

Board President Report for 2022/ 23  
Presented at the Annual General Meeting 2023

This has been an action-packed, challenging, exciting, difficult and exhilarating year. Sadly at the end of it, the Board will be farewelling members Warwick Cathro, Victoria Herbert, Jenny Edwards and James Tresize. I'd like to say a huge thankyou for the assistance these board members have provided to the Cons Council and the wealth of knowledge and expertise they brought to their roles. They will be missed. Luckily Canberra is a small town and we look forward to bumping into them regularly.

Elle and her team have been incredibly productive this year and provided great support to the Conservation Council's working groups and member groups.

The Biodiversity Network Policy Platform was launched, relationships have been strengthened with our Territory and Federal members of Parliament through the Bush Buds advocacy program, an enormous number of submissions have been made, including to the Planning System Review, the right to a healthy environment, active travel and many, many more. The Make the Switch program has provided the practical on the ground information that people need to reduce emissions and the support for the Lawson North and Bluetts Block campaigns has been tireless and critical work.

All this work and much, much more has been undertaken in a very constrained financial environment and it is frustrating that there is so little funding for what are arguably the most important issues of our time. Hopefully 2023-24 brings the funding opportunities to allow the incredible team at the Conservation Council to really scale up the incredible and existentially important advocacy that they do. Their work provides the hope that our children, grandchildren and environment need.

I look forward to watching their successes from outside the Board. After four years, it is time for me to support the work of the Conservation Council in a different capacity. I'm very grateful for the time I have had here and am excited to see the successes that the new Board brings.

*Sarah Reid, Conservation Council Board President*