



# CONSERVATION COUNCIL ACT REGION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2024 @ 6.00PM - ONLINE & IN-PERSON

### 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.

#### **Present**

##### **Member Group nominated representatives:**

Vivienne Pearce (ACT Chapter Australian Association for Environmental Education)

Judith Bourne (Canberra Forest Alliance)

Sarah Sharp (Friends of Grasslands)

Amy Jowers Blain (People's Climate Assembly)

Gill King (Living Streets Canberra)

Kat McGilp (Ginninderra Catchment Group)

Gordon McAllister (Friends of Black Mountain)

Rod Griffiths (National Parks Association ACT)

Bill Gemmell (Public Transport Association of Canberra)

Cate Adams (Extinction Rebellion ACT)

John Smith (Extinction Rebellion ACT)

Simon Smalley (Red Hill Regenerators)

David Kelly (Ginninderra Falls Association)

Dietlind Sommer (Friends of Callum Brae Nature Reserve

ACT for Bees + Other Pollinators)

Ernestine Kirsch (Friends of Black Mountain)

Graham Eagar (Extinction Rebellion)

Steph Booker (Friends of Aranda Bushland & Friends of Grasslands)

Annie Close (350.org Canberra)

**Others:** Kathy Ehmann (SEE Change) - minutes

Correa Driscoll (SEE Change)

Danny Jowers Blain (SEE Change)

Leon Arundell (Climate Action Canberra, Pedal Power)

Clare Henderson (SEE-Change, Friends of Grasslands, Canberra Ornithologists Group,  
Ginninderra Catchment Group)

Bianca Tee

Damien Haas (Public Transport ACT)

Larry O'Loughlin (various)

Nora Preston  
Clare de Castella (Pedal Power)  
Maisie Walker Stelling (NPA ACT)  
Louise Crossman (SEE Change)

Registered but not present: Ian Falconer, Andrew Milne

Staff: Simon Copland, Executive Director  
Volunteer Returning Officer - Peter Campbell

**Proxies received:**

- Ruth Ragless (Extinction Rebellion) appointed John Smith (Extinction Rebellion) as their proxy
- Pamela Collett (Friends of Callum Brae Nature Reserve) appointed Dietlind Sommer (Friends of Callum Brae Nature Reserve & ACT for Bees + Other Pollinators) as their proxy
- Julie Armstrong (ACT for Bees + Other Pollinators) appointed Dietlind Sommer (Friends of Callum Brae Nature Reserve & ACT for Bees + Other Pollinators) as their proxy
- Jess Fordyce (Rising Tide) appointed Vivienne Pearce (ACT Chapter Australian Association for Environmental Education) as their proxy
- Helen Sims (Friends of Grasslands) appointed Sarah Sharp (Friends of Grasslands) as their proxy
- David Kelly (Ginninderra Falls Association) appointed Steph Booker (Friends of Aranda Bushland & Friends of Grasslands) as their proxy
- Cecily Michaels (Pedal Power) appointed Rod Griffith (National Parks Association ACT) as their proxy

**Apologies:**

Annika Reynolds (ACF Community Canberra, Canberra Ornithologists Group), Warwick Cathro (350 Canberra), Jenny Bounds (Canberra Ornithologists Group), Helen Sims, Jess Fordyce (Rising Tide)

**1. Welcome and acknowledgement of Country**

The meeting opened at 6.05pm and President, Rod Griffith, acknowledged the traditional owners of the region.

**2. Housekeeping**

The President asked all attendees to mute their videos, to have cameras on, and to use the “raise hand” function to speak.

**3. Present and apologies and declaration of proxies**

Apologies and declarations of proxies were noted as above. No further apologies were received from the floor.

#### 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.

#### 5. Confirmation and acceptance of Minutes from last Annual General Meeting held 23 November 2023

Vivienne Pearce's name was misspelled and needs to be corrected. No other issues were raised.

**Resolution:** *that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 23 November 2023 as circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate account*

**Moved:** Vivienne Pearce

**Seconded:** Jill King

PASSED

#### 6. Changes to the Constitution

The Conservation Council constitution has been reviewed against the ACT Model Rules and some differences identified. The President proposed that the changes be considered in a block, with an omnibus vote.

Proposed change to clause 1(b) - to allow emails as a form of writing

Proposed change to clause 6(a) - to include cessation of membership through cancellation

Proposed change to clause 18 - to update incorrect section reference to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* (ACT)

Proposed change to clause 19 - to reflect increased flexibility in conducting board business without notice

Proposed change to clause 26(b)(i) - to reflect guidelines around general meeting quorum and mode of attendance

Full details of the changes [are available here](#). The President noted that there were some typos in the proposed changes, including issues with numbering and the use of the word 'committee' instead of 'board'. The President asked that the board be allowed to fix these typos after the meeting.

The President's proposal was raised and accepted by those present.

**Resolution:** *that the proposed changes to the Conservation Council constitution are accepted by the membership*

**Moved:** Bill Gemmell

**Seconded:** Vivienne Pearce

PASSED

#### 7. Election of members of the board, including office bearers

The election process agreed on 19 November is to be followed. Statements from Board nominees have been provided to member organisations' delegates.

The president invited nominees to give a statement. The meeting heard from Steph Booker, Leon Arundell, Clare de Castella and Louise Crossman.

The President stood down and the Returning Officer, Peter Campbell, took over to chair the election.

1. Two nominations were received for the position of President. **Stephanie Booker** was elected.
2. Three nominations were received for the two positions of Vice President. **Danny Jowers Blain** and **Jess Fordyce** were elected.
3. Two nominations were received for the position of Secretary were received. **Maisie Walker Stelling** was elected.
4. Seven nominations were received for the six positions of Ordinary Board Members. **Correa Driscoll, Annika Reynolds, Clare de Castella Mackay, Damian Haas, Louise Crossman and Kathy Ehmann** were elected.

The President resumed chairing the meeting.

## 8. Reports

### (i) Annual Report from the Board (President)

The President presented his report on behalf of the Board, highlighting the volume of work produced on less than 3 FTE. He thanked outgoing board members and was thanked for his long service on the Board.

### (ii) Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director, Simon Copland, gave an overview of the 2023-24 report. Simon thanked the previous ED, Elle Lawless, for her work in developing policies. Simon advised that the files making up the report are available on the website.

Simon invited member groups to engage with the Council for support, particularly around campaigns, advocacy and media.

There were questions around waste to energy, the environment policy submissions, working groups and planning laws.

**Resolution:** *that the President's and Executive Director's Reports be accepted by the meeting*

**Moved:** Rod Griffith

**Seconded:** Sarah Sharp

**PASSED**

## 9. Statement of accounts and the reports pursuant to section 73 (1) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (Treasurer)

The reviewed Financial Statements for 2023-24 had been available on the website prior to the AGM. The Treasurer, Bianca Tee, gave a brief overview noting that the Conservation Council remained in a strong financial position at the end of the 2023-24 financial year.

Bianca recommended the Independently Reviewed Financial Statements for approval by the meeting. This is a less robust review than an audit, chosen because it meets the Council's fundering requirement at a lower cost. Reports will be submitted to the ACT Government in line with our agreement.

The Treasurer confirmed that the Council is meeting ACNC requirements.

**Resolution:** *that the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 be accepted by the meeting*

**Moved:** Rod Griffith

**Seconded:** Gill King

PASSED

The President acknowledged the work of Rhianna Taparelli (who conducted the annual review) and Belinda Sierzchula (the Council's bookkeeper).

#### **10. Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2024-25**

**Resolution:** *that the reviewer Rhianna Taparelli be appointed our financial reviewer for 2024-25*

**Moved:** Rod Griffith

**Seconded:** Damien Haas

PASSED

#### **11. Meeting Close**

The President, Rodd Griffith, thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 7:47pm