



**2025 Annual General Meeting
20th November 2025
14/26 Barry Drive, Canberra ACT**

MINUTES

***Our vision is for a healthy planet for humans and all other life,
where the natural environment is protected and communities
respect and live in harmony with the environment.***

Outgoing Board Present:

Stephanie Booker (President), Danny Jowers Blain (Vice President), Jess Fordyce (Vice President), Maisie Walker Stelling (Secretary), Bianca Tee (Treasurer), Damien Haas, Louise Crossman, Clare de Castella

Present

Member Group nominated representatives:

Amy Blain (Peoples Climate Assembly)

Amy Carrad (SEE Change)

Annie Close (350 Canberra)

Bill Gemmell (Public Transport Association of Canberra)

Cate Adams (Extinction Rebellion ACT)

Darryl Johnston (Clean Air Canberra)

DC Haas (Public Transport Association of Canberra)

Dietlind Sommer (Act for Bees)

Ernestine Kirsch (Friends of Black Mountain)

Gillian King (Living Streets Canberra)

Glenys Patulny (Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc)

Gordon McAllister (Friends of Black Mountain)

Graham Eagar (Extinction Rebellion ACT)

Ian Falconer (Friends of the Aranda Bushland)

Jennifer Bounds (Canberra Ornithologists Group aka Canberra Birds)

John Smith (Extinction Rebellion ACT)

John Wurcker (Rising Tide)

Judith Bourne (Canberra Forest Alliance)

Kathy Ehmann (SEE Change)

Matt Whitting (Friends of Grasslands)

Mel Gregory (ACF Canberra Community Group)
Paul Oboohov (Climate Action Canberra)
Peter Lindenmayer (Friends of Bluetts Block)
Ruth Ragless (Rising Tide)
Sarah Reid (ACF Canberra Community Group)
Sarah Sharp (Friends of Grasslands)
Sue Ross (Red Hill Regenerators)
Wayne Fletcher (Red Hill Regenerators)
Yolanthe Daly (Rising Tide)
Tui Davidson (Earthy Remains)

Registered Observers:

Ajay Adhikari (CFACT)
Angela Seymour (None)
Chris Warren (Climate Action Canberra)
Clare de Castella (Pedal Power)
Danny Jowers Blain (See Change)
David Whitney (Pedal Power ACT)
Henry Adam (Rising Tide and PT Canberra)
Isabelle Zhu-Maguire (Conservation Council)
John Elliffe (None)
Rohan Pillutla (None)
Stephanie Booker (Friends of Aranda Bushland, Friends of Grasslands)

Extras:

Karl Gordon
Elizabeth (Volunteer from CFACT)

Proxies:

Cecily Michaels (Pedal Power) gives proxy to **Bill Gemmell**
Rosemary Dupont (Pedal Power) gives proxy to **Bill Gemmell**
Claudia Weatherall (Pedal Power) gives proxy to **Bill Gemmell**
Pamela Collett (Friends of Callum Brae) gives proxy to **Dietlind (Didi) Sommer**
Vivienne Pearce (AAEE) gives proxy to **Glenys Patulny**
Rainer Rehwinkel (FoG) gives proxy to **Matt Whitting**

Returning Officer: Warwick Cathro

Staff: Simon Copland

Apologies: No apologies were achieved.

Opening: 6:03pm

Acknowledgement of Country. Stephanie Booker opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement to Country

There were no items of other business added to the Agenda.

1.1	Welcome	Outcome
1.2	Welcome and Apologies, declaration of proxies Apologies and declarations of proxies were noted as above. No further apologies were received from the floor. Quorum was achieved - _____ people attended the meeting.	
1.3	Housekeeping The President asked all attendees to mute their videos, to have cameras on, and to use the “raise hand” function to speak. Attendees were advised that the CCACT were taking a written record of who is present for purposes of voting. That means that nominated representatives who are present will receive an email when it comes time to vote. The names of those present were updated to reflect Voting, Observing and/or how many Proxies in the minutes.	
1.4	Confirm Chair and Agenda The President confirmed she would chair the meeting with the exception of the duration for the election of the new Board and confirmed the agenda as notified.	
1.5	Confirmation and acceptance of minutes of 2024 AGM Motion: <i>That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 21st November 2024 as circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate account.</i> Moved	Moved: John Smith Seconded: DC Haas All agreed

2	Election	Outcome
2.1	Election of Board members Statements from Board nominees have been provided to member organisations’ delegates. The president invited nominees to give a statement. The meeting heard from Danny Jowers Blain, Jess Fordyce, Clare de Castella, DC Haas,	Confirmed Moved: Bill Gemmell Seconded: Di etlind

	Rohan Pillutla, Henry Adam, John Smith, Isabelle Zhu-Maguire and Steph Booker. It is noted that up to 6 ordinary Board members can be elected at the AGM, but an additional 3 Board Members may be appointed by the new Board after the AGM. <i>The President stood down and the Returning Officer, Warwick Cathro, took over to chair the election.</i> The Vote was cast as an Omnibus vote, wherein all nominees were presented alongside their positions. Members are able to vote for less than the number of positions available, but not more. Warwick Cathro presented the results: 1. Two nominations were received for the position of President. Danny Jowers Blain was elected. 2. Three nominations were received for the two positions of Vice President. Clare de Castella and Jess Fordyce were elected. 3. Two nominations were received for the position of Secretary were received. Maisie Walker Stelling was elected. 4. Nine nominations were received for the positions of Ordinary Board Members. Stephanie Booker, Louise Crossman, John Smith, Isabelle Zhu-Maguire, Kasy Chambers, DC Haas were elected. <i>Motion: That the following people be noted as duly elected to the Board of the Conservation Council ACT Region for 2025-26. Moved</i> The President resumed chairing the meeting.	Sommer All agreed
	Acknowledgement of outgoing Board members Stephanie Booker acknowledged and thanked the outgoing Board Members Annika Reynolds, Correa Driscoll and Kathy Ehmann, who have stepped down from the Board during, or at the end of, 2025. SB also thanked Warwick Cathro for his work as returning officer. The incoming president, DJB thanked Steph for her time as president, noting her calm and inclusive leadership during this time.	

	Questions: A Statement was given regarding the WPO provided to Leon Arundell. The statement is also provided below:	
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3	Items for decision	Outcome
	3.1 Changes to the Constitution The Conservation Council constitution has been reviewed against the ACT Model Rules and some differences identified, as well as some additional formatting issues rectified. Each change was voted on separately, as below. A 75% majority is required. In brief: Proposed change 1: Amendments to section 26, to reorder the subsections and correct drafting/formatting issue that arose after the 2024 amendments to the Constitution; <i>A count of 33 votes for passing this proposed change were recorded.</i> PASSED Proposed change 2: An amendment to section 32, to make consistent the numbering of subsections; <i>A count of 33 votes for passing this proposed change were recorded.</i> PASSED Proposed change 3: Amendments to sections 40 and 41, to rename our fund from “public fund” to “gift fund”, to remove reference to Registered Environmental Organisations, and to remove requirements imposed under the former scheme. The amendment removes the requirement to have a separate sub-committee to deal with the Bogong Fund, and amends the sections to reflect the correct Australian Government bodies to whom the Conservation Council has obligations; <i>A count of 33 votes for passing this proposed change were recorded.</i> PASSED It was noted that the Bogong Fund is not advertised as a donation to the Bogong Moth cause, but that it just the name of the bank account that the CCACT receives donations into. Proposed change 4: Minor formatting changes (e.g. aligning subsections and removing unnecessary spacing) as set out in the draft proposed Constitution (with changes tracked). <i>A count of 33 votes for passing this proposed change were recorded.</i> PASSED	Moved: Sarah Sharp Seconded: DC Haas

	Motion: that the proposed changes to the Conservation Council constitution are accepted by the membership. Moved	All agreed
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4	Sub-Committee Reports	Outcome
4.1	President's report <i>Stephanie Booker presented the President's report. In brief:</i> Noted the employment of SC as well as Aiobhinn and the advertisement of the new position. Thanked those who worked on Bluetts Block being included in the ACT reserve system. SB also thanked those who have worked on the long running Coombs peninsula campaign. SB thanked JF, CdC, Grit, SC for their work on the impact report. Motion: That the President's report be accepted by the meeting. Moved	Moved: Dietlind Sommer Seconded: Gillian King All Agreed
4.2	Executive Director's report <i>Simon Copeland presented the ED's report. In brief:</i> <i>Simon thanked people for their attendance at the AGM, and that there is increased engagement with the CCACT over the past year. SC also thanked the community for their support.</i> <i>SC also extended his thanks to Staff, some of whom have left, and new staff. He also thanked the community for their support to hire new people in the upcoming year.</i> <i>SC noted the wins of Bluetts Block and Coombs Peninsula. He also noted the large campaign for the Grassland Earless Dragon, which, though unsuccessful, raised the profile of the species significantly.</i> <i>Establishing urban boundaries and banning fossil fuel sponsorship in schools.</i> <i>Incorporating proposals for urban biodiversity network.</i> <i>Campaign for protection of trees on Drake Brockman drive.</i> <i>20 submissions made in previous financial year</i> <i>7 Major events</i> <i>GED most popular media story</i> <i>Active working groups in the CCACT, continuing to grow and change.</i>	

	<i>Biodiversity</i> <i>Climate</i> <i>Transport</i> <i>Environmental Justice</i> <i>Member group numbers increasing</i> <i>Increased engagements with government, both federal and territory.</i> <i>Fundraising:</i> - <i>Gang Gang Guardians</i> - <i>One off donations - enough for 2 years of one person's salary</i> - <i>Art Auction</i> - <i>Bequests</i> - <i>Sponsorship</i> - <i>2 grants - Auspicing Duty of Care and EPA Now</i> Motion: That the Executive Director's report be accepted by the meeting. Moved	Moved: Matt Whitting Seconded: Bill Gemmell All Agreed
4.3	Treasurer's report <i>Bianca Tee presented the treasurer's report. In Brief:</i> BT noted the differences between the two sets of statements circulated. \$285000 profit, as opposed to deficits of the past two years. Bellchambers Barret will be conducting an audit, pro-bono. Motion: <i>that the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 be accepted by the meeting. Moved</i> Motion: <i>That Bellchambers Barrett be appointed auditor for 2025-26. Moved.</i> The President acknowledged the work of Bellchambers Barrett (who conducted the audit) and Belinda Sierzchula (the Council's bookkeeper), and Bianca as Treasurer.	Moved: Sarah Sharp Seconded: Peter All Agreed Mpved: Gillian King, Seconded: Didi All agreed
4.4	Strategic plan report <i>Clare de Castella presented the Strategic Plan report, attached. In Brief:</i> <i>Strong support from Members</i> <i>Deliberately high level - five year plan, development of annual priorities document</i> <i>Need for Systemic Change</i> <i>Multiple useful comments from members have been addressed about Strategic Priorities.</i> <i>How we work - encourage more connection with member groups</i> <i>Sets direction, vision and purpose</i> Drivers:	Noting

	<i>Urgency or the climate and biodiversity crises</i> <i>Growing complexity of environmental advocacy,</i> <i>Need to build a stronger community</i> <i>Changed vision to be more targeted to the ACT.</i> A note was given that education could be incorporated further into the strategic plan. A comment was also made that the strategic plan was found to be energising by many members present. SC noted a new working group will be established to push for better waste policy, given that it is a major issue in the ACT. SC noted that the CCACT engages with a number of national groups, and is interested on expanding the number of groups.	
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5	Awards and Acknowledgements	Outcome
5.1	<i>SC presented the volunteers awards, to celebrate the work of those who have given to the CCACT. SC also thanked all volunteers for their work in 2024-2025.</i> <i>Awards were given via a vote by the staff of the CCACT.</i> Volunteer Awards Two joint winners of the Volunteer Awards were announced: Angela Seymour: for her tireless efforts to digitise Conservation Council records, increasing security of these documents, as well as clearing up space in our office. Angela was also central to the running of our 2025 Art Auction, including housing art in the garage in the lead up the event. She has been a central member of our office team for the past year and we are delighted to have her. Angela gave a short speech upon receiving the award. Matt Whitting: for his work chairing the Biodiversity Working Group, helping spearhead the fight to save Canberra's dragon and writing numerous submissions and letters to Government on a range of issues. Matt also attends meetings with stakeholders and provides ongoing advice to our team on biodiversity issues. We would not be anywhere near as strong on biodiversity matters in the ACT without him. Matt gave a short speech upon receiving the award. Young Volunteer of the Year Award The Winner of the young volunteer of the Year Award was announced: Molly Sharrock: for her policy work, including developing research on the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon, researching and writing the Council's position on the Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Implementation Deed (SWIOID) and representing the council at Government consultations on the ACT Catchment Strategy and on the SWIOID.	Noted

	Molly is unfortunately on a field trip at the moment in the Snowy Mountains, so was unable to join the AGM. Simon thanked all volunteers and noted that there is always more work that can be done.	
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6	Other Business	
6.1	Other Business No other business was noted.	

Steph Booker and Simon Copland thanked the Returning Officer, Warwick Cathro, and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:14pm