



# CONSERVATION COUNCIL ACT REGION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
6:00pm Thursday 23 November 2023

## 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:

Jess Ward-Jones (Invasive Species Council), Ben Elliston (AEVA ACT), Vivienne Pearce (AAEEACT), Gordon McAllister (Friends of Black Mountain), Professor Ian Falconer (Fr Aranda Bushland), Ross Kingsland (Red Hill Regenerators), Kathy Ehmann (SEE-Change), Vivienne Pearce (AAEEACT), Rosemary Hollow (NPA ACT Inc), Darryl Bourke (Australian Electric Vehicle Association), Jenny Bounds (Canberra Ornithologists Group), Bill Gemmell (PRCBR), Julie Armstrong (ACT for Bees), Victoria Herbert (ASEN), Peter Abbott (Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetland), Warwick Cathro (350 Canberra), Bill Gemmell (PTCBR), Sarah Reid (ACF Community Canberra), John Smith (Extinction Rebellion ACT), Gill King (Living Streets Canberra), Rod Griffiths (NPA), Judith Bourne (CFA), Ruth Ragless (Extinction Rebellion ACT)

Others: Correa Driscoll (Southern ACT Catchment Group, SEE-Change), Leon Arundell (Climate Action Canberra), Annika Reynolds (ACF Community Canberra, Canberra Ornithologists Group), Danny Jowers Blain (SEE Change), Linda Xia (ACF Community Canberra), Peta Bulling (ACF Community Canberra), Jess Fordyce (Zero Waste Revolution), Braithan Bell-Garner (Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network, ASEN)

Staff: Elle Lawless, Executive Director

Volunteer Returning Officer: Lanthe Daly

Proxies received:

- Annie Close of 350.org Canberra appointed Warwick Cathro of 350.org Canberra as their proxy
- Pamela Judith Roberts of ACF Community Canberra appointed Sarah Reid of ACF Community Canberra
- Meg Holsgrove of ACF Community Canberra appointed Sarah Reid of ACF Community Canberra
- Sarah Sharp of Friends of Grasslands appointed Rod Griffiths of NPA
- Rainer Rehwinkel of Friends of Grasslands appointed Rod Griffiths of NPA
- Helen Simms of Friends of Grasslands appointed Rod Griffiths of NPA
- Kate Adams of XR appointed John Smith of XR
- John Wurcker of People's Climate Assembly appointed John Smith of XR
- Paul Obohov of Climate Action Canberra appointed John Smith of XR

Opening: 6.00pm

Sarah Reid opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement to Country

1	Welcome	Outcome
1.1	<p>The President announced proxies and apologies.</p> <p>Apologies: Member Group nominated representatives: Sarah Sharp, Rainer Rehwinkel and Helen Simms of Friends of Grasslands</p> <p>A quorum was confirmed.</p>	
1.2	There were no conflicts of interest	
1.3	Confirm Chair and Agenda Items - The chair and agenda were confirmed.	

2	Minutes and Actions	Outcome
	<p>Confirmation of Minutes</p> <p>Motion: That the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held 17 November are accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>Moved: Vivienne Pierce Seconded: Warwick Cathro</p>	Passed

3	Reports	Outcome
3.1	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>The President, Sarah Reid, presented her report on behalf of the Board, thanking the Executive Director and her team for their good work and prolific output over the year.</p>	
3.2	<p>Executive Director's Report</p> <p>Elle Lawless provided a summary of the year's work, details of which are available on the Conservation Council website.</p> <p>Of note was the Council's 34 submissions on a broad range of topics.</p> <p>The Executive Director thanked the monthly financial contributors.</p>	
	<p>Motion: That the Annual Report and Executive Director's report be accepted by the meeting.</p> <p>Moved: John Smith</p>	

	Seconded: Gill King	Passed
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4	Statement of accounts and reports	Outcome
	<p>The audited statements have been made available by email and online for review. The President thanked the Treasurer Linda Xia, Bookkeeper Belinda Sierzchula and auditor Mr Greg Field.</p> <p>Motion: that the financial reports and treasurer's reports for 2022-2023 be accepted by the meeting.</p> <p>Moved: Vivienne Pierce Seconded: Dorrea Driscoll</p>	Passed

	Constitutional changes	
	<p>A separate vote was held for each of the proposed changes to the Conservation Council ACT and Region Constitution.</p> <p><b>Proposed change A</b> Membership qualifications: the Board will determine if a member or potential member has an environmental purpose Nominated representatives voted by show of hands</p> <p><b>Proposed change B</b> Membership qualifications: remove size restriction of member groups Nominated representatives voted by show of hands</p> <p><b>Proposed change C</b> Changes to board size and the way in which office bearers are appointed Nominated representatives voted by show of hands</p> <p><b>Proposed change D</b> Provision for the sitting board to reject a nomination election at the Annual General Meeting Nominated representatives voted by show of hands</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p> <p>Rejected</p> <p>Passed</p>

6	Election of members of the board	
	<p>The President notified the meeting that Section 14b. of the Constitution determines that the ballot must be held in the way directed by the Board.</p> <p>On 9 November 2023, the Board agreed to the ballot process, which was subsequently implemented. Everyone present at the AGM had the opportunity to read the statements provided by nominees for all positions. All nominees for the contested positions took the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes.</p> <p>The President handed the chair to the returning officer, Lanthe Daly.</p> <p><b>President</b></p>	

Two nominations were received for the position of President: **Leon Arundall and Rod Griffiths**. As the number of nominations (2) exceeds the number of vacant positions to be filled (1), section 14e. of the Constitution required a ballot to be held.

Leon and Rod addressed the meeting.

Following the ballot, Rod Griffiths was declared president.

#### **Vice President**

Two nominations for the positions of Vice President were received: **Peta Bulling and Correa Driscoll**. Having received no further nominations for the position, Peta Bulling and Correa Driscoll were declared Vice President.

#### **Secretary**

One nomination for the position of Secretary was received: **Kathy Ehmann**. Having received no further nominations for the position, **Kathy Ehmann** was declared Secretary.

#### **Ordinary Board Members**

Seven (7) nominations were received for the positions of Ordinary Board Members: **Leon Arundall, Braithan Bell-Garner, Jessica Fordyce, Danny Jowers Blain, Vivienne Pearce, Annika Reynolds and Linda Xia**. As the number of nominations (7) exceeds the number of vacant positions to be filled (6), section 14e. of the Constitution required a ballot to be held.

Leon Arundell, Vivienne Pearce, Annika Reynolds, Jess Fordyce, Danny Jowers Blain, Braithan Bell-Garner addressed the meeting.

Following the ballot, Vivienne Pearce, Annika Reynolds, Jess Fordyce, Danny Jowers Blain, Braithan Bell-Garner, Linda Xia were declared ordinary board members.

Motion: That the following people be noted as duly elected to the Board of the Conservation Council ACT Region for 2023-24:

- Rod Griffiths - President
- Peta Bulling - Vice President
- Correa Driscoll - Vice President
- Kathy Ehmann - Secretary
- Braithan Bell-Garner - Ordinary board member
- Jessica Fordyce - Ordinary board member
- Danny Jowers Blain - Ordinary board member
- Vivienne Pearce - Ordinary board member
- Annika Reynolds - Ordinary board member
- Linda Xia - Ordinary board member

Move: Vivienne Pearce  
Second: Victoria Herbert

Passed

	<p>The Returning Officer handed the meeting back to the outgoing President, who welcomed the new board, thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.</p>	
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Meeting closed at 8.00