



Sutherland Shire  
Environment Centre

# Annual Report 2022





Sutherland Shire  
Environment Centre

Dawn on the Yeena Trail, Botany Bay/Kamay NP, image - Ricki Coughlan

The **Sutherland Shire Environment Centre** works with local community organisations, businesses, government, and residents to protect and improve their local areas, and to achieve a sustainable environment in the Sutherland Shire and its bioregions. SSEC is a totally independent, non-government community organisation. It is an Incorporated Association guided by a constitution and governed by a Board elected at an Annual General Meeting by members of the Association.



Sutherland Shire  
Environment Centre

Forest Path, Royal National Park: image - Ricki Coughlan

The Board and members of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Shire and surrounds, the **Dharawal and Gandangara people**. We pay our respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

## Board Members 2021-22

Dr Tassia Kolesnikow / Ian Hill (Chair)

Lily Meier (Treasurer)

Dr Catherine Reynolds (Secretary)

Phil Smith

Mark Da Silva

Dr Chad Beranek

### **Executive Officer**

Sally Knight

### **Member and Community Engagement Officer**

Ricki Coughlan

### **Project Officer**

Kaye Osborn



Cover: Bar-tailed Godwit roost, Taren Point Shorebird Reserve. Image: Trina Johnson

## Statement of Functions

The Board agrees that the following list comprises the priority functions of the SSEC:

1. Establish the SSEC as the Peak Environment Group in the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions, one that supports low-impact lifestyles, practices and behaviours in the community.
2. Establish efficient communication processes with the community.
3. Develop and conduct education initiatives.
4. Campaign publicly for protecting and improving the quality of the environment in Sutherland and its bio-regions.
5. Support members and local community organisations in their efforts to protect their local areas.
6. Establish efficient information, operation and management systems for Sutherland Shire Environment Centre.
7. Strengthen relationships with Sutherland Shire Council, other councils and other community and environmental organisations.
8. Raise funds to carry out the functions of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre.

For all of the above, the principles of working in partnership with others and in concert with other initiatives apply. Consultation and collaboration are vital elements of effective partnerships. The overall aim is to create an Environment Centre! One that is welcoming and useful for the community and one that models and demonstrates environmental and sustainability values in its decisions, practices and actions.



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# Chair's Report

The Chair wishes to acknowledge the Dharawal as the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to the Elders past present and emerging.

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre (SSEC) was formed to create a shire specific voice for the environment. Since the last AGM in September 2021 the SSEC has continued to advocate the needs of the environment in the Sutherland Shire both from the organisation itself and its affiliate groups. It has also continued running the various campaigns underway.

Despite another ongoing year of hardship across the Sutherland Shire environment and the community at large, the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre continued to produce good outcomes and deal with its own challenges and concerns.

## SSEC Achievements

SSEC now has now over 100 financial members. Operationally the achievements of SSEC since the 2021 AGM include various support for awards, along with campaigns and events as follows.

### Awards

Sustainable Business Awards - The winners of this year's awards will be announced at the Gala Awards dinner this coming week. The report of last year's winners is contained within this annual report.

I would like to acknowledge the successful organisation and running of this event due to the work of Kay Osborne for her excellent promotion of the award on Facebook and Instagram. I also thank Ricki Coughlan and Catherine Reynolds for the media release in the Leader together with the work of Kirsten Dalton, Linda Gotvik-Dobson, Sarah-Jo Lobwein and Lily Meier as judges

The Bill Ryan Award was created by former chair Tassia Kolesnikow and it has been progressed thanks to her work along with assistance from Catherine Reynolds. The SSEC will be announcing the recipient of this year's award shortly.

### Competitions

The Bob Walshe "Writing for the Environment Award" is an environment centre competition with an award conducted thanks to the work of Phil Smith and a panel of judges

SSEC also sponsors "Speaking for the Planet" which is an arts-based competition for children focused on environmental themes conducted by Phil Smith.

SSEC thanks Phil for his leadership and promotion of these very successful activities. The Writing for the Environment Award had more 'hits' on our website over the last few months than any other campaign.

## Campaigns

Under the banner of SSEC Catherine Reynolds organised a Wildlife crossing zoom webinar in April with Associate Professor Ross Goldingay and Jacqui Marlow, a northern beaches wildlife crossing advocate. The aim was to build a case for the need for crossings over the F6, as opposed to koala translocation. This was part of the ongoing advocacy we have carried out, which included the bike tour organised with the Singhs Motor Bike Club and the group Save Sydney Koalas.

One successful outcome this year included the Transport NSW promise to install an underpass at Deadmans Creek, Sandy Point.

SSEC co-hosted a book launch event at Hazelhurst Gallery later in April with the Georges Riverkeeper, and Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society. Here the book by Emeritus Professor Heather Goodall entitled “Georges River Blues” a history of activism about the Georges River was unveiled. The Hazelhurst Theatre was at capacity with the catch-up lunch in the café prior to the launch being well attended. Chris Gambian from the Nature Conservation Council was one of the invited speakers. Part of his speech is included in our Annual Report.

Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport link (SCATL) has an on-going campaign endeavouring to achieve a shared pathway for bike riders and pedestrians in the form of an east west transport corridor across the shire. It has undergone liaison work with Transport for NSW.

Tassia was co-ordinating this campaign and Kirsten Dalton has now taken on this role and continues to liaise with Bicycle NSW, and Sutherland Council to achieve better outcomes.

Sustainable Organisations of the Sutherland Shire (SOShire) led by Sarah-Jo Lobwein engaged in a range of activities through the year, including co-hosting a recent Beach Clean and organised a screening of the documentary Envoy Shark Cull and the Shire Boomerang Bags plastic bag ban celebration.

Affiliate group Sunny Shire run by Jonathan Prendergast promoted Solar Energy Projects for the shire and continued to provide valuable free advice about all things solar.

ShireCAN is an affiliate organisation led by Gay Curtis and Coordinators Judy & Greg Walker focused on achieving action on climate change.

It has 350 newsletter subscribers and has held stalls at the Engadine Community Market, the Bundeena Saltwater Market, and the Bundeena Maianbar Sustainability Expo.

## Meeting with Sutherland Shire Council Officers

SSEC executive and SSEC ShireCAN members had a productive meeting with Sutherland Shire Council Officers on Wednesday 20th July 2022. Council’s Principal Environmental Scientist Ian Drinnan was most co-operative and positive. He introduced his key staff and patiently fielded all questions asked of him while a few questions were answered by his staff.



## Advocacy

SSEC has raised awareness about a range of environmental issues impacting Sutherland Shire and the broader Sydney region.

Some of this was through its Facebook page which now has almost 4,000 followers.

The SSEC Verge gardens advocacy on Facebook as well as a few strategic emails has led to Council preparing a report on establishing verge garden guidelines. Bob Crombie has been campaigning for this for many years. This can be taken as a breakthrough.

SSEC highlighted the impacts of Coal Mining in the Royal National Park by Peabody's Metropolitan Coal Mine which helped renew the focus on the impacts of the mining beneath the Woronora Reservoir.

The issue of Peabody coal mining pollution has achieved considerable prominence over the last few weeks with coverage in major newspapers and on television news reports. This has been a joint effort by several members over the last couple of years, including Bob Crombie, Tassia, myself, and is another campaign that is co-ordinated by Catherine Reynolds. Much of the footage shown in recent news reports was taken by Ricki Coughlan. Bob Crombie has provided a huge photographic record of evidence of damage from this coal mine. We thank all our members who have been involved in this campaign and who have been vitally important in building awareness of these issues.

## Communications Officer

SSEC welcomes Ricki Coughlan as the new SSEC communications officer who is a fountain of enthusiasm for events and building SSEC membership and interaction. Ricki Coughlan has a graduate Certificate in Ornithology and an Avian consultant and Nature Educator and brings a wealth of knowledge about birds and she encourages all she meets to become naturalists.

A new collection of events has arisen in the form of bird tours for SSEC ably promoted and operated by Ricki and these have proven very popular with the general public. Ricki has also started her popular Bird Harbour Shorebird study group which we also promote on our website and Facebook page.

## Challenges

SSEC members who knew former Georges River Environmental Alliance founder Dr Sharyn Cullis were greatly saddened by her passing. Two board members attended the event commemorating her life achievements. Well over 350 people attended to honour and recognise Sharyn's tremendous contribution to the environment.

The year 2021 to 2022 has continued the challenges facing groups in the Sutherland Shire. Covid 19 raged then subsided and then rose again with new Omicron strand. This has restricted gatherings and channelled groups into using Zoom Meetings to continue interaction

In the second half of the year the past two seasons disappeared into a rain tunnel with the whole east coast suffering continued rain events and dismal weather.

Throughout this the SSEC managed to operate across its spectrum of activities due to the dedication of its active members.

Operationally SSEC also experienced major upheaval and challenge. The management of SSEC experienced losses caused by the resignation of Executive Officer Sally Knight and the Board which barely had the numbers for a quorum then suffered the resignation of the chair Tassia Kolesnikow. SSEC also faced the loss of its tenant at its commercial premises which is the significant revenue source for the SSEC.

Sally Knight worked for the SSEC as executive officer but resigned from the position. We are pleased she is still involved as a member with ShireCan.

Kaye Osborne also provided valuable work for the SSEC and we thank her for efforts.

Former Chair Tassia Kolesnikow ran her last meeting at the June 2022 board meeting and has been a driving force for the environment as a capable leader. SSEC acknowledges her great contribution and commitment as Chair of the SSEC for five years from 2017 to 2022. Over this period Tassia provided extensive effort, diligence and dedication to her role for the benefit of the SSEC.

## The Future

SSEC is seeking to provide an upgrade to its commercial premises with the hope it will further attract a new tenant. Events and activities from the past will be continued and efforts will be made to encourage member activities providing interaction and the sharing of skills.

I would like to thank all members for any contributions they have made and I would like to thank the current members of the board for the skills and contributions they provide. I would like to thank Sadaf Basamraz for her work as Public Officer. The support and advice of our Treasurer Lily Meier has also been invaluable, and we greatly appreciated everything she does for the organisation. Special mention needs to be made of the continuing massive effort to all things SSEC by our board member Catherine Reynolds. Catherine is the engine room of this organisation and in addition to the mining and wildlife crossing campaigns she also looks after our website, IT systems and Facebook page and without her efforts the SSEC would be severely compromised.

For today an extra level of thanks goes to the volunteers in the preparation and set up for this AGM and a special mention of thanks to Megan Edwards who has coordinated a host of helpers to prepare the venue and organise the catering!

I look forward to SSEC providing a leading role in environmental matters for the Sutherland Shire for the year to come and with that the invitation to all members to help advance the cause.

Ian Hill - Chair SSEC 2022

# Events

Catherine Reynolds

It's been strange emerging from the enforced covid isolation with all the stresses and anxiety which goes along with that. Our SSEC Board meetings were largely via zoom for most of the last year. It can be easy and convenient, but so much of human interaction takes place via nuances which are not conveyed properly on a computer screen.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre does not have an office, and unfortunately it's not as if people can just drop by so we can all chat to each other.

After covid it seems the world has shifted sideways somehow, and we're still figuring out how to get back into the swing of things.

SSEC is a not profit organisation run by volunteers, many of whom have other obligations, but one of the things we've realised we need to do over the year to come is to have more member specific catch up events so people can meet in person, get to know each other, find out more detail about what is happening in the background with various campaigns.

The catch up drinks were so lovely the previous times they were run, and our general get together at the end of year picnic. We do need more get together events for just members. Other events we've run this year have been great, but many have also been designed for the general public. These events are a way of building advocacy and raising awareness about specific issues.

## Shorebirds of Southern Sydney Webinar

The most successful/well attended event we've had over the last year was the Shorebirds of Southern Sydney zoom webinar sponsored by Greater Sydney Local Land Services as part of their Towra Point RAMSAR project. SSEC member and Sutherland Shire Environmental citizen of the year Julie Keating was one of the presenters, the highly respected former NPWS ranger Deb



Andrews was the other. Deb is a legend among those who know. Well over 100 people attended this. Some of the information from the webinar is on our website:

<https://www.ssec.org.au/our-campaigns/sutherland-shire-shorebirds/>

What is not good is the myriad of threats that shorebirds in the Shire continue to face. No government agency or regulatory authority is stepping up to address this.

## SSEC Bird Watching and Nature Tours

The shorebird webinar put us in touch with the brilliant Ricki Coughlan, who has been studying the shorebird population at Boat Harbour for years. She is running a series of bird tours for SSEC members and the general public. The tours were designed around seasonal changes, with locations chosen to highlight and capture the changes in our local landscapes across the year. We sponsored these because we wanted to remind people about the importance of fragile ecosystems and the need to protect them. The Leader did a terrific article on the general theme and rationale, and the tours all sold out very quickly.

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/7604722/tours-of-shire-birdlife-to-start/>

Ricki also subsequently set up a monthly [Boat Harbour Shorebird Study Group](#), which we were very glad to support, and she came to work for the Centre on a part time basis earlier this year as Membership and Communications officer: <https://www.ssec.org.au/event/boat-harbour-shorebird-study-group/>

## Working together to build advocacy across the Shire

For SSEC members and volunteers who care for the environment, it's usually a matter of doing the best we can with the limited time and resources we have available.

ShireCAN members have come together to run a number of terrific stalls at markets and fairs through this last year; at Engadine markets, Bundeena Saltwater market, and the Bundeena



Maianbar Sustainability Expo. Sunny Shire convenor Jonathan Prendergast has taken part in some of these, allowing curious members of the general public to have a look at EVs first hand.

## Wildlife Crossing Webinar and Georges River Blues Book Launch

Two other terrific events were the Wildlife crossing zoom webinar in April, and the Georges River Blues book launch later that month. Both drew large numbers. We had close to 70 attend the Wildlife crossing webinar with Associate Professor Ross Goldingay and Jackie Marlow. Ross published his research subsequently in August and it received considerable publicity. This was an important webinar and helped build our case for the need for wildlife crossing locally at Cawleys Bridge and along Heathcote Road. We are still waiting on Transport NSW to take action.

The Georges River Blues book launch for Professor Heather Goodall was important because acknowledgement of the historic achievements of community environmental advocates is so rare. People forget, and do not recognise what would have been lost without the work of people like Bob Walshe and Bernie Clarke. Heather wrote about them in her book, and other people who fought for the environment along the Georges River from the 1940s. As Heather said, "The role played by everyday campaigners has been overlooked in the major histories of the Australian conservation movement, and it is time they were better recognised. These are people who laid the foundation for today's widespread urban environmental consciousness."

Catherine Reynolds did most of the organising of the launch, and she and Heather decided to co-host the event with the [Georges Riverkeeper](#), and [Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society](#). It was great to catch up with so many people from OFF. The Leader also gave an excellent write up prior, and the event ended up at capacity, with a waiting list:

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/7708200/georges-river-fighters/>

Chris Gambian from the Nature Conservation Council gave a beautiful speech, also noting the importance of Heather's previous work, and talking about community, what people can do when they care. Here's an excerpt:



“Community. ‘What can we do to make things better?’ they asked.

“This is a story about the men and women whose commitment to civic life manifested as care for the river and nature. Mostly they weren’t scientists, not that science doesn’t have an important place. They weren’t paid advocates like me, or government officials. They were people who could see that the cause of human wellbeing, of just looking after each other and making things better, was linked to care for the natural world.

“Their homes were community centres where campaigns were run, to be sure, but also where bellies were fed or hair was cut or problems were solved. It was about the community coming together, like family, to look after each other and make things better.

“Every letter they wrote, every meeting they attended, every poster they painted, every ear they bent - all acts of love. Love of nature and the river. Love for their families and community. And grounded in the ideal that the measure of a person’s patriotism - a person’s love for country - is not their words but their deeds.” - Chris Gambian

## SO Shire Boomerang bag plastic bag ban celebration

One smaller but joyful event in early June was the [SO Shire Boomerang bag plastic bag ban](#) celebration. It’s been a long time coming and wonderful to finally have these noxious single use plastics phased out! Sarah-Jo Lobwein has done some fantastic work in this space.

The Boomerang Bag groups from Sutherland and Bundeena have done a tremendous job raising awareness of the issue, and their hours of dedication and time sewing "borrow and bring back" alternatives has been inspiring. So important to recognise this work. It’s a campaign that assumes the best of public spirit, and considers that with a bit of a nudge and support people will act for the betterment of the environment.



# The mining underneath Woronora Reservoir, and coal sludge pollution in the Royal National Park

Catherine Reynolds

It has now been over two years since the “debate” in State Parliament. Peabody's damage to our water catchment was at that time dismissed by Labor and the Liberal National party. They chose to ignore the range of concerns flagged by 20 genuinely independent scientists not beholden to the mining industry. They argued this mining under our water catchment was 'best practice' science.

Over the last 12 months we've been continuing to wait for the Nature Conservation Council to progress action to stop the mining at Woronora via the Environmental Defenders Office. This is dragging out for far too long.

There is a State election coming up next year. This should be an election issue, although both parties would likely have sought to bury the issue, now we have the terrible pollution incident caused by this mine, coal sludge running through the Royal National Park waterways from Peabody's surface facilities at the back of Helensburgh.

As appalling as it is this incident will hopefully see a new light shone on everything Peabody is doing to the water catchment.

The photos of the damage are shocking. There has been media coverage by the ABC news, Nine News, Ten News, SMH, Guardian, Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail, ABC 702 and News Radio. Video taken by Ricki Coughlan featured in the Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/video/2022/sep/14/coal-wastewater-spill-turns-creek-in-nsw-national-park-to-black-sludge-video>

**The scheme to reintroduce platypus in the Royal has been cancelled.**



Peabody's surface facility at Helensburgh is a few kilometres away from the mining taking place underneath Woronora Reservoir. The site's holding dams where the coal sludge waste material is kept has large discharge outlets that drain down to Camp Gully Creek. Camp Gully Creek joins the Hacking River, which flows through the Royal National Park past the iconic Lady Carrington Drive, down to Audley Weir, and from there out to Port Hacking.

As I write this, Peabody have not been fined, or asked to remediate the damage.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre member Bob Crombie has been monitoring similar pollution events for years, and first posted about iron floc contamination in Camp Gully Creek and coal waste material at Audley around two years ago on his First National Park page. Bob is a former Royal National Park ranger and has documented pollution events from this mine since the 1980s. No government agency has given this issue full consideration to date.

Two years ago I decided to build evidence of ongoing breaches to mount a case with the EPA. Bob, Ian Hill, and Tassia Kolesnikow began to visit Camp Gully Creek and document pollution we saw there, while I carried out research into previous incidents, and began to lobby others for support. In 2021 I contacted Dr Ian Wright, briefed him on the issue, and asked if he was available to conduct water testing.

Over the course of the last year Greens MLC Cate Faehrmann and Greens MLC Sue Higginson have both been a terrific help with the Royal National Park pollution, and the mining under the Reservoir. Cate Faehrmann was willing to ask a number of questions to various government Ministers on our behalf. One concerned the possible local extinction of platypus in the Waratah Rivulet, one of the main feeder streams that flows into the Reservoir. Platypus were seen there in 2007, but none since. She asked whether local extinction of platypus would be enough to stop the mining. The answer that came back was that Peabody is not required to test for platypus<sup>1</sup>.

Last year I also sent Cate Faehrmann a report and photos of coal waste material spilling from the mine into Camp Gully Creek and on through to the Hacking River. She asked questions in parliament about the impact of this pollution on the platypus reintroduction program. The advice received in Dec 2021



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/papers/pages/qanda-tracking-details.aspx?pk=88006&>



was that Peabody will ensure they have systems in place “to protect the waters that flow into Royal National Park.”

In January 2022 the company was fined \$15,000 by the EPA for a pollution incident that impacted waterways flowing into the Royal<sup>2</sup>.

Unfortunately what is most remarkable about the EPA fine is that it was given out at all: coal pollution has been visible along the Hacking River for years, but no one has addressed this. Few people realise the surface facilities of this US multinational's coal mine are directly adjacent to one of Australia's best loved National Parks.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre members Bob Crombie, Ian Hill, Ricki Coughlan and I checked the creek again mid August this year with Dr Ian Wright. Photos of coal sludge pollution we saw then were reported in the Telegraph on 15 August. In that report Peabody stated the company takes “its environmental responsibilities seriously.”



With further inspections of the site in September we saw the most recent appalling pollution events. Our members who visited the site over this period included Bob Crombie, Ian Hill, Ricki Coughlan, Cooper Riach, Sally Stockbridge, and me. Ricki and I took Greens MLC Sue Higginson there, and she later posted shocking video on social media which went viral. She was horrified by the black sludge flowing into the Hacking, and the obvious impacts on the creek. A video she posted later on twitter had 75,000 views, 1,500 retweets, and over 3,700 'likes'.

Other posts were put up by Wild Magazine, and other photos of the pollution added to our page. The EPA issued another “prevention notice” as for breaches on 17 August and 8 September. These seem to be have applied solely due to community action. It really draws into question the likelihood of other breaches not being recorded.

I subsequently wrote to the Environment Minister, the NWPS, and the EPA requesting clarification about how this has been allowed to occur, flagging ongoing evidence of breaches on the part of Peabody, lack of reporting, and failure on the part of the EPA to adequately monitor the site. On behalf of the Environment Centre I asked that Peabody's EPA licence be revoked, that the company be prosecuted for allowing this damage, fined, and made liable for the full cost of remediation.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://apps.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/Detail.aspx?instid=1618216&id=1618216&option=notice&searchrange=notice&range=Penalty%20Notice&prp=no&status=Issued>

# Australian regulator finds large-scale emissions misreporting by coalminer Peabody

US giant agrees to hire auditors after calculation errors, poor record-keeping and inconsistent data collection discovered



With all these latest news reports the company are still stating that they take their “environmental responsibilities seriously.”

The EPA has not yet fined Peabody for these most recent breaches, only for the January pollution. For the January pollution incident the EPA claimed remediation would result in more damage than it repaired. The company has not yet been asked to pay for remediating the current damage either.

In terms of what the company is doing in our water catchment, Peabody is now well into LW 306, the first longwall proceeding directly under the actual Reservoir.

Through the last year there’s been ever more concerning indications that we cannot rely on this company to do the right thing. They are being sued

by shareholders in a class action for giving out false information. According to newspaper reports, former employees said the company “had a culture of “cutting corners”<sup>3</sup>.

Peabody was also found to have been lying in the mandatory reports to the government about their emissions; this was due to “due to calculation errors, poor record-keeping and inconsistent data collection and analysis.”<sup>4</sup>

Despite all this evidence, the State government stills seems to feel this company is responsible enough to self monitor any damage to our drinking water catchment.

Through the last year POWA - Protect our Water alliance also carried out some amazing advocacy work in relation to the Dendrobium mine extension application, successfully mounting a case with the EDO that saw the project overturned by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) due to irreversible impacts on the Sydney water catchment. The IPC found the proposal “was not in the public interest”<sup>5</sup>.



## How carbon lobbyists control the climate policy debate in Australia

Giles Parkinson 9 September 2021 25



A damning new report has identified which fossil fuel companies and lobby groups are exerting the greatest control over the federal government on climate policy, and it will surprise no-one to discover that the leaders are all coal companies.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/insiders-rat-on-peabody-over-australian-mine-fire-20210323-p57dga>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jan/31/australian-regulator-finds-large-scale-emissions-misreporting-by-coalminer-peabody>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/projects/2020/10/dendrobium-extension-project-ssd-8194/determination/210205\\_ssd-8194-dendrobium-extension-project\\_statement-of-reasons.pdf](https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/projects/2020/10/dendrobium-extension-project-ssd-8194/determination/210205_ssd-8194-dendrobium-extension-project_statement-of-reasons.pdf)

It was shocking to have the NSW LNP State government then overturn that decision, and set in place a State Significant Development process which allowed the mine extension application to be approved solely at the discretion of the Planning Minister. It reeked of State capture.

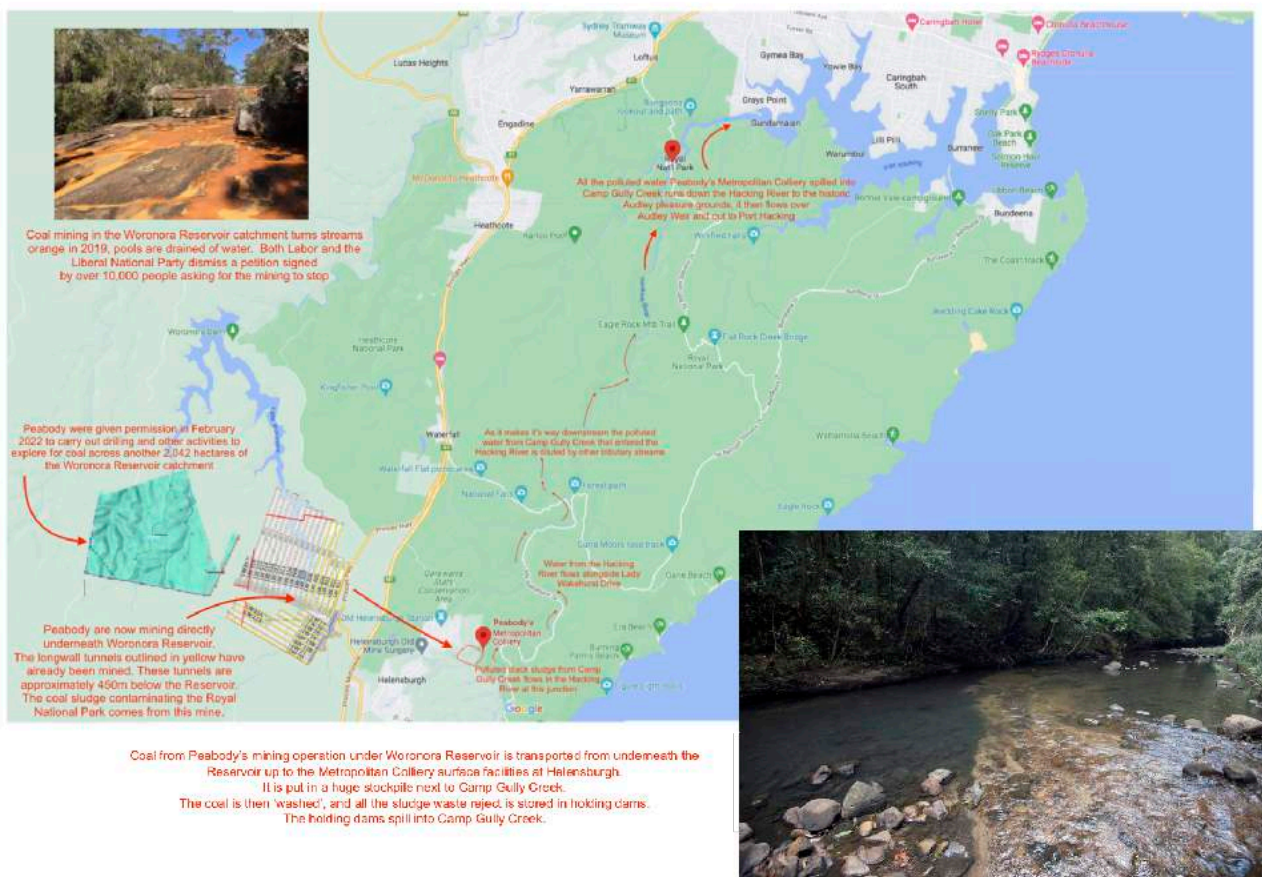
It was absolutely wonderful news to have South32 announced in August that they had decided not to proceed with the Dendrobium approval. It gives new hope we can achieve an outcome with the Woronora campaign, which also now needs new people to take it forward, especially with the State election coming up next year.

It is quite possible the Labor and Liberal parties will try to bury the issue, especially with the NCC and EDO so slow to take action.

What is also shocking is that the LNP government has seen fit to give Peabody a new permit to look for coal in the upper Woronora River, under and around the left arm of the reservoir, to the west of the area they are already allowed to mine. The company will be allowed to take heavy machinery into the area, to dig holes, and drill.

Our water catchments are meant to be protected not despoiled. At the moment it seems the supposedly “protected” Special area catchment is off limits to anyone except a multinational mining company, with a pattern of behaving badly.

And now we see the sickening, appalling despoliation of our iconic Royal National Park.



# RD Walshe Writing for the Environment Award

Phil Smith

Peace and Sustainability was the essay topic for the 2022 RD Walshe Writing for the Environment Award. We received over 120 entries and, with participants coming from every state and territory in Australia, this has grown to become a truly national competition!

This year, there were 3 age categories: up to 18, 19-25, over 65. We received entries for all categories.

Judging is continuing and the winners will be announced at the AGM on September 24. The winning pieces will be posted on the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre website.



One observation about the topic. Whilst it was appropriate to draw attention to the connections between peace and a sustainable world, most writers struggled to link the two.

Many just wrote war stories; others simply wrote about the importance of sustainability. The quality of the writing was good, but off topic. This is a good lesson for future writing competitions. The topic matters a great deal.

# Speaking 4 the Planet

Phil Smith

2022 marks the tenth anniversary of Speaking 4 the Planet: a creative, fun and inspirational Arts-based competition that has spread from Sutherland Shire to the world! Here, I must say thanks again to Jenni and Graeme for encouraging and supporting the idea from the beginning.

Good things happened again this year. There were competitions in:

- NSW (invitation to all councils). 55 entries.
- NetWaste area (23 councils in western NSW).
- Armidale.
- Lakemba PS - another Kids 4 the Planet competition, this is their fifth year.
- Christchurch, NZ.
- Tasmania
- Vietnam

In Tasmania, the competition is to support the Restore Pedder campaign. In the Netwaste region, the competition is for adults, a first! In Armidale, there is a Peace and Sustainability S4P to support a Peace conference being run by University of New England in December. Winning students will present at the conference. These three competitions are still underway.

In the planning for 2023:

- A competition in two provinces in China. Called Protect Mother Earth: Care for Earth Mothers, this event will recognise the role of women in building sustainable communities. This competition is being run with Amy Fan, Founder of Law Speaks First and Frontier Sound Law Review.
- A competition based in Ha Noi but inviting Vietnamese students from around the world to participate.
- A cross-Tasman competition between the winners of the NSW 2023 event and the Christchurch 2023 event.
- The NSW competition will have a category for teachers.

I must thank SSEC for its ongoing support. And thanks to the councils that participated this year.

Thanks to Petur Farkas in Hungary for his incredible design and layout skills!



Thanks to Sarwat Surovi in Sydney for her creative solutions and continued work on helping to create the packages.

Thanks to Joanna Benson in the Philippines for looking after the website so well.

Thanks to Rasha Zreika and Jann Price (Principal) at Lakemba PS for inspiring their schools and others in the neighbourhood to participate in incredible events!

Thanks to Emma Jessop at Paddy Pallin, a company that has supported S4P from the very beginning! A 10 year anniversary of support from PP!

Here are few highlights

1. The Lakemba PS event in June was opened by the daughter of a professional colleague in Thailand. Suleporn (Chayapa's mother) and I coached Chayapa (7yrs old) in public speaking. She sent this video for the Lakemba Kids 4 the Planet event.

2. A bunch of NZ rappers from Christchurch submitted this piece in the NSW competition by mistake. But we fixed that and they participated in the NZ competition.

3. S4P is supporting the Restore *One Planet, One Pedder* campaign in Tasmania and beyond. Here's an entry from Bayview Secondary College. The competition closes soon.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sIDf-DytyhMPpzy85odpcm3eTb77Une7/view>

4. NSW Competition winners

Akshara Yadem from SGGHS winner of the Writing category

We live for piggish mornings; a breakfast-sodden table, with birthday-cake Earth.

Let the candles wane, disfigure.

Lick up vanilla bits.

Leave charred fingerprints.

We say "more!". There is no more.

Chloe from Wagga Wagga was the winner of the inaugural Performance Poetry category.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dtsdqHrtX2aO7WORWjsq6iRoFroNjlqX/view?ts=62ec749c>

Joint winners in the Speaking category, both from OLMC Parramatta:

- Ravia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYxRX9YI80Y>



• Haynin

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0\\_Q8cQHc15I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_Q8cQHc15I)



The Art category was won by Maheen from Unity Grammar, Liverpool.



If we hold hands **now**, we can make a difference

# Bill Ryan Award

Catherine Reynolds

One of the wonderful things about being involved in the Environment Centre is the amazing people we meet. Bill Ryan was one of these people. He was loved and respected, and we were proud to have him as a member of our Centre.

Bill Ryan passed away in December 2019. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre established this award in Bill's name as a tribute to a remarkable man, to keep Bill's memory alive, to recognise everything he gave to the environment. He was a role model for others, and we wanted this to continue.

Announcing the Bill Ryan Award at our Annual General Meeting each year means the written acknowledgement in our Annual Report is by necessity delayed until the subsequent year. So at the 2022 AGM we will be announcing a new recipient of the Award - but this report concerns our 2021 winner.

At a time when the urgency to address climate change couldn't be clearer, we were so very glad to be able to honour Peter Donley with the 2021 Bill Ryan Award for peaceful environmental activism. Like Bill Ryan, Peter has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to advocacy on issues of environmental, humanitarian, and social-justice that start as far back as protests against the Vietnam war.

At the end of 2011, Peter's daughter Jenna was killed. His daughter's love of wildlife and nature compelled Peter to dedicate his life to environmental activism.

Peter has been tenacious, participating in campaigns directed at all levels of government to address environmentally damaging laws and decisions. He acted to prevent a range of projects including the Tinto/Santos mine projects, Adani's Carmichael mine, Southern Highlands coal and gas mining, Warkworth/ Mt Thorley coal mines (Bulga) Hunter Valley, Rocky Hill Mine Gloucester, Shenau Watermark coal mine of Liverpool Plains, PEL gas licences across NSW, Abbots Point Coal port in QLD, fishing Super Trawlers in marine national park and the destruction of Gomerai sites in Leard Forest Narrabri by mining companies. He's strategised on campaigns with Greenpeace, Lock The Gate, the Greens, Extinction Rebellion and our local Shire Climate Action Network.

In 2014, he was arrested for participating in a mass 'walk-in' to prevent illegal forest clearing of protected native habitat in the Leard Forest in Narrabri by Whitehaven Coal. Peter met with the University of Sydney to discuss their investment in fossil fuel businesses and Whitehaven Coal





specifically, challenging the Vice Chancellor in front of an audience of 100s donors at their Challis Bequest lunch. The University subsequently halted all further coal investments and announced its intention to divest from Whitehaven Coal.

In the beginning of 2016 Peter helped plan and participated in the sit-down protest in the foyer of Parliament House Canberra calling for stronger federal government action on climate change. Later in 2016, he kayaked in front of coal container ships in Newcastle waters to block the export of coal in the Break Free from Fossil Fuel protest.



Along with the many other actions he's taken, Peter put in a huge amount of time letting people know about the mining under Woronora Reservoir, and letting them know about our petition to stop the mining.

Despite being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Peter's activism continues to this day. He joined the Sydney Knitting Nannas & Friends in 2014, and continues to support their actions. A resident of the Shire, Peter has been a member of Friends of the Royal for many years, assisting with bush regeneration activities in the park and writing submissions on management issues.

In addition to sharing Bill Ryan's sense of social justice, Peter shares Bill's integrity, kindness and generosity of spirit. He subsequently requested the \$1,000 prize money be given to the National Parks Association, which was done on 1 June, 2022.

The Leader did a terrific write up on the story. So important and valuable to flag this positive recognition in the Sutherland Shire particularly:

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/7452080/bangor-campaigner-receives-activism-award/>



# Koalas and Sutherland Shire Wildlife Corridors

Catherine Reynolds

It's been an interesting year for koala activism in the Shire. On one hand the development of a Koala Management plan is now being taken seriously by Sutherland Shire Council which is brilliant. The Department of Planning and Environment NSW Koala Strategy team is supporting Council in this and engaging with a range of other Councils too: it looks like a Southern Sydney Regional Council Management plan will get underway. In November 2021 Wollongong Council also passed a motion in support of their own Koala Management Plan, 18 months after we submitted our initial report asking them to do so.

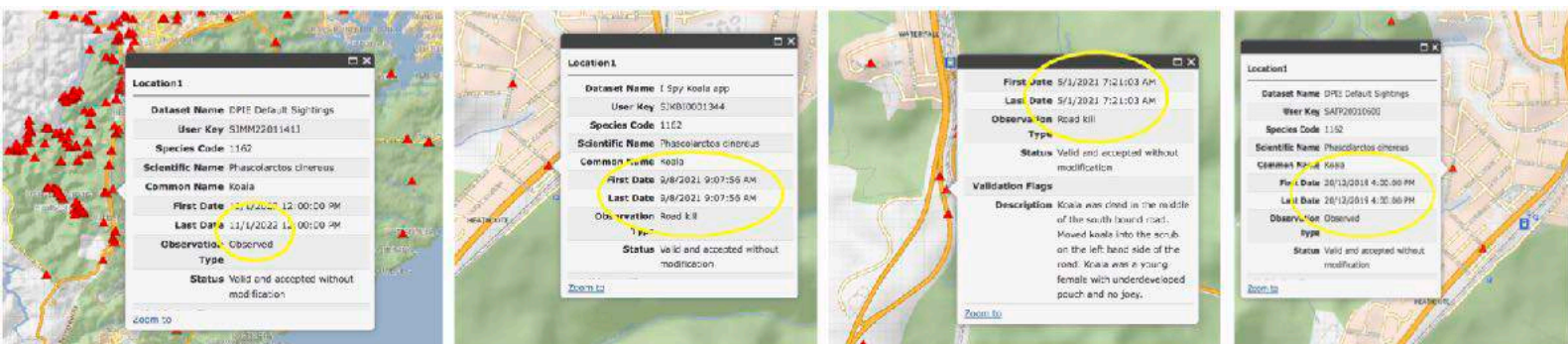
Our website has been updated to include koala kill zones and areas where wildlife crossing are needed:

<https://www.ssec.org.au/our-campaigns/koalas-and-resilient-habitat-in-the-sutherland-shire/>

This includes the infamous Sydney Water attempt to subdivide a site at Bundanoon Road in Woronora Heights. Over 18,500 people signed an online petition objecting to this development, and it's very unlikely this subdivision will proceed:

<https://www.change.org/p/australian-koala-protection-stop-development-on-bundanoon-road-woronora-heights-save-the-koalas>

We put in a submission to Council opposing it in June last year:

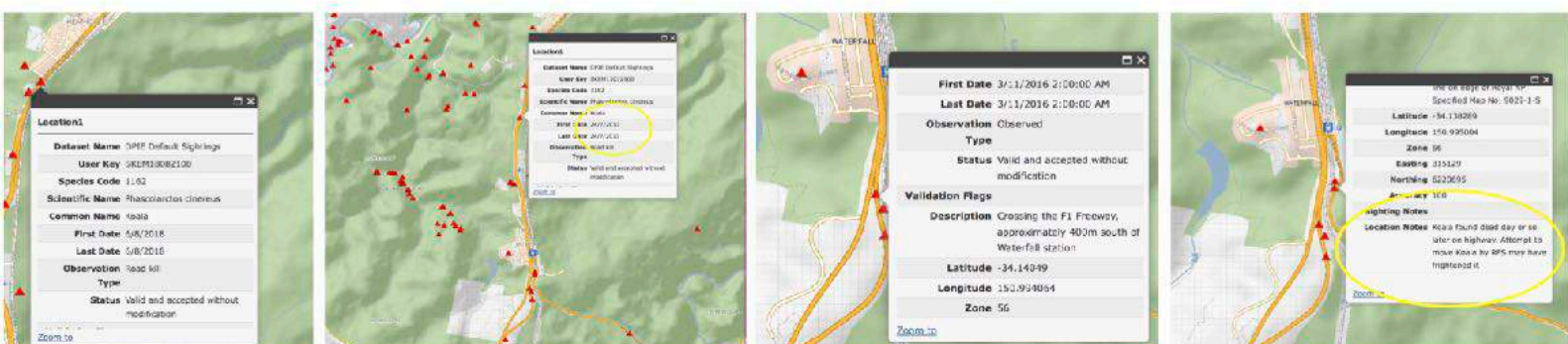


F6 North of Waterfall 2022 obs.

F6 Heathcote 2021 road kill

F6 South of Waterfall 2021 road kill

Heathcote 2019 obs.



Heathcote 2018 F6 road kill

South of Heathcote 2017 F6 road kill

F6 South of Waterfall 2016 obs.

F6 South of Waterfall road kill

<https://www.ssec.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BundanoonObjection.pdf>

There has been a lot of public attention directed toward the Sutherland Shire koala population: unfortunately much of this overlooked the vital need for mitigation measures to stop our koalas being killed on roads.

One piece of good news finally - following our initial report identifying the koala kill zone at Deadman's Creek at Sandy Point, and concerted lobbying by a number of local groups who co-signed the report, last year TransportNSW employed a consultant to look into the feasibility of a koala underpass there. We've been waiting over a year and an announcement has just been made that this will go through - very exciting to have a win like this! One complication is a barbed wire fence put up by Holsworthy Defence, and barbed wire is deadly for little animals like gliders. We had verbal advice from TransportNSW that there's a possibility the barbed wire fence may be retrofitted, but we have not seen the details as yet.

It has also been very positive collaborating with the Save Sydney's Koalas group during the year, after the grim loss of Georges River Environmental Alliance campaigner Sharyn Cullis, who was also involved in that group. Save Sydney's Koala's focuses on the koala colonies in the path of huge developments planned around Airds, Campbelltown, Appin and Wilton. We promoted their petition for wildlife corridors / crossings to be built to stop koalas being killed on the roads there, and for an Upper Georges River Koala National Park. That petition closes in November, and so far over 8,500 people have signed. We need 20,000:

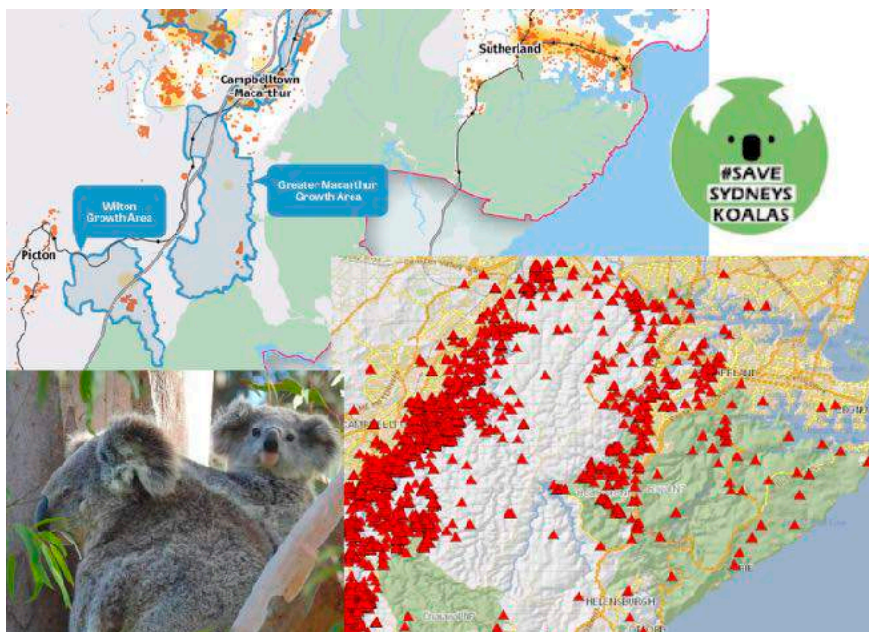
<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/Pages/ePetition-details.aspx?q=fqdTUicl4Yf6sP6t5qV0Vw>

### Experts to lead webinar discussion on need for wildlife crossings in Sutherland Shire



Road and rail barriers which prevent wildlife crossing between the Royal and Heathcote national parks will be among issues discussed at a webinar led by two highly respected experts in this field.

The event to be held by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre on Tuesday April 5 at 7pm has taken on extra significance with the federal government's decision in February to increase



In late May we took part in an event Save Sydney's Koalas organised with Singhs Motorcycle Club. The Club ran a tour of Southern Sydney regional hotspots where habitat is threatened and koalas are killed on our roads, including local spots around the Shire. Former NPWS ranger and long term SSEC member Bob Crombie and I spoke to the group before the riders set off.

The F6 freeway and our other roads are useful for koala awareness raising bike tours, but they divide the landscape. A 2021 National Parks and Wildlife Service report stated barriers such as the M6 motorway and train line were "likely to be a major factor in the local extinction of several species".

One possible solution we've been advocating for over the last few years is a crossing at Cawley's Bridge over the F6.

Bob Crombie has written to Lee Evans MP about this, and Matt Kean MP, and over the last few years he and I have made representations to a whole range of government agencies. A crossing at Cawley's was included as a recommendation with last year's submission to the Heathcote, Royal and Garawarra draft plan of management.

We held a Wildlife Crossing zoom webinar in April 2022 which focused on the issue. The Leader publicised the event, and there were two brilliant speakers; Associate Professor Ross Goldingay, and Jacqui Marlow, a successful advocate for wildlife crossings from the Northern beaches who was involved in lobbying for the Mona Vale wildlife overpass. The webinar drew a considerable amount of interest and was well attended. Ross has since published his most recent research on the issue. But koalas continue to be killed on roads around the Shire: on Heathcote Rd and New Illawarra Rd. The area around the ANSTO precinct needs crossings. ANSTO seems oblivious. We wrote two emails a year ago raising the issue, and they were ignored.

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/7668023/push-for-shire-wildlife-crossings/>

Other advocacy actions we are planning to undertake include koala drone surveys in the Royal and Heathcote National Parks. SSEC member Dr Chad Beranek is doing this, with an innovative new survey technique he's devised for mapping numbers across landscapes. It will be interesting to see the results.



The NSW Koala strategy team held an invitation only all day workshop in July 2022 which SSEC Chair Ian Hill and I attended, along with representatives from NPWS, Sutherland Shire Council, Friends of the Royal (Diane Townley and Dave Robson, also SSEC members), the National Parks Association Southern Sydney branch, Save Sydney's Koalas, and WIRES.

The important work of Dr Sharyn Cullis from Georges River Environmental

Alliance was remembered and recognised at that workshop. Kylie Madden from the NSW Koala Strategy team spoke about Sharyn's tremendous contribution. It's a loss: Sharyn was always able to see the best way forward.

What's been most interesting about the whole business of managing local koala populations is how the narrative and the debate is being tightly controlled by government agencies. At the NSW Koala Strategy team workshop the biggest killer of koalas, land clearing and habitat loss, was hardly mentioned. It was clear the topic was politically loaded. As was the question of wildlife crossings. A presentation by Campbelltown Council focused largely on educating children, and providing general information about the species to the general public, as opposed to any discussion about the terrible impact of land clearing and habitat loss which the Campbelltown koala colony is subject to.



One notable point that came out of the workshop is that our local WIRES carers have no place in the Shire they can take injured animals. The koala clinic at Camden only just re-opened. That's a long drive with a stressed injured koala in pain. I'd discussed this issue previously with WIRES, over a year ago, investigating whether Sutherland Council can provide space to keep injured animals, to no avail. More recently I contacted Lee Evans MP for Heathcote, requesting his urgent assistance. Over three weeks later there's been no reply despite a number of follow up calls.

Greater Sydney Landcare held another workshop in August. This was attended by Dr Sally Stockbridge and I, as well as a whole range of activist community groups from across the Greater Sydney region from Sutherland, to Campbelltown, to the Blue Mountains, and out to

Hornsby. The aim was to workshop what we are all doing and build future collaboration to better address the extinction threats koalas face.

Despite new funding announcements and initiatives, koalas continue to face terrible threats. The amount of funding allocated to translocation compared to wildlife crossings is concerning. The NSW LNP have set aside \$9.1m for translocation, and it is openly supported on the NSW government website as a key target, with a promise of "Up to 8 translocation projects implemented." Only \$10.6 million has been allocated to 10 vehicle strike hotspots:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/programs-legislation-and-framework/nsw-koala-strategy>

This is money to be spent over the next 4 years. The amount is simply not enough to provide sufficient crossings: koalas will continue to be killed on roads across NSW.

The koalas in Sydney need proper wildlife corridors. Translocation provides a tacit excuse to continue land clearing, koalas move across the landscape, when there are no proper wildlife corridors, and a lack of crossings, koalas are killed on roads as they try to find mates, new territory and so on. Translocation is no solution to this. It also completely ignores the situation of all other native animals left behind.

Any attempt to translocate koalas from the Campbelltown region to suit developers would be unacceptable. The government has previously marketed translocations as a "good news" story (as we saw with the 2021 Father's Day publicity about platypus in the Royal). This issue will be one to watch.

It has been brilliant to have the help of one of our newest members Billy Bray on this. He drafted a short report raising issues with translocation, and everyone who has seen that has been impressed. We're going to use it as a basis for a motion opposing local translocations at the Nature Conservation Council Conference in November.

Council Meeting 23 August 2021

MOT013-21 KOALA MANAGEMENT

Pursuant to Notice, Councillor Steinwall submitted the following Motion:

- THAT Council:
1. Receive an interim report as part of the 2021/22 Operational Plan on Koala Management measures taken to date to protect the koala population in Council owned or controlled lands, create awareness and stakeholder engagement.
  2. Write to Transport of NSW requesting:
    - a. Larger and clearer signs on Heathcote Road at koala crossing hotspots to inform and warn motorists.
    - b. Koala crossings be installed at Lucas Heights and at the Heathcote Bridge over the Woronora River.
    - c. Funding towards a Koala Management Plan.
  3. Continue to provide information and education on koala habitats and movement in Council owned or controlled lands, via existing engagement channels.
  4. Give consideration to a Koala Management Plan as an enhancement to Council's Biodiversity Strategy as part of the 2022/2024 Delivery Program planning process.

File Number: 2015/04752

MOT013-21

With an excited media focusing on good news koala stories and endearing photos, too often the real issues are being displaced: the lack of action to address road kill in the Shire, the lack of focus on restoring connectivity across landscapes, the lack of support for koala carers, and the situation with development obliterating koala habitat around Campbelltown and Appin.

As Bob Crombie has explained, Sydney's last koala colony had a large home range which extended across the landscape. This is now being fragmented, the landscape cut into sections. Extinction is a political choice. We need politicians with integrity to take action: so

far not many are stepping up.

Through the brilliant work of SSEC member and filmmaker Georgia Wallace Crabbe I've learnt that koala habitat destruction is just as shocking in QLD and Victoria: both states are held by Labor. It raises questions about what we can hope for if there's a change of government at the State election next March. Georgia's koala film is going well, in the edit phase currently, so watch this space.



**ITEM 9 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR CATH BLAKEY - KOALA PROTECTION**

Councillor Cath Blakey has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

"I formally move that Council -

- 1 Recognise the importance of the preservation and protection of koala habitats and populations in Greater Sydney and New South Wales.
- 2 Note the report from the NSW Legislative Council inquiry *Koala populations and habitats in New South Wales* that found koalas are projected to become extinct in NSW by 2050 unless there is urgent government intervention.
- 3 Write to the Premier, Minister for Planning & Public Spaces, Minister for Energy and Environment, and Minister for Agriculture urging them to -
  - a Support the extension of the proposed Georges River National Park to the Illawarra Escarpment and the adjacent Water Catchment area.
  - b Maintain local government's ability to regulate environmental zones to protect, manage and restore lands of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values, particularly for the protection of core koala habitat.
  - c Provide planning certainty, resources and support for identifying core koala habitat and the development of Koala Plans of Management; and
  - d Allow for departures from the Koala Habitat Protection Guideline based on existing surveys, local circumstances or emerging technology where this is agreed to by the Department."

# Shire Climate Action Network (ShireCAN)

## 2021/22 Year in Review

Gay Curtis, ShireCAN Coordinator with Judy & Greg Walker

It has been very busy year, especially with the Federal elections and climate action organisations working proactively to mobilise the community to get climate as a top priority on the political agenda. ShireCAN has been a part of this movement.

It has been encouraging to see an increased interest and concern about climate change from residents in the Shire community which has seen our member group grow in size and become increasingly active. We welcomed a number of new members, including Gay Curtis who took up the position as Coordinator as Tassia Kolesnikow stepped down but still continued to be very involved and supportive in training and mentoring new members. A sincere thank you to Tassia for all the work that she has done.

Covid 19 didn't deter our efforts and we have all become very adept at campaigning via social media and in online zooms. Here are some of the highlights from the year in raising awareness and increasing action on climate change.

### SCAN Rebranded

Sutherland Climate Action Network (Sutherland CAN) became Shire Climate Action Network (ShireCAN). The name change occurred to better reflect the Shire community. ShireCAN also reviewed its role, priority objectives and activities and developed and adopted the 2022/2023 ShireCAN Strategic Plan.





## Member Communications

The member Newsletter continued to be a priority and was emailed every 4-6 weeks to inform and mobilise action amongst our ~350 subscribers. The ShireCAN Facebook Group became more active and posts increased daily informing members about local, national and global climate change information, initiatives and online actions, workshops and seminars. ShireCAN also upped its messaging and posts on the SSEC Instagram (thank you to Simona Kourtesis) to better engage with younger audiences and attract interest in joining ShireCAN. We surveyed our members via the ShireCAN Facebook and Newsletter to find out how we can improve how and what we communicate to our members and how our members would like to be involved with ShireCAN.

## Community Outreach

We had a presence with a stall at key markets within the Sutherland Shire, the Engadine Community Markets and the Bundeena Saltwater Market, and we also attended the Bundeena Maianbar Sustainability Expo. Markets are a great avenue for our advocacy work as we can reach the general community and promote climate awareness and action.

## Stakeholder Communications

Networking with aligned climate organisations continued to be a priority. This included working closely with the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) in particular with the Climate Action NOW signage initiative. We also worked closely with the Climate Action Network Australia (CANA), especially with their Federal Elections Campaign Coordinators, and also the Greenpeace, Sutherland Hub, supporting the REenergise campaign.

ShireCAN and individual members kept up the communication at the local, state and federal government levels on a variety of issues around climate. These actions included:

At the Local Government level:

- Writing submissions, sending letters to the Editor of the Leader, and commenting on Sutherland Shire Council's Urban Tree & Bushland Policy; the Draft Community Strategic Plan, and the Active & Public Transport Draft Strategies.
- We've been liaising and lobbying with the Council to find out how they plan to meet their resolution for carbon neutrality by 2030 and their commitments to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. We have had meetings with the Council's newly created Environment & Sustainability Sub-Committee to discuss key climate policies and initiatives.

At the State Government level:

- We have written to government about the Dendrobium Extension Project and about the SCATL active transport route.

At the Federal Government level:

- We supported Zali Steggall's Climate Bill.

- We increased lobbying for climate action and emphasised the urgency to transition away from fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions in the light of the release of the 6th IPCC Report.
- We urged the PM to personally attend the COP26 and to match the UK's and USA's Climate targets.

## ShireCAN Campaigns Initiatives

### Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link (SCATL)

Members rallied to boost awareness of this campaign, supporting zero emissions transport and calling on the State Government to reinstate the optimal shared pathway route alongside the rail corridor. A flyer was created to promote the campaign to the community and asking Shire residents to sign a petition which was distributed via bike shops, fitness centres and community boards.



### Don't Cook COOK Digital Campaign

Five graphics were created to raise awareness via social media within the Shire community about Climate Change. The graphics focus on how changes to our climate will affect Cronulla (the COOK electorate) as Cronulla is a destination for many within the Shire for the beach, sports, walking/running on the esplanade, picnics, eating out and cycling. This campaign was maximised in the lead up to the Federal election.

We supported a Shire resident in the set-up of a new Facebook and Instagram page “Don’t cook COOK.” The purpose of this community initiative was to mobilise the Shire community into action on Climate and to motivate the community to vote Climate.

### Federal Election Climate Action Campaign

ShireCAN implemented a number of initiatives to raise awareness within the Shire about ensuring climate action was a top priority in the Federal election. Some of the key activities included, developing a flyer with a scorecard for Party Climate Policies and an explanation of how to vote so that Climate was recorded as the No 1 issue. This was circulated at Community Markets and via Facebook and our Newsletter.

We distributed Climate Action Now (CAN) signage/stickers throughout the Shire. A half page Ad (courtesy of a grant from CANA) was developed for the Leader showing people within the Shire Community from all walks of life, holding CAN signs.

## Campaigning with other Climate Action Groups

We continued to support and lobby for campaigns by aligned groups. The focus being on Banks, Super Funds, Insurance Companies supporting fossil fuel corporations and the fossil fuel and retail sector C-Suite Executive as well as State/Federal Government's lack of clear and decisive climate policies and inaction. Campaign initiatives including:

Several members driven by Melinda Millen joined the Climate for Change movement giving it traction within the Shire via their Climate Conversations and MP Engagement sessions.

A number of members joined with the new Greenpeace Sutherland Hub to assist with their REenergise campaign, aimed at motivating large companies to commit to 100% renewable electricity by 2025. One of the highlights was the Westfield Retail Christmas Photo Action where members visited Miranda Westfield to draw attention to retailers committed and not committed to powering their operations by wind and sun, sharing with shoppers what retailers were on the naughty and nice list. Check out the social media creative made by Greenpeace. Spot the ShireCAN team, we feature twice!

<https://fb.watch/aV3Qs2nGd2/>

ShireCAN members joined the Friends of the Earth National Day of Action for Australia's 2030 Climate Target, to make a powerful call for Prime Minister Scott Morrison to take a strong 2030 target to the COP26 climate summit. See our messages below which were uploaded to the Friends of the Earth Day of Action 'selfie wall' on their website and published on social media channels all day.

Thank you to our wonderful members for all your hard work and commitment to climate action. Let's hope all our efforts continue to help the cause into the new year and we are able to gain important ground to reverse the climate risks.



# Verge Gardens

Catherine Reynolds

We've had a very positive outcome with the verge garden guidelines advocacy this year due to a number of persistent letters to Council, media releases published in The Leader, and careful posts on social media all raising questions about why all surrounding Councils have verge garden policies and guidelines when Sutherland seems unable to manage this.

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/7641050/shire-nature-strip-gardens-policy-out-of-touch/>

In April this year Councillor Diedree Steinwall brought a motion before Council asking for Council staff to review the feasibility of Council developing such guidelines. Councillor Steinwall, Councillor Boyd, Councillor Scaysbrook, Councillor Awada and Sutherland Shire Mayor Cr Carmelo Pesce all spoke eloquently and articulately in favour of proceeding with the motion, and noted the positive benefits verge gardens can bring.

Councillor Steinwall's motion was supported unanimously by all Councillors: Council staff have now been asked to prepare a report identifying a framework to develop a verge garden program, which assesses issues and provides clearer and more transparent information to the community.

Once this staff report is released it will likely require follow up advocacy on the part of Environment Centre members to take the push for guidelines forward into policy.

It's been fantastic chatting to a few keen verge gardeners throughout the whole process, and it'll be wonderful to see a positive advance here which benefits the community.



# Sutherland Shire Local Business Sustainability

## Awards

Sarah-Jo Lobwein

**Brett and Sarah-Jo Lobwein attended the 2021 Local Business on 2/2/22 and Sarah-Jo presented the awards.**

On behalf of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre, I was honoured to support and encourage sustainable local businesses by sponsoring the 'Sustainability Award' for the third year in the Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards.

It was a wonderful opportunity to highlight leaders in the community that are modelling what can be done in all local businesses in all industries.

Long-term commitment to environmentally and culturally responsible practices including sustainable and ethical procurement; recycling and waste minimisation.

Sustainable business practices, services and products are critical if we are to protect the Sutherland Shire from pollution and environmental degradation. There is a tremendous opportunity and scope for improvement in the sustainability of all Shire businesses, both large and small.

The Sustainability Award recognises and promotes businesses who are minimising their environmental footprint and supporting their local community by making it easier to choose more sustainable products, services, and venues. They are using the planet's resources responsibly and minimising waste and financial costs in the long term.

In 2021 we once more had the pleasure of receiving nominations for businesses that are working hard to make products and operations more environmentally friendly. The pandemic placed unprecedented strain on many local businesses, and businesses had to incorporate innovative sustainable solutions including compostable products, circular and ways to reduce, reuse, recycle. We encourage our community to support Shire businesses that are striving for sustainability.

The 2021 award recipients explored and sought better options to all facets of their operations and consumption - from back of house, front of house service and waste management, and strove to improve policy and processes at broader levels in their industry. Many of the sustainable initiatives by these businesses are perhaps unknown to their customers as there is much research and effort behind the scenes, actively pursuing solutions to finding sustainable alternatives for production, products, transport, equipment, cleaning, service and waste.



Examples of sustainable business practices recognised by judges in previous years include eliminating single use plastics, using organic products, creating wildlife havens, promoting cultural change, installing solar panels and schools that have embedded sustainability into the daily practice and curriculum.

All sustainable practices are considered - a single exemplar sustainable change may have a huge positive and motivating influence on our local community. This is a great opportunity for local businesses to evaluate their operations and be recognised for their shining example.

These businesses deserve our support, and we encourage others to follow their lead and introduce more sustainable practices. Any business can make a start to become more sustainable

## Winner

### **Endota Day Spa, Gymea**

A leader in the community and the industry, Megan and her team not only strive to improve policy and processes at broader levels in their industry, but within their local community. There is a seamless fusion of beauty, well being and sustainability, with many of the sustainable initiatives and practices of the spa perhaps unknown to their customers as there is much research and efforts behind the scenes.

As a franchise, there is a new range of organic products using post consumer recycled plastic, but this business has independently explored and sought every opportunity for better options to all facets of their operations and consumption - from back of house, front of house service and waste management. Endota Day Spa Gymea models how beauty and hygiene can be sustainable, by actively pursuing solutions to finding sustainable alternatives for products, equipment, cleaning, service and waste.





## Highly Commended

### The Soulful Pantry

The Soulful Pantry sells bulk vegan pantry goods (and other sustainable lifestyle products), that customers can refill their own containers, or in compostable packaging. They provide a BYO discount for bringing your own containers at the markets, and during lockdown offered the shire residents a contactless home delivery refill loop service (they pick up your empty containers

contactless from your home, filled them and then returned them). Delivery is carbon neutral, work with their suppliers to order in bulk so that even behind the scenes their own packaging waste is minimised, and they reuse packaging including boxes and red-cycle any large plastic bags that are not suitable/used until they are not fit for purpose.

**Little Ones Party Hire** (also incorporating the Sutherland Shire Balloon Library)

Little Ones Party Hire is an eco-friendly party hire business that provides reusable and plastic-free alternatives to celebrate children's parties, including themed party crates kits and decorations, and a cleaning service. From linen, backdrops, bunting, life-size cut outs, party toppers, and serving and tableware and pantry favours. Debbie provides multiple alternatives to single use balloons, and also runs the community balloon library where mylar balloons are rescued to be hired out, and reused by customers.



# Sunny Shire

Jonathan Prendergast

## Sutherland Shire Solar Group on Facebook

With Sunny Shire no longer managing rooftop solar bulk buys, our main activity is managing the Sutherland Shire Solar Group on Facebook. The Facebook group is very efficient for Sutherland Shire families to ask questions about how to get solar, recommendations on solar size and retailer, as well as other discussion items such as hot water, induction cooking and electric vehicles.

A great benefit is that one person can ask a question, and many contributors can provide responses and advice for all other members of the Facebook group to read.

## Electric Vehicles

It is amazing that nowadays people can buy cost effective electric vehicles and fuel them using their own solar! This sees households significantly reduce their emissions and free themselves from pay fuel to large multi national oil companies. We can take a large part of climate action personally and at home.

Sunny Shire has attended 3 events in the past 12 months, including Jonathan and Jay bringing their Tesla Model 3s to Engadine and Bundeena markets as part of attendance organised by SSEC. Jonathan and Jay also attended the Bundeena Sustainability Expo where Jay also presented.

## Electrify / Rewire Australia

Saul Griffiths has moved from America to Austinmer just south the shire. In the US he lead a campaign for Rewiring America, getting households off oil and gas and onto electricity for heating, hot water, cooking and cars.

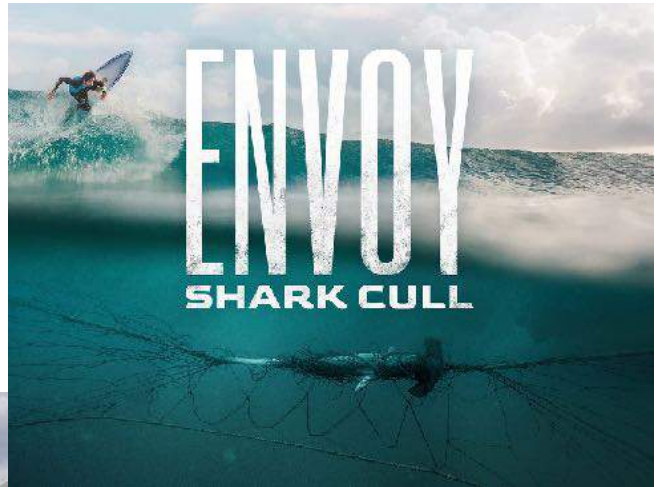
Saul recently launched "Electrify 2515" for the postcode including Austinmer, Coledale and other suburbs North of Wollongong. It is great seeing such excellent communications and campaign skills brought to this space, and we watch as he trials his approach of electrifying a whole suburb at 2515 postcode.



Image: Vera Auerbach



# SOShire - A year in pictures



# Our Sutherland Shire Shorebirds

Ricki Coughlan

Sutherland Shire, with its many embayments, rivers and waterways has always held a rich and diverse population of migratory and endemic plovers, sandpipers, oystercatchers, gulls, terns, collectively known as shorebirds. Most of the migratory shorebirds are trans equatorial migrants, breeding in northern Asia, Siberia and Alaska during the northern summer and spending the southern summer here in Australia.

Locations in the shire where these birds can be found include the Georges River, Botany Bay, Boat Harbour and Port Hacking. Each location possesses features that are favourable to various species, so each location supports its own discrete population of these birds. However, each site also offers refuge for shorebirds when conditions become unfavourable at their regular sites in this locality. During the annual southward migration these sites form a matrix of resting or stopover opportunities for dispersing shorebirds as they pass through.

Unfortunately There are a range of issues relating to human activity which create high levels of disturbance at each of these sites. Some sites, such as Maianbar sand spits and Towra Point sand spit lack of efforts to conserve or retain these sites as storm, wave and tidal action has negatively impacted them.

**Boat Harbour** is a small inlet on the northern end of Bate Bay which forms part of the Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve. Part of the reserve is an expansive reef where numerous shorebirds use throughout the year. Nearby is Merries Reef which is rich in a diverse invertebrate community; ideal for foraging shorebirds. Historically, the beaches of Bate Bay also offered extensive foraging opportunities for shorebirds, but as human population increased in the locality and disturbance by human, horse and dog traffic on those beaches means they are no longer visited by shorebirds in daylight hours.



The shorebird population of Boat Harbour reef is quite diverse. The most numerous are Silver Gull and Crested Tern. However in the warmer months the reef supports locally significant populations of migratory shorebirds.

Unfortunately the locality is heavily impacted by large numbers of humans who are a significant disturbance threat for the shorebirds. Not only does human traffic on the reef disturb roosting shorebirds, many bring unleashed dogs into the locality and these regularly chase the birds, driving them off and forcing them to seek roosting and feeding resources elsewhere. Unfortunately, this can impact populations where carrying capacity is already negatively impacted by human activity.

The human visitation in the last decade has been driven by the Holt Estate's "Four Wheel Drive Park" and the off leash dog area which is managed by Sutherland Shire Council. Unfortunately there is no prohibition on taking dogs onto the reef under the auspices of the Aquatic Reserve so there is a series of threatening factors at play which have continued to erode shorebird numbers on this important local environmental asset.

In 2022 the Boat Harbour Shorebird Study Group was convened by Ricki Coughlan. The aim of the group is to collect data on the presence and numbers of shorebirds on the reef with regular monthly high tide counts and share the stories and values of the birds and the reef with the local community. Data collected by the group is added to that which has been collected by Ricki since 2007. This in turn is added to the ebird and birddata online databases managed by Cornell University and BirdLife Australia, making these data available to researchers around the world.

Observations indicate that some shorebirds have all but abandoned Boat Harbour Reef. These include the Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover and Greater Sand Plover. Numbers of Sanderling have dropped to a scarcity which is very concerning too.

The study group is currently working with other local citizen scientists who monitor shorebirds on sites around Botany Bay and Maianbar sand spits to identify some of the factors which are negatively impacting the shorebirds of this locality - Botany Bay, Boat Harbour, Maianbar.

The first issue is a lack of coordination between regulatory bodies including Sutherland Shire Council, Fisheries and the Department of Primary Industries (which oversees Aquatic Reserves) in terms of policy, management, oversight, regulation and compliance/enforcement. This can best be described as a series of overlapping policy and regulation vacuums.

You can find out more about Boat Harbour Shorebird Study Group

<https://aussiewild.com.au/shorebirds>

<https://www.facebook.com/BoatHarbourShorebirds/>

There are many concerns regarding development, habitat degradation and disturbance on a number of locations around **Botany Bay** and local researchers, including expert Deb Andrew continue to monitor and report on these.

**Taren Point Shorebird Reserve** is one such locality. This site is part of the Woolloomare Bay Aquatic Reserve and came under concern by members of the SSEC in 2022 when Sutherland Shire Council announced a "survey" to determine public sentiment on relaxing regulations around

dog visitations to the pathways adjacent to the reserve: removing the prohibition of dogs on the paths.

The shared pathway in this locality was instituted by the hard work of council, with a large part of the credit going to Brendan Graham. The pathway begins near Woodlands Road at Taren Point and included a stretch beside the mudflats at Taren Point where significant numbers of Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, Whimbrel and Eastern Curlew frequent to forage at low tides. A small, sheltered observation platform was constructed here in the first stage of the path construction. The path then wraps around the verges of the mangroves to an elevated section above the mudflats where a large observation platform is in place along with a number of interpretive signs and an offshore roost was constructed. The path then ends at Atkinson Road. Part of the Review of Environmental Factors and permissions for the construction of this trail included the qualification that dogs not be permitted along that section of the shared pathway.

Many saw this action as council breaking faith with the *raison d'être* of the path and improvements of the reserve amenity as a centre of education about this important local environmental asset and gateway to the Ramsar Wetlands of Towra Point Nature Reserve. It was seen by many as part of a continuing series of actions and omissions by a council which appears to consider shorebirds and their conservation to be an impediment to its primary business of enabling development across the shire at the expense of all else.

Council have stated that they will mitigate risk by the erection of interpretive and compliance signs, fencing and compliance officers or rangers at the location. Robust research indicates that around 80% of dog owners regularly let their dogs off leash despite all prohibitions. There is also a strong element of militancy in the dog owner community in terms of access for their dogs. Given these factors and that council has a long record of failing to enforce compliance in this matter elsewhere in the shire we have scant hope that breaches in the laws around dogs adjacent to the reserve will be enforced.

Failures in this regard will be yet another threatening process for the shorebirds of Woolooware Bay/Botany Bay which comes directly from the actions and inaction of our elected representatives.

Other events in this location flag concerns of future plans for development in this precinct of the shire. Around 30 years ago several large containers, "hulks" were dumped by onto what was once a well used roost site for shorebirds adjacent to what is now a light industrial centre off Atkinson Road. In recent years at least 50 Grey-tailed Tattler have adopted them as a roost. This species



tends to roost on rocks and in mangroves. Prior to roosting on the containers, the tattlers would roost on the nearby historic jetty.

As large scale construction works continue to take place adjacent to this location, suddenly authorities have decided to tear them apart and remove them. This work was recently completed. After 30 years of pleading for their removal by members of the Australasian Wader Study Group and zero action from state and local government, one cannot help but feel their removal relates to the possibility of rezoning of the light industrial area and improving the “visual amenity” for possible large scale residential development. Meanwhile, the tattlers have lost their roost and will probably return to the jetty and mangroves and other shorebirds may return to their historic roost on the sand spit; at least that is most optimistic scenario.

What this all points to is a continuing lack of regard on the part of politicians for these important local shorebird populations and priceless environmental assets, but a high regard for the plans of developers.

**Towra Spit**, adjacent to Towra Point Nature Reserve is another part of a matrix of shorebird roosts in the locality which has come under increased threat in recent times. This extensive sand bar supports some of the largest numbers of shorebirds in the locality, including Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, Red Knot and many more. Unfortunately the spit has suffered considerable erosion in recent years and this has been flagged as a situation of significant concern given the paucity of roosting opportunities elsewhere on Botany Bay.

The state government has been slow to act on this increasingly dire situation and so, following communications with the State Minister, BirdLife Australia has teamed up with local researchers to meet with representatives of the Department of Environment and Planning and the NPWS. We will frame our concerns and work towards resolving threats to shorebird roosts at Maianbar, Boat Harbour and Botany Bay as well as ongoing legal protections for local shorebird populations which conform with statutory obligations and our agreements with partners across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. SSEC members will be kept up to date with the outcome of this meeting, further steps by statutory bodies and the management of these significant locations by Sutherland Shire Council.



# Port Hacking Shorebirds

Julie Keating, Sutherland Shire Environmental Citizen of the Year

Port Hacking has been a wonderful place for migratory shorebirds as it met their very specific habitat requirements of having a roost (a place to rest and sleep) and feeding grounds in close proximity. These two areas were so close that the shorebirds, such as the critically endangered eastern curlew, never needed to fly if they didn't want to. They were going from one extreme to another. Little flying while here then when they left for migration flying over 10,000km in one go, flying both day and night, flapping the whole time. Around 11 days travelling, depending on weather.

However recent storm events has seen their roost, a separate sand island to the main Deeban Spit beach, gradually disappear and is now non-existent. Roost and feeding sites for migratory shorebirds in Botany Bay, the only other area in Greater Sydney eastern curlews use, is also under multiple threats. There have been plans to try get Port Hacking and Towra recognised as one area as both sites share birds. This would give the birds options when one area may be under threat of incursion by people over the high tides. Both Towra and Port Hacking see boats pull up on the roost areas, usually with the family dog, running around off lead, scaring the birds from their rest areas. These disturbances with birds having to try find some undisturbed space, not possible in Port Hacking now, sees them constantly taking flight which could impact their ability to be able to undertake the long migration journey.

The Port Hacking shorebird roost was told some sand from the upcoming channel dredging to restore their roost could be made available. It was supposed to be a win/win, both boaties and birdies getting something from the dredging. Turns out it was an empty promise as even though the REF recommended some small amount of sand be given to restoring the storm damaged roost, Fisheries, flat out, said no. Without ever having come to a site visit to see where the roost was in relation to sea grasses. Without even having a site visit to confirm their sea grass maps are



indeed correct, which they are not. Without even visiting to see how often the endangered Posidonia sea grass is left ripped up on the sand spit after a boating weekend.

The lack of an overall regulatory system around protecting critically endangered eastern curlews in Port Hacking is quickening their local extinction. Fisheries has the overall say about what happens on the intertidal areas. Shorebirds do not fit into their mandate, so do nothing to help them. The Royal National Park sits right alongside the tidal flats at Maianbar, but again, these critically endangered birds sit outside their regulatory borders so will, or cannot, do anything to help them.

We have appealed to State Labor, opposition environment, Penny Sharpe's office, for help. We are left to struggle with finding a habitat restoration specialist to develop a design of a roost, unpaid, then somehow find a marine engineer, also willing to work for nothing, to develop a permanent structure that fits in with eastern curlew needs based on habitat restoration design that can provide the costings. This will also need to be signed off by Fisheries for approval. If we can get this done, without any government help, then get the Port Hacking roost and feeding areas not only restored but protected, free of people invading the migratory shorebirds space. This is one, in a long line of environmental problems, showing how environment laws are not working.

With the pressure Botany Bay is under, because Towra roost site is also eroding, and a number of other changes relating to development, Greater Sydney is on the cusp of being lost to migratory shorebirds. This will have such a big knock on effect as so many migratory shorebirds rely on these areas as a much needed rest stop to restore body condition before continuing on to their Australian summering grounds or a rest stop on their way up to the breeding grounds.



Apart from awaiting the arrival of our regular flock of eastern curlews and bar-tailed godwits In Port Hacking we were awaiting the arrival of one special godwit, orange CLJ. She was to be arriving back from migration from Alaska, around September 7. She, along with a female leg-flagged eastern curlew, have demonstrated how important the Botany Bay and Port Hacking areas are for travelling migrants as well as our regular summering flock, that travel for so long and from so far.

Interestingly orange CLJ has joined the Bar-tailed Godwit population of Miranda in New Zealand and is unlikely to return to Australia again.

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The SSEC will continue to call for a cohesive plan across all jurisdictions which ensures the safety and conservation of the magnificent shorebirds which grace our local wetlands and the wetlands themselves which support their existence. We will continue to monitor developments at these locations around the shire as pressure on these locations and birds increases.

**Sutherland Shire Environment Centre  
Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611**

**Financial Statements  
For the year ended 30 June 2022**

**KEVIN MCEVOY AND ASSOCIATES**  
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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Income and Expenditure Statement****For the year ended 30 June 2022**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Australian Ethical BalanceFund-ARSN#9255	2,185	
Australian Ethical ShareFund - ARSN#9166	4,110	
Australian Ethical BalanceFund-ARSN#9255	(12,261)	
Australian Ethical ShareFund - ARSN#9166	(18,318)	
Interest received	22	112
Subscriptions	1,098	1,514
Donations	12,446	141,394
Fund Raising Events & Other Income	3,609	
ATO Cash Flow Boost Received		6,458
Rent received	68,234	66,328
Total income	<u>61,126</u>	<u>215,806</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accountancy	800	
Advertising & promotion	966	760
Bank fees & charges	50	207
Depreciation - Other	2,011	2,517
Donations	10,000	
Speaking 4 the Planet	4,409	1,010
Eco News		1,600
SO Shire	224	3,889
Koalas		3,818
Other	2,085	2,805
POWA		479
Bill Ryan Award	2,000	
Shirecan	906	
Sustainable Business Awards	1,532	
General expenses	196	159
Insurance	1,084	336
Insurance - Workcover	443	228
Interest - Australia		
Legal fees		33,257

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Income and Expenditure Statement****For the year ended 30 June 2022**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Meeting Expenses	59	781
Postage	136	185
Printing & stationery	1,166	147
Salaries - Ordinary	42,277	49,692
Staff amenities	67	75
Staff training	1,091	
Storage	691	600
Subscriptions	676	339
Superannuation	4,073	4,454
Telephone	68	184
Website	4,360	2,243
Insurance	515	495
Management agent fees	2,252	2,408
Rates & Levy's	13,514	13,633
Repairs & maintenance		557
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>97,650</u>	<u>126,860</u>
<b>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax</b>	<b>(36,524)</b>	<b>88,946</b>
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
<b>Net profit (loss) attributable to the association</b>	<u><b>(36,524)</b></u>	<u><b>88,946</b></u>
<b>Total changes in equity of the association</b>	<u><b>(36,524)</b></u>	<u><b>88,946</b></u>
Opening retained profits	703,436	614,490
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	<u>(36,524)</u>	<u>88,946</u>
<b>Closing retained profits</b>	<u><b>666,912</b></u>	<u><b>703,436</b></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Cash Assets</b>			
BA Community Access #12197225		7,063	165,657
BA Public Gift Fund#12197267		14,575	24,148
BA Community Access Card #12294138		609	1,042
Cash on hand		78	68
CBA Public Gift Fund		(7)	
Paypal		38	1,395
		22,356	192,310
<b>Other</b>			
Prepayments		505	505
		505	505
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>22,861</b>	<b>192,815</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
<b>Other Financial Assets</b>			
Australian Ethical Balance Fund-ARSN9255		69,650	
Australian Ethical ShareFund - ARSN#9166		65,519	
		135,169	
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>			
Buildings (cost)		506,353	506,353
Furniture & Fittings		53,168	53,168
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(45,172)	(43,161)
		514,349	516,360
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>649,518</b>	<b>516,360</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>672,379</b>	<b>709,175</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>			
<b>Unsecured:</b>			
CBA Main Account		48	45
		<u>48</u>	<u>45</u>
<b>Current Tax Liabilities</b>			
Net GST Payable		4,749	4,336
Amounts withheld from salary & wages		24	24
		<u>4,773</u>	<u>4,360</u>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Provision for Superannuation		647	1,334
		<u>647</u>	<u>1,334</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u><b>5,467</b></u>	<u><b>5,739</b></u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><b>5,467</b></u>	<u><b>5,739</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>666,912</b></u>	<u><b>703,436</b></u>
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		666,912	703,436
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<u><b>666,912</b></u>	<u><b>703,436</b></u>

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Rental Property Report**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Income</b>		
Rent received	68,234	66,328
Total income	<u>68,234</u>	<u>66,328</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Insurance	515	495
Management agent fees	2,252	2,408
Rates & Levy's	13,514	13,633
Repairs & maintenance		557
Total expenses	<u>16,281</u>	<u>17,092</u>
<b>Net rental profit</b>	<u><u>51,953</u></u>	<u><u>49,236</u></u>

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611  
**Depreciation Schedule for the year ended 30 June, 2022**

	Total	Priv	OWDV	DISPOSAL		ADDITION			DEPRECIATION			CWDV	PROFIT		LOSS	
				Date	Consid	Date	Cost	Value	T	Rate	Deprec		Priv	Upto +		Above
<b>Furniture &amp; Fittings</b>																
Furniture & Fittings	53,168	0.00	10,007		0		0	10,007	D	20.10	2,011	0	7,996	0	0	0
	53,168		10,007		0		0	10,007			2,011	0	7,996			
											Deduct Private Portion	0				
											Net Depreciation	2,011				

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

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### **Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of Preparation**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales. In the opinion of the committee the association is not a reporting entity because it is not reasonable to expect the existence of users who rely on the association's general purpose financial statements for information useful to them for making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of resources.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements, AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB 1031: Materiality and AASB 1054: Australian Additional Disclosures.

The association has concluded that the requirements set out in AASB 10 and AASB 128 are not applicable as the initial assessment on its interests in other entities indicated that it does not have any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Hence, the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The association has not assessed whether these special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

#### **(a) Accounts Receivables and Other Debtors**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

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### (b) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
----------------------	-------------------

\*\*\*Please enter classes of fixed asset and depreciation rates here\*\*\*

### (c) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

### (d) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

### (e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

### (f) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

The association has applied AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) and AASB 1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) using the cumulative effective method of initially applying AASB 15 and AASB 1058 as an adjustment to the opening balance of equity at 1 July 2019. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be presented under AASB 118: Revenue and AASB 1004: Contributions.

### In the current year

#### Contributed Assets

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

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The association receives assets from the government and other parties for nil or nominal consideration in order to further its objectives. These assets are recognised in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (eg. AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138).

On initial recognition of an asset, the association recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer).

The association recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

### **Operating Grants, Donations and Bequests**

When the association receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the association:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the association:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (eg. AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138)
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer)
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the association recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

### **Capital Grant**

When the association receives a capital grant, it recognises a liability for the excess of the initial carrying amount of the financial asset received over any related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer) recognised under other Australian Accounting Standards.

The association recognises income in profit or loss when or as the association satisfies its obligations under the terms of the grant.

### **Interest Income**

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

### **Dividend Income**

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

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The association recognises dividends in profit or loss only when the right to receive payment of the dividend is established.

### Income from Sale of Goods

The association publishes and sells books and magazines publications to the general public. Revenue is recognised when control of the products has transferred to the customer. For such transactions, this is when the products are delivered to the customers. Volume discounts could be provided with the sale of these items, depending on the volume of aggregate sales made to eligible customers over every six-month period. Revenue from these sales is based on the price stipulated in the contract, net of the estimated volume discounts. The volume discounts are estimated using historical experience and applying the expected value method. Revenue is then only recognised to the extent that there is a high probability that a significant reversal of revenue will not occur. Where there is expected volume discounts payable to the customers for sales made until the end of the reporting period, a contract liability is recognised.

A receivable will be recognised when the goods are delivered. The association's right to consideration is deemed unconditional at this time as only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due. There is no significant financing component because sales (which include those with volume discounts) are made within a credit term of 30 to 45 days.

Customers have a right to return products within 60 days as stipulated in the current contract terms. At the point of sale, a refund liability is recognised based on an estimate of the products expected to be returned, with a corresponding adjustment to revenue for these products.

Consistent with the recognition of the refund liability, the association further has a right to recover the product when customers exercise their right of return so consequently the company recognises a right to returned goods asset and a corresponding adjustment is made to cost of sales.

Historical experience of product returns is used to estimate of the number of returns on a portfolio level, using the expected value method. It is considered highly probable that significant reversal in the cumulative revenue will not occur given the consistency in the rate of return presented in the historical information.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

### In the comparative period

Non-reciprocal grant revenue was recognised in profit or loss when the association obtained control of the grant and it was probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant would flow to the entity and the amount of the grant could be measured reliably.

If conditions were attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the association was eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue was deferred until those conditions were satisfied.

When grant revenue was received whereby the association incurred an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this was considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue was recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service had been delivered to the contributor; otherwise the grant was recognised as income on receipt.

The association received non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for no or nominal value.

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

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These assets were recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Donations and bequests were recognised as revenue when received.

Interest revenue was recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Dividend revenue was recognised when the right to receive a dividend had been established.

Rental income from operating leases was recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant leases.

Revenue from the rendering of a service was recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

### (g) Leases

#### The association as lessee

At inception of a contract, the association assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the association where the association is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (lease with remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the association uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees
- the exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options
- lease payments under extension options if lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

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Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset whichever is the shortest. Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the association anticipates exercising a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

### Concessionary Leases

For leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the association to further its objectives (commonly known as peppercorn/concessionary leases), the association has adopted the temporary relief under AASB 2018-8 and measures the right of use assets at cost on initial recognition.

### (h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

### (i) Financial Assets

#### Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the association commits itself to either purchase or sale of the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss", in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Trade receivables are initially measured at the transaction price if the trade receivables do not contain a significant financing component or if the practical expedient was applied as specified in paragraph 63 of AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

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**Classification and subsequent measurement**

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through other comprehensive income or
- fair value through profit or loss.

Measurement is on the basis of two primary criteria:

- the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset and
- the business model for managing the financial assets.

A financial asset that meets the following conditions is subsequently measured at amortised cost:

- the financial asset is managed solely to collect contractual cash flows and
- the contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.

A financial asset that meets the following conditions is subsequently measured at fair value through other comprehensive income:

- the contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates and
- the business model for managing the financial asset comprises both contractual cash flows collection and the selling of the financial asset.

By default, all other financial assets that do not meet the measurement conditions of amortised cost and fair value through other comprehensive income are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The association initially designates a financial instrument as measured at fair value through profit or loss if:

- it eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency (often referred to as an “accounting mismatch”) that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognising the gains and losses on them on different bases
- it is in accordance with the documented risk management or investment strategy and information about the groupings is documented appropriately, so the performance of the financial liability that is part of a group of financial liabilities or financial assets can be managed and evaluated consistently on a fair value basis and
- it is a hybrid contract that contains an embedded derivative that significantly modifies the cash flows otherwise required by the contract.

The initial measurement of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss is a one-time option on initial classification and is irrevocable until the financial asset is derecognised.

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

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### Derecognition

#### *Derecognition of financial assets*

A financial asset is derecognised when the holder's contractual rights to its cash flows expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

All the following criteria need to be satisfied for the derecognition of a financial asset:

- the right to receive cash flows from the asset has expired or been transferred
- all risk and rewards of ownership of the asset have been substantially transferred and
- the association no longer controls the asset (i.e. it has no practical ability to make unilateral decisions to sell the asset to a third party).

On derecognition of a financial asset measured at amortised cost, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable is recognised in profit or loss.

On derecognition of a debt instrument classified as fair value through other comprehensive income, the cumulative gain or loss previously accumulated in the investment revaluation reserve is reclassified to profit or loss.

On derecognition of an investment in equity that the association elected to classify as at fair value through other comprehensive income, the cumulative gain or loss previously accumulated in the investments revaluation reserve is not reclassified to profit or loss, but is transferred to retained earnings.

### Impairment

The association recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on:

- financial assets that are measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income
- lease receivables
- contract assets (e.g. amount due from customers under contracts)
- loan commitments that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss and
- financial guarantee contracts that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Loss allowance is not recognised for:

- financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss or
- equity instruments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income.

Expected credit losses are the probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of a financial instrument. A credit loss is the difference between all contractual cash flows that are due and all cash flows expected to be received, all discounted at the original effective interest rate of the financial instrument.

The association uses the following approaches to impairment, as applicable under AASB 9: Financial Instruments:

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

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- the general approach
- the simplified approach
- the purchased or originated credit-impaired approach and
- low credit risk operational simplification.

### *General approach*

Under the general approach, at each reporting period, the association assesses whether the financial instruments are credit-impaired, and:

- if the credit risk of the financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition, the association measures the loss allowance of the financial instruments at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses and
- if there has been no significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, the association measures the loss allowance for that financial instrument at an amount equal to \*\*\*Please enter number of months\*\*\*-month expected credit losses.

### *Simplified approach*

The simplified approach does not require tracking of changes in credit risk at every reporting period, but instead requires the recognition of lifetime expected credit loss at all times.

This approach is applicable to:

- trade receivables and
- lease receivables.

In measuring the expected credit loss, a provision matrix for trade receivables is used, taking into consideration various data to get to an expected credit loss (i.e. diversity of its customer base, appropriate groupings of its historical loss experience, etc).

### *Purchased or originated credit-impaired approach*

For financial assets that are considered to be credit-impaired (not on acquisition or originations), the association measures any change in its lifetime expected credit loss as the difference between the asset's gross carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. Any adjustment is recognised in profit or loss as an impairment gain or loss.

Evidence of credit impairment includes:

- significant financial difficulty of the issuer or borrower
- a breach of contract (e.g. default or past due event)
- where a lender has granted to the borrower a concession, due to the borrower's financial difficulty, that the lender would not otherwise consider
- the likelihood that the borrower will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation and
- the disappearance of an active market for the financial asset because of financial difficulties.

### *Low credit risk operational simplification approach*

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

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If a financial asset is determined to have low credit risk at the initial reporting date, the association assumes that the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition and, accordingly, it can continue to recognise a loss allowance of \*\*\*Please enter number of months\*\*\*-month expected credit loss.

In order to make such a determination that the financial asset has low credit risk, the association applies its internal credit risk ratings or other methodologies using a globally comparable definition of low credit risk.

A financial asset is considered to have low credit risk if:

- there is a low risk of default by the borrower
- the borrower has strong capacity to meet its contractual cash flow obligations in the near term and
- adverse changes in economic and business conditions in the longer term, may, but not necessarily, reduce the ability of the borrower to fulfil its contractual cash flow obligations.

A financial asset is not considered to carry low credit risk merely due to existence of collateral, or because a borrower has a lower risk of default than the risk inherent in the financial assets, or lower than the credit risk of the jurisdiction in which it operates.

### *Recognition of expected credit losses in financial statements*

At each reporting date, the association recognises the movement in the loss allowance as an impairment gain or loss in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

The carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortised cost includes the loss allowance relating to that asset.

Assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are recognised at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in other comprehensive income. The amount in relation to change in credit risk is transferred from other comprehensive income to profit or loss at every reporting period.

For financial assets that are unrecognised (e.g. loan commitments yet to be drawn, financial guarantees), a provision for loss allowance is created in the statement of financial position to recognise the loss allowance.

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Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the year ended 30 June 2022****2022****2021****Note 2: Revenue and Other Income****Revenue:**

Interest revenue	22	112
Australian Ethical BalanceFund-ARSN#9255	2,185	
Australian Ethical ShareFund - ARSN#9166	4,110	
Australian Ethical BalanceFund-ARSN#9255	(12,261)	
Australian Ethical ShareFund - ARSN#9166	(18,318)	
Subscriptions	1,098	1,514
Donations	12,446	141,394
Fund Raising Events & Other Income	3,609	
Rent received	68,234	66,328
	<u>61,126</u>	<u>209,348</u>

**Other income:**

ATO Cash Flow Boost Received		6,458
		<u>6,458</u>

**Note 3: Profit from Ordinary Activities**

Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before  
income tax has been determined after:

**Charging as Expense:**

Depreciation of non-current assets:		
- Other	2,011	2,517
Total depreciation expenses	<u>2,011</u>	<u>2,517</u>

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the year ended 30 June 2022****2022****2021****Note 4: Cash assets**

Bank accounts:

BA Community Access #12197225	7,063	165,657
BA Public Gift Fund#12197267	14,575	24,148
BA Community Access Card #12294138	609	1,042
Other cash items:		
Cash on hand	78	68
CBA Public Gift Fund	(7)	
Paypal	38	1,395
	<u>22,356</u>	<u>192,310</u>

**Note 5: Other Financial Assets****Non-Current**

Other investments

- Other investments

	135,169	
	<u>135,169</u>	
	<u>135,169</u>	

**Note 6: Other Assets****Current**

Prepayments

	505	505
	<u>505</u>	<u>505</u>

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the year ended 30 June 2022****2022****2021****Note 7: Property, Plant and Equipment**

## Buildings:

- At cost	506,353	506,353
	<u>506,353</u>	<u>506,353</u>

## Leasehold improvements:

- At cost	53,168	53,168
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	(45,172)	(43,161)
	<u>7,996</u>	<u>10,007</u>
	<u><b>514,349</b></u>	<u><b>516,360</b></u>

**Note 8: Financial Liabilities****Current****Unsecured:**

- Bank overdrafts	48	45
	<u>48</u>	<u>45</u>
	<u><b>48</b></u>	<u><b>45</b></u>

**Note 9: Tax Liabilities****Current**

Net GST Payable	4,749	4,336
Amounts withheld from salary & wages	24	24
	<u><b>4,773</b></u>	<u><b>4,360</b></u>

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

**2022**

**2021**

**Note 10: Provisions**

**Current**

Employee entitlements*	647	1,334
	<u>647</u>	<u>1,334</u>
* Aggregate employee entitlements liability	647	1,334

There were 1 employees at the end of the year

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Statement by Members of the Committee**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

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The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Ian Hill  
President



Lily Meier  
Treasurer

10 October, 2022



Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Committee's Report**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

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Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

### Committee Members

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Ian Hill

Lily Meier

~~Sally Stockbridge~~

~~Sarah Jo Lobwein~~

~~Melinda Millen~~

Phil Smith

Sadaf Basamraz

Catherine Reynolds

### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: wide range of projects aimed at maintaining the natural beauty and character of our Shire, and surrounding waterways and parks.

### Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

### Operating Result

The deficit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

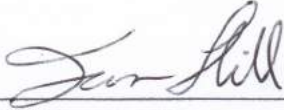
Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2022	30 June 2021
\$	\$
(36,524)	88,946

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Committee's Report**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

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Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:



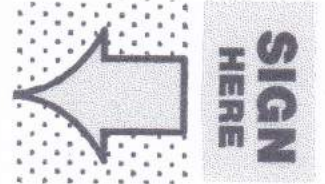
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Ian Hill



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Lily Meier





Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

**Compilation Report to Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated**

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We have compiled the accompanying general purpose financial statements of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated, which comprise the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. These have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

*The Responsibility of the Committee*

The committee of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated is solely responsible for the information contained in the general purpose financial statements and the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information.

*Our Responsibility*

On the basis of information provided by the committee, we have compiled the accompanying general purpose financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting framework and APES 315 Compilation of Financial Information.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards).

*Assurance Disclaimer*

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

The general purpose financial statements were compiled for the benefit of the committee who is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the general purpose financial statements.



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KEVIN MCEVOY AND ASSOCIATES  
Suite 10, 370 Port Hacking Road  
Caringbah NSW

11 October, 2022

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members**

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### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2022 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 2009. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### **Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report**

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated ABN 96 127 431 611

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

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### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

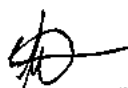
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on 10 October, 2022:



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Charlie Trikilis, FIPA, Director, SMSF Auditor  
Kevin McEvoy & Associates  
Suite 10, 370A Port Hacking Rd Caringbah NSW 2229