem solving, and building power with communities of color, immigrants, and refugees in the United States.

As Chief Executive Officer of Social Venture Partners International (SVPI), Sudha cultivates and expands a philanthropic network to catalyse more resources to communities around the globe, demonstrate ways for philanthropy to share power and wealth, and build stronger relationships between philanthropists and communities. Under Sudha's leadership in response to the systemic crises magnified by the COVID 19 pandemic and the renewed global reckoning on racial justice, SVPI launched Reimagine Giving, to inspire donors to become system change advocates. Prior to joining SVP International, Sudha co-founded, in partnership with community leaders, and led the City of Seattle's Equity & Environment Initiative.

Sudha is a published author and an expert consultant for foundations, local governments, and national environmental organisations. Grist Magazine recognized Sudha as one of their inaugural Grist 50 visionaries who will "lead us to a more sustainable future." Puget Sound Business Journal recently recognized Sudha as one of the region's 40 under 40 for her leadership in philanthropy and the social change sector. Sudha holds a degree in Biology and Society from Cornell University which informs her systems thinking and interdisciplinary approach.



Miranda Nagy Director

Miranda is Principal Lawyer in Class Actions at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers. Her legal practice in the field of class actions is centred on corporate governance, market integrity and consumer protection. She has a long-standing interest in effective environmental regulation and has advised and acted for environmental organisations in litigation.

Miranda is a founding director of The Sunrise Project and was the first Company Secretary. Her focus is on the importance of sound, careful governance within organisations and she has a close familiarity with regulations affecting charities and companies.



Giles Gunesequera Director

Giles is the Founder and CEO of Global Impact Initiative. Giles has over 25 years' experience of building and developing teams and businesses for global enterprises. Giles has held senior roles in the financial services industry spanning recruiting, training, product, distribution and leadership.

Giles has received an Outstanding Alumnus award from Oxford for creating an innovative, sustainable business that generates positive social impact. His business, Global Impact Initiative (GII) is one of only thirty-five (35) Global Compact LEAD companies, recognised for their high levels of engagement in the United Nations. GII has been a UN LEAD since 2019 and is the only Australian firm to be recognised as a UN LEAD. The business works under five key pillars of Gender Equality, Indigenous Communities, Health, Affordable Housing and Climate.

Giles is a Senior Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australia, Fellow of the School of Social Entrepreneurs, Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders, and Member of the Australian Institute of Training and Development. Giles is an Industry Fellow at the Business School of the University of Technology, Sydney.

Giles has a unique blend of leadership and business skills gained in the corporate environment married with financial and governance skills gained in the Not-for-Profit sector. Giles holds numerous Volunteer Not-for-Profit Directorships ranging from International Aid, Human Rights, Disabilities, Education, Arts and Sports. Giles is on Advisory Boards for the United Nations for Climate & Health and Sustainable Finance. He is an Advisory Board Member of the Securities and Investments Institute of Asia Pacific.

Giles has formal academic qualifications from Oxford University, Melbourne University, Monash University and the Financial Services Institute of Australia.



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 Netherlands, 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 Bank 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. Her experience with the oil & gas and mining sectors in Australia and skills in financial analysis add depth to the total effectiveness of the Board.



Aviva Imhof Director

Aviva joined the Board in mid- 2015. She 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.

Funding

Globally, it is estimated that less than 2%³ of global philanthropic giving is dedicated to climate change mitigation: nowhere near the order of magnitude required to meet the urgent challenge of the climate crisis. But as the impacts of global heating become more and more difficult to ignore, 2021 saw big growth in philanthropic commitments to rise to the climate challenge.

As a result of this growth in climate philanthropy, combined with the impact of our programs, The Sunrise Project grew substantially again in 2021 and continued to expand and strengthen our collaborations with philanthropic partners around the world. We build long-term partnerships with people and foundations who share our mission and strategic approach to hastening the transition beyond fossil fuels to clean energy.

As our global programs have grown, so too has the number and geographic spread of our donors. While our global work is predominantly funded by globally focussed foundations based in Europe and the US, our Australian programs continue to be predominantly funded by Australian donors.

While we support transparency in funding, we also support the right to privacy of donors, particularly given the hostility shown by opponents of climate action to some philanthropists.

We are grateful for the support of the following foundations:

- McKinnon Family Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- Zegar Family Foundation
- ACME Foundation
- Graeme Wood Foundation
- The Foundation for International Law for the Environment
- Laudes Foundation
- KR Foundation
- Sequoia Climate Foundation
- Bloomberg Philanthropies

³ Source: <https://www.climateworks.org/report/funding-trends-2021-climate-change-mitigation-philanthropy/>



Financial position

In 2021, The Sunrise Project grew significantly. Our revenue increased from AU\$28 million to AU\$52 million, reflecting an overall increase in climate philanthropy in Australia and globally.

Accounting for Good continues to provide excellent accounting support and we were pleased to once more receive an unqualified audit from auditors Stewart Brown. While we significantly strengthened our balance sheet in order to support future growth, the increase in assets as of end-December is partially a reflection of the timing of approved outgoing grants, some of which were delayed into 2022.

As well as growing our staff, we also substantially expanded our grants program, providing funding to almost 170 projects across 18 countries and a wide range of climate strategies.

Total grants provided:

169

Top regranting locations:

Australia, the United States, United Kingdom, and The Netherlands.



Average grant size:

\$195k

The biggest grant:

\$1.5m

The smallest grant:

\$3k

Incubation grants to develop and empower partners in new locations or work areas:

23

We granted to:

129 partners

All figures in AUD.



STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS & OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited

ABN 65 159 324 697

As at 31 December 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	4	51,457,688	27,998,951
Other Income	4	718,210	149,887
		52,175,898	28,148,838
Expenses			
Administrative expenses		(1,132,302)	(580,413)
Depreciation expense	5	(174,546)	(172,287)
Employee benefits expense		(7,810,175)	(4,210,502)
Finance costs	5	(13,917)	(8,518)
Grant distribution costs		(33,145,386)	(19,915,458)
Loss on foreign exchange	5	-	(1,405,945)
Occupancy expenses		(86,608)	(51,248)
Other expenses		(258,663)	(97,436)
Program expenses		(4,708,284)	(2,684,700)
		(47,329,881)	(29,126,507)
Surplus (deficit) before income tax		4,846,017	(977,669)
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus (deficit) for the year		4,846,017	(977,669)
Other comprehensive Income		-	-
Total comprehensive Income (loss) for the year		4,846,017	(977,669)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

40

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited
 ABN 65 159 324 697
 As at 31 December 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	17,776,186	9,594,714
Trade and other receivables	7	1,293,975	813,952
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>19,070,161</u>	<u>10,408,666</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	81,868	58,777
Right-of-use assets	9	345,387	57,306
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		<u>427,255</u>	<u>116,083</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>19,497,416</u>	<u>10,524,749</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	9,934,611	6,208,872
Provisions	11	388,554	286,409
Lease liabilities	12	153,545	61,476
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		<u>10,476,710</u>	<u>6,556,757</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	11	17,849	32,868
Lease liabilities	12	221,716	-
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>		<u>239,565</u>	<u>32,868</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>10,716,275</u>	<u>6,589,625</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>8,781,141</u></u>	<u><u>3,935,124</u></u>
FUNDS			
Accumulated funds		<u>8,781,141</u>	<u>3,935,124</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>8,781,141</u></u>	<u><u>3,935,124</u></u>

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The Sunrise Project Australia Limited

Gadigal (Cadigal) Country
Ground Floor, 17 Randle Street,
Surry Hills, NSW, 2010
T: (02) 8057 5189
E: admin@sunriseproject.org.au
ABN: 65 159 324 697

sunriseproject.org

We acknowledge and pay respect to First Nations Peoples around the world and the many communities who are on the front lines of the struggle for climate justice.

