



**CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL** ACT REGION

**SHAPING A  
SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE**



# Executive Directors Report 2020-2021



# Conservation Council ACT Region

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.

## Our work

We speak up for a healthy environment and a sustainable future for our region. We campaign for a safe climate, to protect biodiversity in our urban and natural areas, to protect and enhance our waterways, reduce waste, and promote sustainable transport and planning for our city.

We work in the ACT and region to influence governments and build widespread support within the community and business to deliver environmental outcomes. We put forward evidence- based solutions and innovative ideas for how we can live sustainably

# Our community

- Member Groups
- Supporters
- Donors and major donors
- Critical friends
- Volunteers – regular and irregular
- Interns and students
- Partner organisations
- Academics
- Politicians



# Member group representation 2020–2021

[350.org](http://350.org) Canberra

ACF Community Canberra

ACT for Bees

ACT Herpetological Association

ANUSA Environment Collective

Australian Association for Environmental Education ACT Chapter

Australian Electric Vehicle Association, ACT Branch

Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc

Australian Network for Plant Conservation

ASEN Canberra (Australian Student Environment Network)

Beyond Zero Emissions

Canberra Bushwalking Club

Canberra Environment Centre

Canberra Forest Alliance

Canberra Indian Myna Action Group

Canberra Ornithologists Group

Climate Action Canberra

CPR Inc

Extinction Rebellion ACT

Food Cooperative Shop Ltd

Friends of Aranda Bushland

Friends of Black Mountain

Friends of Grasslands

Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands

Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra

Ginninderra Catchment Group

Ginninderra Falls Association

Invasive Species Council Inc

Kosciuszko Huts Association

Living Streets Canberra

Molonglo Conservation Group

National Parks Association of the ACT

Pedal Power

People's Climate Action Coalition (People's Climate Assembly)

Public Transport Association of Canberra

Red Hill Bush Regeneration Group

School Strike for Climate

SEE-Change

Slow Food Canberra (Canberra Capital and Country Convivium)

Southern ACT Catchment Group Inc

Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park Inc

Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network

Woodlands and Wetlands Trust

Zero Waste Revolution

# Strategic objectives – 5 year strategic plan

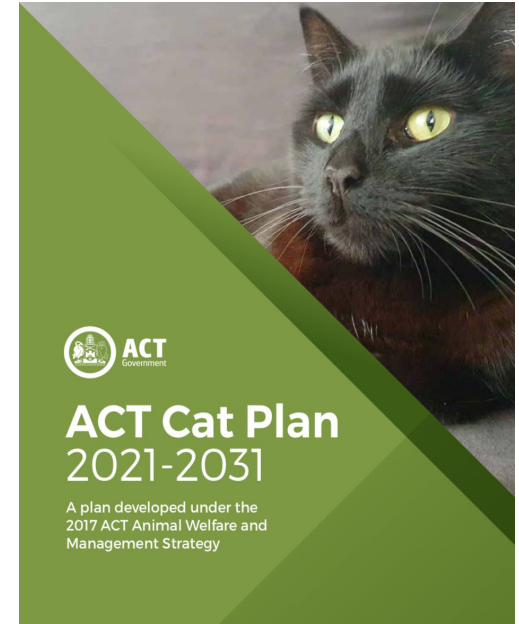
1. Achieve positive environmental outcomes for the ACT and region
2. Speak up for the environment within government and the community
3. Maintain a strong and resilient organisation



1. Achieve positive environmental outcomes for the ACT and region.

# 1. Achieve positive environmental outcomes for the ACT and region.

- Cat containment – May 2021 release of Cat plan 2021–2031 – new cats to be contained from July 1st 2021.
- Defence Housing Australia development at Lawson delayed 12 months and proposal revised.
- Release of ACT Urban Forest Strategy and budget commitment to extensive planting
- Integrated Plan of Management for Red Hill Nature Reserve





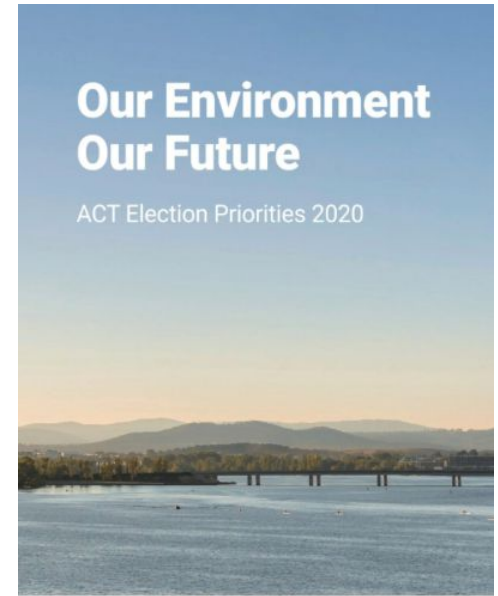
# 1. Achieve positive environmental outcomes for the ACT and region.

- Climate change central to policy agenda in PAGA.
- Lower investment in gas infrastructure by Evoenergy and Government committed to phase out.
- Mandate for new greenfield gas removed.
- Single-use plastics legislation passed - stage 2 under development.
- Introduction of FOGO collection due in 2023 - trial starting now.



# ACT Election – October 2020

- Policy Platform release
- 3 online election events
  - Average 88 attendees
  - Partnered with transport groups
- Online policy assessment / rating
- 3 opinion pieces in Canberra Times
- Advocacy / policy work with parties.
- Parliamentary and Governing Agreement focussed around climate & with other sustainability commitments.



# Submissions

July 2020

## **Santos Narrabri gas project**

Submission to NSW Independent Planning Commission

## **Draft Variation 95: North Curtin Diplomatic Estate and Urban Area**

Submission to National Capital Authority

August 2020

## **Federal Inquiry into the problem of feral and domestic cats in Australia**

Submission to The Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy

## **Evoenergy 2021–26 gas access arrangement proposal**

Submission to Australian Energy Regulator (AER)

September 2020

## **Exposure Draft Plastic Reduction Bill 2020**

Submission to ACT Government

## **Integrated Resource Recovery Facility proposal by Hi Quality ACT Pty Ltd**

Submission to ACT Government

## **Stage 2A: EPBC Preliminary Documentation for light rail extension to Commonwealth Park**

Submission to ACT Government

## **Urban Forest Strategy 2020–45**

Submission to ACT Government

February 2021

## **Evoenergy revised 2021–2026 gas access arrangement proposal (GN21 plan)**

Submission to Australian Energy Regulator (AER)

## **Listing Eligibility and Conservation Actions for Golden Sun Moth**

Submission to Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

January 2021

## **Draft Variation 379 Nature Reserve: Kenny Environmental Offset Site**

Submission to ACT Government

February 2021

## **Evoenergy revised 2021–2026 gas access arrangement proposal (GN21 plan)**

Submission to Australian Energy Regulator (AER)

## **Listing Eligibility and Conservation Actions for Golden Sun Moth**

Submission to Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

March 2021

## **EPBC Referral 2021/8884: Territory Battery Energy Storage System, Ginninderry**

Submission to Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

## **Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade in Jerrabomberra – EIS201900029**

Submission to ACT Government

## **Draft Variation 372 Watson Section 76**

Submission to ACT Government

## **Gas-fired recovery plan**

Submission to the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

## **EPBC Amendment (Standards and Assurance) Bill 2021**

Submission to Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

May 2021

## **Regional Fire Management Plan**

Submission to ACT Government

## **Inquiry into the management of school infrastructure**

Submission to Education and Community Inclusion Committee

June 2021

## **2021–22 ACT Budget consultation**

Submission to ACT Government

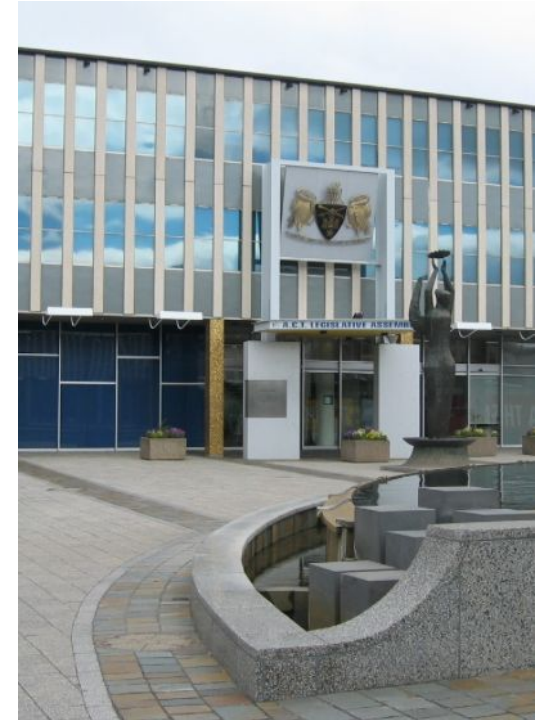
## **Natural Resource Management Plan Discussion Paper**

Submission to ACT Government

## 2. Speak up for the environment within government and the community

# Advocacy – politicians and government

- 19 face-to-face politician meetings
- Established relationships across keys portfolio representative across all political parties.
- Attendance at WEDD2021 from all parties, including Chief Minister and three other Ministers.
- 30 meetings with ACT / Cth government officials – including various stakeholder forums.
- ACT Budget – engagement with Treasury pre and post Budget
- Successfully pursued development of Biodiversity Conservation Forum, co-chairing with EPSDD.



## Stakeholder fora

- Plastics Reduction Taskforce (ACT Government)
- Energy Consumers Reference Council - Evoenergy
- Independent competition and Regulatory Commission
- Icon Water consumer panel - (new)
- Environment and Planning Forum
- NRM Advisory Council

## Partnership work

- EPBC Reform - Places You Love Alliance
- Energy Policy Consortium with ACTCOSS, Better Renting and CARE Financial
- Hands off our Charities Alliance
- Healthy Homes Alliance
- National Gas groups
- Conservation Councils

# Community Engagement events

Environment Exchange: Reimagining our waterways  
Make the Switch Launch event  
Election Forum: Sustainable Transport  
Election Forum: Nature, Biodiversity, Waterways  
Election Forum: Climate Change and Urban Sustainability  
Environment Exchange: Make the switch to an all-electric home  
Make the Switch Shopping Centre Stall  
Make the Switch Workshop Canberra Environment Centre  
ANU O-Week stall  
Make the Switch - Smart Energy Council networking event  
Beyond Zero Emissions Webinar - Make the Switch presentation  
Make the Switch Stall Southside Markets  
Make the Switch Presentation at Weston Creek Community Council  
Make the Move Program Launch  
Make the Switch Presentation at Woden Community Council

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Make the Switch Presentation at Woden Community Council  
Environment Exchange: Lawson north Grasslands  
Volunteer welcome night  
Make the Switch Stall  
ActSmart Electric Home Owner webinar  
Lawson Market Stall  
Make the Switch Stall  
Lawson North guided walk  
Tidbinbilla Heritage Stall  
Make the Switch Volunteer training event  
Environment Exchange: South East Forests  
Natural Resource Management Member Group Consultation

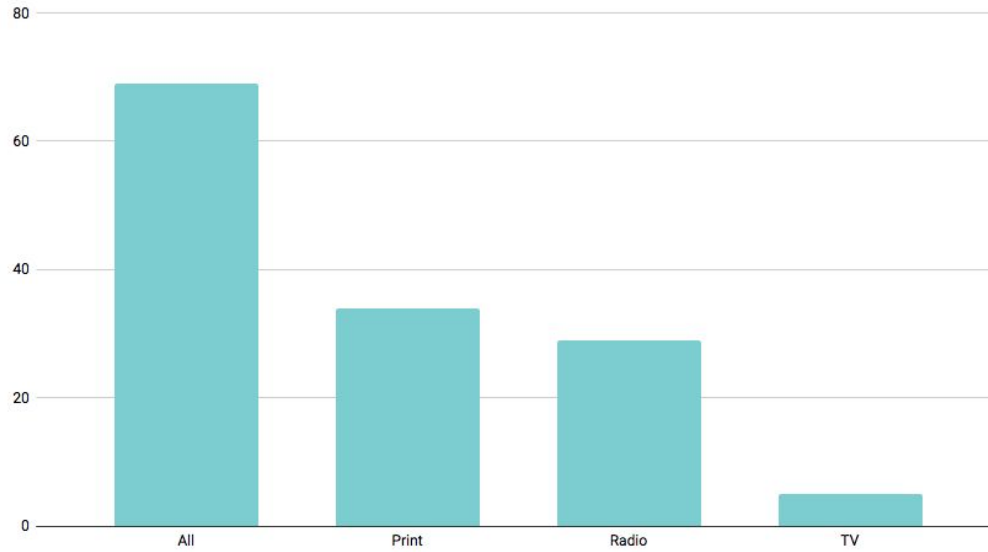
# Communications outputs

- 34 member group newsletters “Weekly Wrap”
- 12 supporter newsletters “Yellow Box”
- 17 “blogs” including opinion pieces and media releases
- 69 media appearances
- Social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn
- Campaign emails – petitions on gas and Lawson etc.



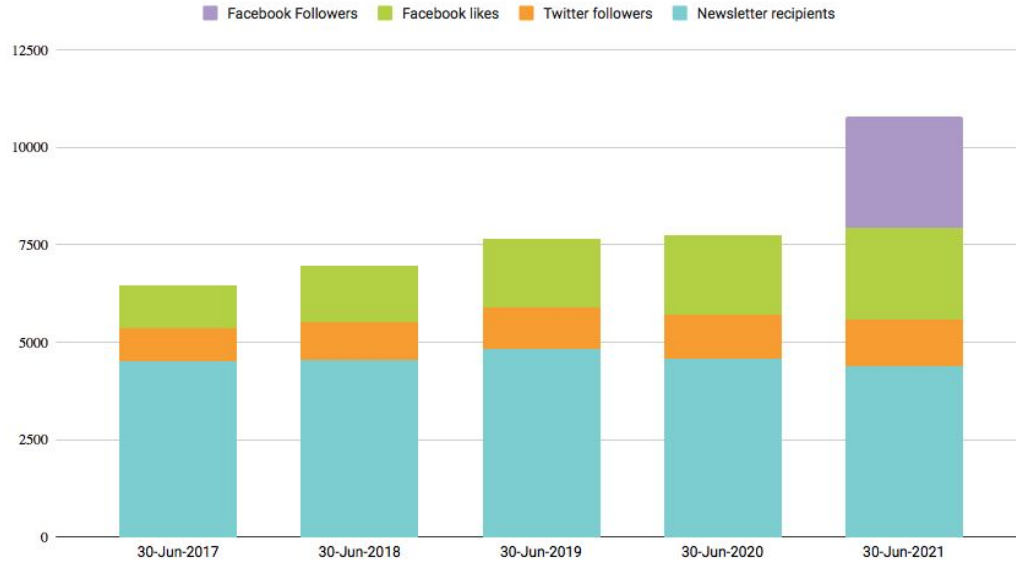
# Communications

Media Appearances 2020-2021



# Communications

## Social Media



# Key grant-funded projects



Make the **Switch** from gas to an all-electric home!

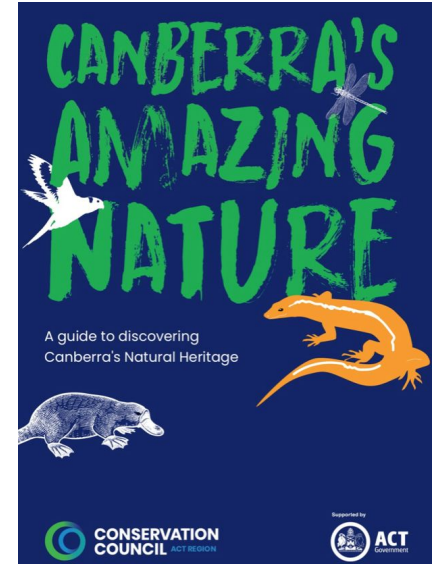
- Save money 
- Improve comfort 
- Go green 

[maketheswitch.org.au](http://maketheswitch.org.au)






Make the **move** into clean transport



 



**CANBERRA'S AMAZING NATURE**

A guide to discovering Canberra's Natural Heritage

# 3. Maintain a strong and resilient organisation

# Member group engagement

## Working Groups

- Election Working Group
- Biodiversity Working Group
- Lawson Working Group

Ongoing and proactive consultation with member groups in regards to development of submissions and advocacy work.

Partnership community engagement work with member groups including Canberra Environment Centre, SEE-Change, Pedal Power, Friends of Grasslands, ACT Electric Vehicle Assoc.

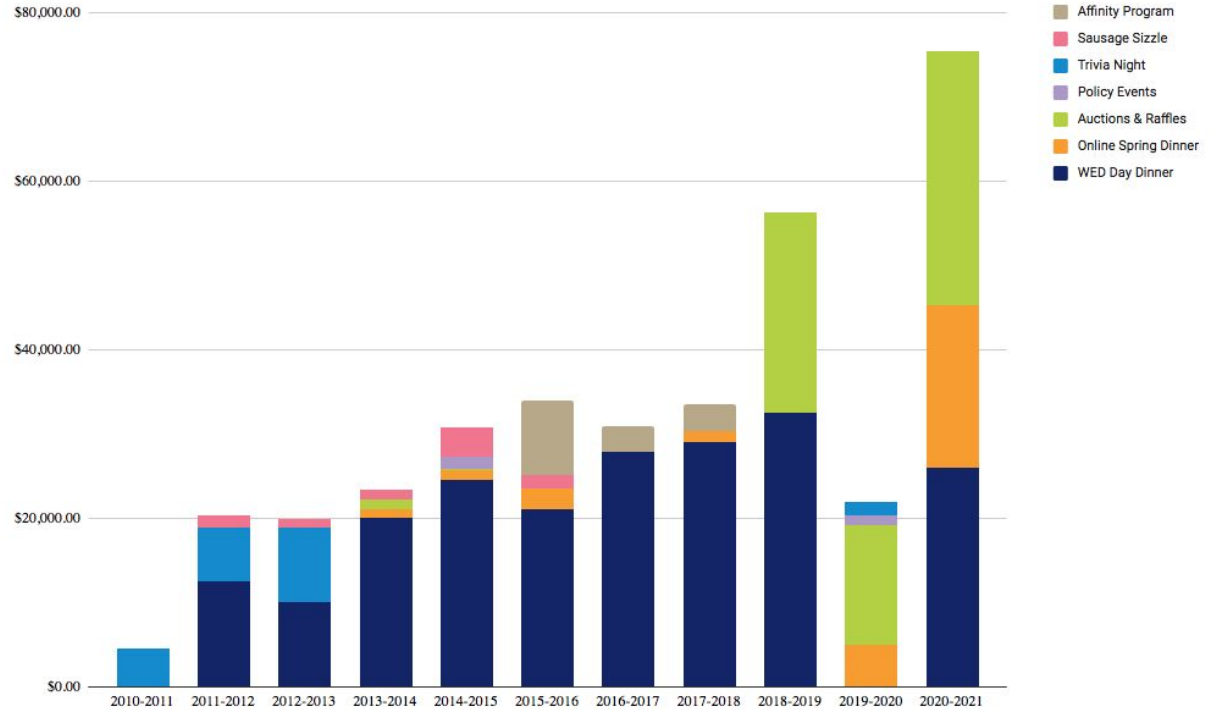
# Fundraising

- Events have been difficult to plan and predict.
- Event income over the past two years reflects impacts on COVID restraints.
- Small growth in regular donor income.
- Growth in one-off donations over past two years, with notable major donations.





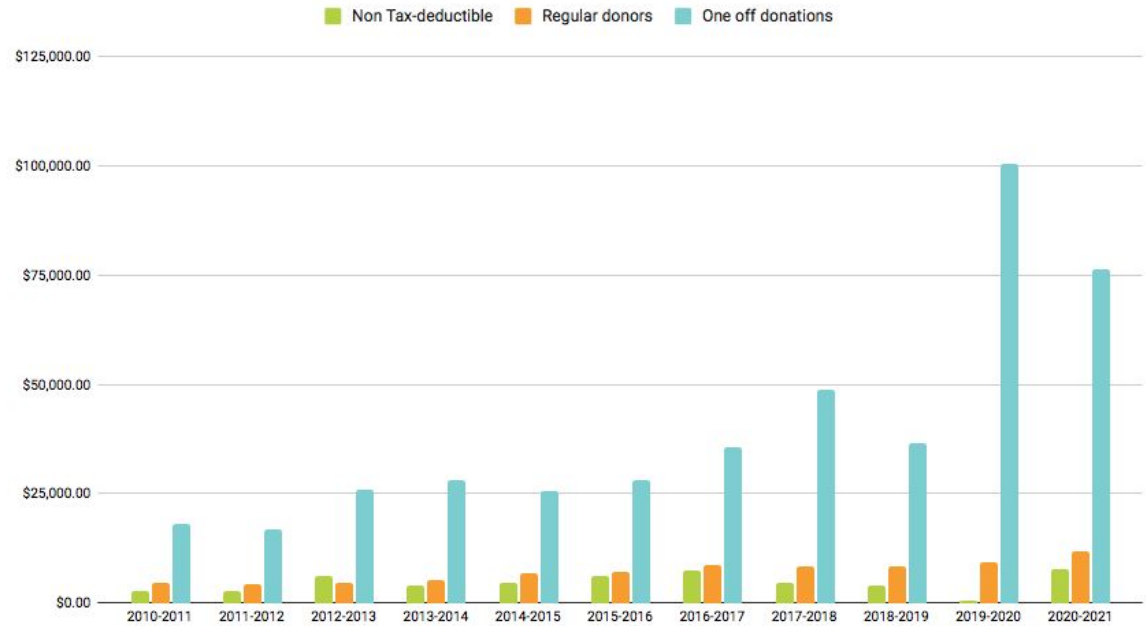
# Events income





# Donor income

## Donation Income



# “Organisational infrastructure”

- Released [5 year strategic plan](#)
- Organisational rebranded and undertook associated materials updates, including website
- Continued to systems online to ensure efficient flexible work practices.
- Commenced update of policies and procedures - ongoing at organisational level
- Ongoing upskilling and development of staff.



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#### Our work

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We work in the ACT and region to influence governments and build widespread support within the community and business to deliver environmental outcomes. We put forward evidence-based solutions and innovative ideas for how we can live sustainably.

"At a time when we need to reimagine a better future, we understand that the changes we need will only happen with the collective support of our community."





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[conservationcouncil.org.au](https://conservationcouncil.org.au)