

# Standing strong for nature

Annual report  
2018-2019





Imagine a world where forests, rivers, people, oceans and wildlife thrive. This is the world we can see. **This is the world we are creating.**

## Who are we?

We are Australia's national environment organisation. We are more than 600,000 people who speak out, show up and act for a world where all life thrives. We are proudly independent, non-partisan and funded by donations from Australians.

## Our strategy

### Change the story

Stories shape what people see as possible. We're disrupting the old story that destruction is inevitable and seeding new stories that inspire people to act.

### Build people power

We're building powerful, organised communities. Together, we're holding decision makers to account and pushing for real change to create a better world.

### Fix the systems

We can't fix the climate and extinction crises one spot-fire at a time. That's why we're taking on big structural challenges, like laws, institutions and decisions.

# Contents

<b>Message from the President and CEO</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Our impact</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Campaign: Stop climate damage</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Campaign: Stand up for nature</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Campaign: Fix our democracy</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Campaign: Fix our economy</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Change the story</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>People power</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>New approaches to our work</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Thank you</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>Environmental performance</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>Social performance and organisational culture</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>Board and Council</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>Financial position summary</b> .....	<b>40</b>

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this country and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and to the pivotal role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play in caring for country across Australia.

# When we work together, we can change things



# Message from the President and CEO

**The federal election outcome was a setback for climate action and nature protection in Australia. Let's use this setback to repower our efforts to drive the change we need.**

This year wasn't only about making climate action a defining issue in the federal election, but it was a lot about that. ACF's 'Climate Election' campaign was the biggest grassroots, media and advertising campaign in our history. And we succeeded in making climate change a top issue as voters went to the polls. But other factors like policy confusion, economic uncertainty, trust and disengagement from politics had a bigger impact.

We know people are worried about climate change, no matter where they live or how they take their cuppa. We also know people are worried about their jobs, mortgages and children's wellbeing. And this is influencing their voting decisions.

Yet it is absolutely possible to have a healthy environment, good jobs and a safe future for our children — in fact we can't have one without the other. And while we've been focused on ensuring Australians see the unfolding crisis, it's important we now put our efforts into solutions that help people see themselves as better off in a better world.

This doesn't mean we abandon our call for urgent action. It means we also embrace collaboration with community, business and research sectors to demonstrate the benefits of climate action in the absence of government leadership.

We will never back away from asking for the big, bold changes that are necessary but we can use this moment of disappointment to act with the care and

compassion we really need. Because a future where people and nature prosper is only possible if we navigate the transition together.

This year we welcomed new Board members and Councillors from all walks of life — Indigenous leaders, business and community workers, lawyers, policy makers, bankers and entrepreneurs. Diversity makes for better decisions, and standing in each other's shoes is fundamental to the changes we seek. We also welcomed new Vice Presidents, Jimmy Cocking and Tim Chapman.

A lot of what we do here at ACF is working really well. To have more than 600,000 ACF supporters is incredible. Whether you're a volunteer, donor, Board member, Councillor or staff member, none of our work is possible without you. Thank you!

Our people are our greatest advantage and this year we've seen more volunteers, supporters and donations than ever before in our 50-year history. You give your time, your money, your voice, your passion, and share your hopes and your dreams.

We are in tough times for sure. But the power of the people always makes the world a stronger place. Always has, always will. You just have to stick at it.

**Mara Bún, President**

**Kelly O'Shanassy, CEO**

# Our **impact**

## Outcomes for **climate**



We made **climate change** a top issue during the election.

- #1 political issue searched on Google.
- #1 issue on ABC Vote Compass.



We reached **eight million voters**

- 1,100 media stories on climate change generated by us during the election.
- 112,427 people pledged to be climate voters.
- Hundreds of policy commitments for climate and nature locked in with parties.



Adani's Carmichael coal is **still in the ground** – with no water supply because of our winning court case.

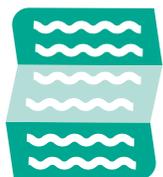


Climate pollution from electricity **continues to fall** thanks to renewables.



**No commercial development** of any new uranium project across Australia.

## Outcomes for **nature**

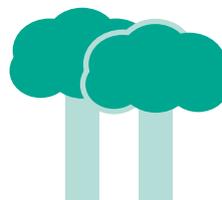


We got **177,000+ signatures**

- Our biggest petition ever resulted in ALP and The Greens supporting new nature laws and a national EPA.



We exposed Australia's **extinction crisis**.



We continued to **block destruction of critical habitat** at Toondah Harbour and Kingvale.

A world where forests, rivers, people, oceans and wildlife thrive.  
This is the world we can see. **This is the world we are creating.**

## Other big **wins**



We helped **protect democracy** from a package of legislation that attacked the right of charities to advocate.



The Business Council of Australia did not deliver its promised **attack on strong climate policy** in the election because of our work.



Our biggest climate story of the year *The Dirty Truth*, exposed **local air pollution** from coal and heavy industry.



Our change the story workshops trained hundreds of people in how to **use stories for positive change.**



**Our investigations exposed** dodgy moves by big developers and coal barons trying to corrupt environmental law.



We've grown to more than 600,000 supporters plus 30 volunteer-led **community groups** in six states and territories.

# Stop climate damage

**Our big goal:** Australia helps limit global warming to below 2 degrees with an ambition for 1.5 degrees

**The systems fix:** 100% clean energy and clean exports by 2030



# The 'Climate Election'

**We set ourselves an ambitious goal to make the 2019 federal election the 'Climate Election'. While other factors decided the election result, we succeeded in making climate change a top election issue.**

Two years ago, ACF decided on a strategy to create a 'race to the top' on climate action between major political parties. We wanted to break the cycle of destructive, divisive politics around Australia's national climate policy. Fast forward to the 2019 federal election, and climate action *was* a defining issue. With the support of our community, we persuaded politicians of all kinds to give voters the best possible information about the performance of parties on climate change. And we were a big factor in why climate change became — and remains post-election — a top issue nationally and in the electorates we targeted.

It's true this did not translate into a government with strong climate and environment policies. But our role in any election is not to get one party or another elected. The effort ACF volunteers and staff made during the campaign was awe-inspiring and our Climate Election campaign made ACF stronger than we have ever been. Our power is growing.

## Our campaign in action

Our Climate Election campaign was the biggest field, mobilisation, media and advertising campaign in our history. Our strategic media interventions catapulted climate action onto the national stage. This included a National Press Club speech by our CEO, Kelly O'Shanassy, and a research collaboration with 1 Million Women that showed nine out of ten women are extremely concerned about climate change, with one-third of women under 30 reconsidering whether to have kids. We also ran an electorate-by-electorate analysis of climate damage and brokered a climate pledge among independent candidates.

By drawing on our traditional tactical strengths in policy, research and lobbying, and employing new strengths in digital advertising, supporter engagement, mobilising and organising, we demonstrated we can harness unprecedented community support for climate action and deploy that energy in powerful ways in politically relevant places.

We had thousands of conversations with voters about climate change and how parties' policies compared. Independent analysis showed this was highly impactful for increasing voter preferences for parties with the strongest climate policy by 5%. It may not sound like much but swings of 5% are huge in election terms. We showed that non-partisan climate conversations change the way people think, we just need to reach more people.

In the lead-up to the federal election, our community rallied. Community groups met 34 local MPs and candidates to report back on community sentiment and hand over climate-voter pledges. We held 12 candidate forums in key electorates. People contacted MPs and candidates with 34,611 personal letters and phone calls and knocked on 15,376 doors in target electorates, asking people to be climate voters. On polling day, 615 volunteers handed out 185,360 scorecards in 32 electorates.

We also saw incredible strength, passion and resilience among our supporters. Rather than be deflated by the election result, the response has been overwhelming, with more people than ever joining the movement for stronger action on climate change.

## What we learnt

There are important lessons for ACF and the environment movement from the election result. We undertook social research to understand what influenced the vote of people who live in the electorates that decided the election, speaking specifically to people who were already concerned about climate change. We found economic issues were the top and immediate drivers of their decisions, and climate change was thought to be a problem that could be addressed in future elections.

We learnt we must do more to highlight the urgency of climate action but also do so with empathy across different communities. We need to do better at showing how people's personal interests — jobs, financial security and family — will be better off with strong climate action.

We know it is difficult for people working in energy and coal industries to imagine where they fit in the clean energy future. We need to do more to demand and support a fair transition for these communities.

Our people-powered approach is working. It's slower than we want, but in a democracy like Australia we've learnt we can drive change by being active in elections. ACF thanks the incredible people who volunteered their time and money to make climate action a central election issue.

## Our impact

- We pushed political parties to step up their policies on climate change.
- We brokered a landmark climate leadership agreement with 23 prominent independent candidates to block Adani's coal mine and work together for climate action.
- Candidates from across the political spectrum started using #ClimateElection, and many parties and candidates lifted their language and policy ambition on climate action.
- Our Climate Election ad campaign reached eight million people.
- In key electorates, seven in ten people we asked committed to being climate voters.
- We got #ClimateElection trending and in the weeks before the election climate change was the most searched political issue on Google in Australia.
- ABC's Vote Compass found 81% of voters want more government action on climate change. Voters ranked our environment as the number one issue from a list of 20.
- Lowy Institute polling from 19 May, found most Australians rated climate change as a bigger threat than terrorism and 61% said it was a "serious and pressing problem [and] we should begin taking steps now even if this involves significant costs".



Voters rated **climate change as a top concern** in the electorates we targeted 🌱



# Stop Adani

**The community campaign to #StopAdani has been going for nine years. This year has been really tough but the mine isn't built and the coal remains in the ground.**

## Our campaign in action

This year we helped document and reveal Adani's breaches of Australia's environmental law, including the alleged drilling of illegal water bores in September 2018 and the release of coal-laden water into the Caley Valley wetlands in February 2019.

We successfully appealed former federal Environment Minister Melissa Price's flawed assessment of Adani's water pipeline — it failed to properly consider public submissions and would have allowed up to 12.5 billion litres of water to be drained each year from drought-ravaged Queensland rivers without serious scrutiny. In June, her successor Sussan Ley conceded the case and overturned the assessment decision.

On the cusp of the federal election we criticised Adani's election-eve groundwater approvals, leading to international and national media coverage. We revealed Adani's political donations and raised concerns about whether the company was attempting to buy political influence and accelerate environmental approvals.

We can't pretend it's not been a tough year for the #StopAdani campaign. Final regulatory approvals were granted and land rights removed from the Wangan and Jagalingou First Nations people. But Traditional Owners are staying put on their country, and they are not alone when it comes to Adani. Banks won't fund the mine, insurers are under pressure to withhold cover and our supporters are calling on engineering companies not to work with Adani. It's not over yet.

## Our impact

- We won our court case against the federal Environment Minister's flawed assessment of Adani's water pipeline.
- We ensured #StopAdani was a key issue in media coverage of the federal election campaign, including by bird-dogging one of Scott Morrison's press conferences.
- Adani's mine has still not been built, other mines in the Galilee Basin have not progressed and the coal is still in the ground.

## Nuclear free

**As demand grows to shift away from uranium mining and export, our campaign reflects a deep respect for Australia's First Nations, future generations and unique landscapes.**

### Our campaign in action

We supported Traditional Owners and environment groups to raise their concerns about contested mine plans with politicians. These resulted in high-profile court cases, media, and community advocacy events around the Yeelirrie uranium mine approval in Western Australia.

We put the spotlight on Rio Tinto's clean-up plan for the Ranger mine in Kakadu — urging them to deliver a funded, credible and comprehensive rehabilitation. We raised the issue at formal Rio Tinto company meetings in London, Darwin and Perth. And we teamed up with the Sydney Environment Institute to conduct a detailed analysis of the mine clean-up.

We actively pushed for a responsible and evidence-based approach to radioactive waste management, and worked with small communities in South Australia who are opposing a radioactive waste dump on their lands. This is particularly relevant for waste from the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's Lucas Heights reactor, much of which must be isolated from people and the wider environment for 10,000 years.

We continued our work with the Nobel Peace Prize winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and co-produced a new advocacy plan for Australia to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

### Our impact

- No commercial development of any new uranium project across Australia.
- The ALP committed to sign and ratify the global nuclear weapons ban treaty.
- Rio Tinto increased the Kakadu uranium clean-up budget by more than \$300 million.
- We helped delay federal government plans to dump and store radioactive waste in regional South Australia.



# Stand up for nature

**Our big goal:** Stem avoidable biodiversity loss by 2030

**The systems fix:**

- A new generation of national nature laws and institutions
- Boost investment to protect and regenerate nature



**We are in an extinction crisis. That's why we are committed to forging a new generation of national environment laws that actually protect nature.**

## Our campaign in action

We are a driving force in exposing Australia's extinction crisis, and this year we elevated the crisis in political forums, media and communities. We also became a critical player in revealing biodiversity loss in Australia, producing two major reports to highlight the issue. We took these to the 14th Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14) to help forge a better global agreement for nature.

In the lead-up to the 2019 federal election we held five forums in key electorates in Queensland and New South Wales to champion new nature laws as an election issue. As part of these forums we collaborated with 11 environment groups to link their local issues with national nature laws. In Queensland, we supported an alliance of NGOs advocating for better protected areas and increased leadership by Traditional Owners.

Working with the Places You Love Alliance, we brought together new voices to advocate for stronger environment laws. At Labor's 2018 National Conference, we hosted a forum with prominent advocates for nature, such as author Tim Winton and Lisa Garcia from Earthjustice.

Our new investigations team revealed dodgy federal environment approvals that threaten protected areas or species. In Queensland, we exposed a hidden deal with land developers to build a development on internationally protected wetland habitat at Toondah Harbour. At Kingvale on Cape York we continued to block approval of land clearing in a Great Barrier Reef catchment area.

## Our impact

- We sparked a Senate Inquiry into Australia's extinction crisis.
- The extinction crisis story was elevated at a national level through media coverage of two major reports — *Fast-tracking Extinction* and *Extinction by Electorate*.
- We were featured in ABC's Four Corners episode *Extinction Nation*, proving ACF to be a leading voice on the issue.
- More than 177,000 signatures on our biggest petition ever resulted in ALP and The Greens supporting new nature laws and a national EPA.
- We continued to block the destruction of critical habitat at Toondah Harbour and Kingvale by exposing the failure of our environment laws.

# Fix our democracy

**We believe in strengthening our democratic institutions so they are people powered, transparent, accountable and free from corruption.**

## Our campaign in action

Our role as a leader in building a democracy movement in Australia has become more relevant than ever — we must ensure our systems work to protect nature and our climate. That's why we've stepped up to form a coalition of civil society groups who are tackling the influence of money in politics.

We played a critical role in bringing together more than 40 organisations through the Hands off our Charities (HOOC) Alliance in a collaboration of powerful and diverse voices. Our initial focus was on changing the foreign donations bill (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform Bill). We managed to shift the bill, from one that would have shut down some organisations, to one that stops international donations to political parties and leaves charities unaffected — a victory for our democracy.

Through our investigations unit and other work, we highlighted examples of where political and corporate influence has led to our environment losing out. This includes revealing how our own government defied Treasury advice and offered taxpayer support for an upgrade of Liberal Party donor Trevor St Baker's Vales Point coal plant.

We also invested in deep research about the state of our democracy. We spoke to prominent stakeholders to understand the obstacles to a healthy democracy and learn how we might move closer to our vision: a country where power resides with the people, where we can participate in a fair and clean process in an active and meaningful way, and where decisions and decision-making are made in the interests of the people and the planet.

**Our big goal:** Australians have confidence in the power of their democracy to protect people and nature

**The systems fix:** Political donation disclosure and donation limits reform

## Our impact

- We protected democracy from a package of legislation that attacked the right of charities to advocate.
- We exposed corporate donations to political parties designed to influence political decisions and destroy nature.

# Transform our economy

**To build an economy that's good for life, we are campaigning for changes to our economic structures and institutions, starting with the laws that dictate corporate behaviour.**

## Our campaign in action

We took on the Business Council of Australia (BCA) — a powerful voice in our national debate and one that has undermined climate change policy in Australia over successive years. The BCA represents some of Australia's most powerful companies and by highlighting the damage the BCA is doing to its members' reputations we helped convince some companies to review their climate policies, including Westpac and Telstra.

We continued to highlight and hold the federal government to account for the decline in spending on our environment, which has meant less money for our most threatened species and habitats. And we launched a high-profile air pollution report, *The Dirty Truth*, that showed how poorer communities are exposed to more polluting facilities than wealthier ones. The report was featured nationally on ABC TV and national radio with 94 TV and radio mentions, plus many more stories in newspapers and on news websites.

**Our big goal:** An economy that is good for life where businesses enhance Australia's environment

**The systems fix:** Reform the Corporations Act to include environmental responsibilities for business

## Our impact

- We mobilised our supporter-base to put pressure on BCA companies as customers and shareholders, so member companies see BCA's climate-wrecking advocacy as a risk to their brand.
- BCA members, including Telstra and Westpac, reviewed their climate policies.

# Changing the story

**The dominant story that our economy comes before nature is fuelling destruction. We need to inspire new ways of seeing, acting and being.**



## Change the story

An enormous part of our Change the Story work was the huge campaign to make stopping climate damage a big federal election issue and elevate public concern and demand for action. Our #ClimateElection hashtag, media and ads reached eight million people. Climate action was a defining issue in the election, in part because of the story we told.

We trained 370 people through change the story workshops, including ACF staff, volunteers, allies and partners in how to use stories for positive change. There's huge momentum in our communities and around the world. And we will continue to elevate the story that we can, we will, we must solve the climate and extinction crises and create a world that's good for everyone and every living thing.

We also shared personal experiences from scientists, mothers, farmers, doctors, nurses, wildlife carers and emergency services to help elevate the story that climate change is here, now. Jody Brown, a farmer from Queensland, told her story of how the climate-fueled drought devastated her farm on nationally aired TV advertisements.

## In the media

The media shapes our national debate, influences our elected representatives and is where a significant number of Australians learn about our climate and extinction crises. That's why we spent time engaging reporters, producers and editors to ensure climate change, nature protection and other environmental stories were prominent across Australian newspapers, websites, airwaves and TV screens.

We made climate change and the Adani coal mine major media issues in the lead-up and during the 2019 federal election. Our election work was

mentioned in the media more than 1,100 times. We organised an address to the National Press Club by Kelly O'Shanassy. And we reached the front pages of The Age and Sydney Morning Herald with a climate action agreement brokered by ACF between high-profile independent candidates.

We were at the forefront of media coverage on the extinction crisis. We worked behind the scenes to elevate the landmark global scientific assessment on biodiversity, released in May 2019, that warned one million animal and plant species faced extinction as a result of human activity. We followed that up with a report released in partnership with University of Queensland researchers that showed more than 90% of threatened species habitat destruction in Australia has happened in just 12 electorates. We also featured prominently in the Four Corners special episode on Australia's extinction crisis, *Extinction Nation*.

Our air pollution report, *The Dirty Truth*, revealed Australia's most polluting industrial facilities are almost all in poor areas. The report garnered 94 TV and radio mentions, plus many more stories in newspapers and on news websites. And we collaborated with 1 Million Women to show nine out of ten women are extremely concerned about climate change.

## Our impact

- We reached eight million people during the Climate Election.
- We elevated critical stories on climate and Adani with 1,100 media mentions in the lead up to the 2019 federal election.
- Our investigations work informed national media stories and drove our engagement with policy-makers for change.

# People power

**Our powerful and organised community of engaged people helps change the story, build people power and hold decision makers to account.**



# Our community is over 600,000 people strong

## Our community in action

Australians are turning concern about the climate and extinction crises into collective action to stop climate damage and protect nature. As these crises escalate, there are opportunities to activate more people than ever into our movement.

In 2018–2019, hundreds of thousands of people added their names to petitions calling for strong new nature laws and climate action. Tens of thousands of people wrote to politicians, made submissions to inquiries and flooded decision-makers' phone lines with calls. Thousands of people from the ACF community turned out to rallies and actions across the country. These included the incredible student-led school strikes for climate action and creative actions targeting Adani funders and contractors.

We have grown and supported 30 ACF Community groups across the country. From small beginnings in Melbourne and Brisbane, we now have groups in Hobart, Newcastle, Mildura and the Sunshine Coast — with more on the way. Geographically dispersed and locally organised, these grassroots, people-powered efforts help us deliver campaign strategies and build power for the long term.

These community groups also played a critical role in our Climate Election campaign. To help them engage more Australians in the conversation, we built three new tools to support and scale the impact

of groups: a wizzbang dialler so volunteers can have more conversations with Australians across the country; a digital door-knocking platform to capture real-time feedback from face-to-face conversations; and a digital portal to help groups manage their own supporter lists, invite people to events and step members up into volunteer roles.

During and after the Climate Election campaign, our community showed great resilience. We shared debriefs, webinars, surveys and ideas about the way forward. With them, we will continue to grow a vibrant national movement led by people on the ground.

When local groups capitalise on local knowledge, skills and expertise and combine this with our bold national vision, strategies and training — they can be effective in building a powerful movement and a better future for us all.

## Our impact

- Our community of over 600,000 people helped make climate change a key election issue.
- We united a powerful wave of people to campaign for climate action and federal political leadership on climate and nature.
- We grew to 30 volunteer-led ACF Community groups in six states and territories.

## Why I volunteer

**"I love feeling like I'm giving something back and I'm contributing. It gives me a sense of hope and I feel less alone in the world."**

When Melissa Abel helped form an ACF Community group, she was surprised by how many people in her part of regional Victoria share her concerns about protecting the planet and want to act.

"I get very upset at the state of the world and what we might be passing on to our kids. I'm frightened for their future and want to do something about it. We have the power to change things and we have to try.

My love for my kids and the outrage I feel at what is being done to their future is enough to push me out of my comfort zone. You don't know how much courage you have until you test it out. All you can do is try, and then you find you do have the strength and the power to act.

Two years ago, I helped set up an ACF group in Bendigo. Volunteering gives me a sense of purpose, a sense of fulfilment. I feel I'm doing what I can to make a difference. I love feeling like I'm giving something back and I'm contributing. It gives me a sense of hope and I feel less alone in the world.

The contact with the different members of the community is great. I know there are people who feel just as strongly about this stuff as I do and are really driven to make change.

I think it's hugely important to bring everyone along with us. At the end of the day, we all want the same



things. We all want clean air, healthy wildlife, we all want our kids to thrive, we just have different ideas about how to go about it. You have to open up those conversations and find common ground.

The latest IPCC report shows we only have a few years to turn this around. There are plenty of days when I struggle to find hope, but I must have hope, for the sake of my kids. *Rise Against*, one of my favourite bands, have this wonderful lyric that says, 'When it all comes down, will you say you did everything you could?'

**ACF Community groups are taking action across Australia. [www.acf.org.au/community\\_groups](http://www.acf.org.au/community_groups)**



# New approaches to our work

**We can't continue to work in the same way and expect different outcomes. That's why we are trying new things and learning how we can be more inclusive in our campaigns.**

## Beyond governments

We're not just relying on our government to take action, instead we're finding other change agents to protect nature and stop climate damage.

When governments fail to act, businesses must. ACF is encouraging big, iconic Australian corporations to change how they operate in a way that makes sense for their business and our environment. We'll be breaking down the myth that environmental action harms jobs and the economy and changing the story to one where a healthy environment is fundamental to our wellbeing, jobs and future. We want to show that action will lead to a better world, for every person and every living thing.

## Care and compassion

We need big changes for a safe future. But those changes can be deeply concerning for people with little money or those dependent on the local mine for a job. We need to make sure our campaigns are caring and compassionate. They must call for urgent change *and* help people see how they can be better off in the face of that change.

We also need to be transparent about the transitions and investment needed to help communities diversify their local economies. ACF has decided to work with coal mining communities to support a genuine community-led vision that leads to new industries and lasting jobs in their region as the world moves beyond coal.

## Inclusive of everyone

To challenge the powers we're up against, we must build a bold, vibrant and diverse movement that involves everyone who cares about protecting nature and stopping climate damage.

That's why we're exploring what diversity and inclusion means for ACF and our community. We're at the very beginning of this process. We're working out where we're at, and what we can do to better open dialogue about climate and nature with everyone who cares. To begin, we're going to focus on cultural diversity and the varied communities who call Australia home.

We've also engaged Lidia Thorpe — a Gunaigunditjmara woman, former MP and national advocate for Aboriginal self-determination and community control — to lead an Indigenous Engagement Project that identifies ways ACF can stand in solidarity and engage more closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

These are big conversations and we're encouraging everyone from all experiences and backgrounds to contribute. In the end, we all breathe the same air and rely on a safe climate. We all want good jobs and to take care of our families. And we all love our unique Australian wildlife. As an organisation, we need to listen carefully to communities from all walks of life and together develop a shared vision for tomorrow that, if we work really hard, just might be even better than today.



# Thank you

Our community of supporters is now more than 600,000 strong. To each of you, we say an enormous thank you. Your commitment and generosity drives everything we do. When people like you come together, we can make real change.

On the following pages we list some of the groups, organisations and people whose valued support powered our work.



## Patron

The Hon Peter Garrett AM

## Honorary Life Members

From time to time, ACF awards Honorary Life Membership to a member in recognition of their outstanding contribution to our work.

Dr Moss Cass, 1982

Dr Bob Brown, 1983

Dr Geoff Mosley, 1987

Emeritus Professor Hal Wootton AC QC, 1989

Dr Aila Keto AO, 1990

Mr Geoffrey Goode, 1990

Ms Annelie Holden, 1992

Mr Jack Munday AO, 1993

Mr Trevor Blake, 1999

Mrs Beryl Blake, 1999

Mr Mark Wootton, 2001

Ms Eve Kantor, 2001

Dr bro Scheffield-Brotherton, 2005

Ms Penelope Figgis AM AO, 2005

The Hon Peter Garrett AM, 2005

Mr Bill Paine, 2006

Ms Cate Blanchett AC, 2011

Mr Gavin Wigginton, 2013

Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe AO, 2014

Mr Geoffrey Cousins AM, 2018

### *Vale*

Professor David Yencken AO, former ACF President, Patron and Honorary Life Member 1931–2019

Hon Murray Wilcox AO QC, former ACF President and Honorary Life Member 1937–2018

## Nature's champions

We would like to recognise and thank our committed supporters whose annual donations were \$5,000 or more in the 2018-2019 financial year.

### Leader

Jaramas Foundation  
Kevin Murphy Business Services Pty Ltd  
Ms Vicki Olsson  
Oranges and Sardines Foundation

### Guardian

Professor Henry Burger and Mrs Jennifer Burger  
Dr Keith Lethlean and Dr Heather Johnston  
Minax Uriel Pty Ltd  
Mr Conrad Oppen and Mrs Alice Oppen OAM  
Skellern Family Foundation  
William Buckland Foundation

### Steward

Mr Bill Bush and Mrs Mary Bush  
Ms Annelie Holden  
Dr Bill N Holsworth  
Prof Michael Leigh  
Mr Ross Mallam and Mrs Julie Mallam  
Marich Foundation  
Nordia Foundation

**We thank all our donors, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous, for your dedication to protecting nature and our climate.**

**Learn more about being a Nature's Champion**

**[www.acf.org.au/natures\\_champions](http://www.acf.org.au/natures_champions)  
1800 332 510**

### Protector

Dr Susan Adams and Mr Andrew Kirk  
Australian Ethical Investments  
Dr Barbara Baird  
Mr Clive Blazey AM and Mrs Penny Blazey  
CANNA Australasia  
Prof Carrick Chambers and Mrs Margaret Chambers  
Ms Caroline Le Couteur  
Mrs Ann Crawford  
Renee Ferster Levy and Michael Levy  
Prof Gernot Heiser  
Hill Family Conservation Foundation  
Emeritus Prof Andrew Hopkins and Ms Heather McGregor  
Dr Matthias Krups and Mrs Marlies Krups  
Norman Family  
Ms Victoria Parsons  
Ms Pam Petschack  
Presentation Sisters Wagga Wagga  
Mrs Anne Reeves  
Rellim Foundation  
The Scovell Gardner Family  
Mr Brian Snape AM and Mrs Diana Snape  
Dr Michael Williams and Mrs Margaret Williams  
The Honorable Thomas Waddell  
Toot Sweet Consulting

## Sustainer

Dr Eldon Ball  
Dr Barbara Briggs AM  
Ms Nan Brown  
Bronwen M Clucas  
Dr Andrew Danks  
The Forbes Family  
Mr Sid French  
Mrs Katja Gordon  
Mr Andrew Hall  
Ms Margaret Henderson  
Will and Jennie Irving  
Dr Jonathan Kalman and Mrs Anna Kalman  
Ms Edwina Kearney  
Koreen Conservation  
Mrs Tim Jackson and Mr Doug Jackson  
Prof John Langford AM  
The George Lewin Foundation  
Dr Geoffrey and Dr Ann  
Ms Roslyn Gordon  
Dr Ross Glasson  
Ruth and Evan Griffiths  
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation  
Dr Ros Madden and Prof Richard Madden  
Ms Natalie Mamone and Mr Laurence Stonard  
Ms Jo Murray  
Mr Dennis Nassau and Mrs Fairlie Nassau  
Fr Barry Ryan  
Mr Greg Rowe  
Dr Angela Rutherford  
Mr Brett Slater and Mrs Maree Slater  
Mr Ian Taylor  
Elisabeth and Oliver White  
Mrs Marjorie White



## ACF's living legacy community

ACF's Living Legacy community recognises supporters who have decided to leave a gift in their will as a way of taking action for future generations.

### Legacy leaders (bequest value \$100,000+)

We thank our supporters who have arranged to give a gift to ACF in their will to create a living legacy for nature and our planet. Our Legacy Leaders have advised they are leaving a significant gift and we gratefully recognise them here.

Ms Alice Beauchamp  
 Mr Stephen and Ms Janice Blakeney  
 Ms Rhonda Boyle  
 Dr Barbara Briggs AM  
 Ms Bronwyn Brown  
 Ms Jane Crouch  
 Mr Peter Timms and Mr Robert Dessaix  
 Mr Anthony Marshall and Ms Marsha Durham  
 Mr David Fisher  
 Mr Kahn and Mrs Julie Franke  
 Mr Phillip Geschke  
 Ms Helen Gillam  
 Mr Andrew Griffiths  
 Mr Kym Hancock  
 Ms Margaret and Dr Grahame Hardy  
 Dr Jennifer Herrick  
 Ms Annelie Holden  
 Ms Sandy Jennings  
 Ms Valerie Johnstone  
 Mr Andrew and Mrs Clare Kavunenko

Professor Byron Lamont  
 Mr Harold Levien  
 Mr Bruce D Lindenmayer OAM  
 Mr Neil and Mrs Pam McDonald  
 Mr Eric Miller  
 Mr Philip Morris  
 Mrs Ruth and Mr David Pfanner  
 Mr Frank Pierce  
 Mr James Richardson  
 Ms Morag Ryder  
 Mr Geoffrey Shores  
 Mr Gilvray Smith  
 Mr Brian Snape AM  
 Mr Jack Trezise  
 Ms Laurel Tsang  
 Ms Beverly Weynton  
 Ms Marilyn Whimpey  
 Dr Judy Williams  
 Ms Patricia Williamsz

*And thank you to all our legacy leaders who wish to remain anonymous.*

### Gifts in memory

Thank you to those who've made in-memory gifts to ACF. Your kind tribute is inspirational and acknowledges the importance placed by loved ones, friends and colleagues in caring for nature. The following people have been honoured with gifts in memory.

Mr Rudolf Anders  
 Ms Margaret Barnes  
 Ms Jennifer Anne Crook  
 Dr William Elford  
 Ms Coral Garradd  
 Mr Kingsley Greg  
 Ms Suzi Haworth  
 Mr Peter A. Jelliff  
 Mr Alex Johnston  
 Mr Rob Lucas  
 Mr David Meyers  
 Mr Roger Neave  
 Mr Renee Josef Oudema  
 Ms Pat Rose  
 Mr Steve Silberer  
 Mr Craig Telfer  
 Mr Mark Thomas  
 Mr Les Thompson  
 Mrs Norma Woodward

### Legacies living on

We acknowledge the supporters from whom we have received a gift in their will this year, and express our appreciation to their family and friends for their thoughtful generosity. These gifts are an expression of how important nature has been in their lives.

Estate of Geoffrey Anderson  
 Estate of Rosemary Arnot  
 Estate of Marjorie Bentley  
 Estate of Simon Bromley  
 Estate of Sandra Charles  
 Estate of Patricia Davies  
 Estate of Arnold Ewald  
 Estate of Catherine Fielden  
 Estate of James Fullarton  
 Estate of Joseph Garvin  
 Estate of Russell Hemingway  
 Estate of Peter Hendry  
 Estate of Michael Leonard Jones  
 Estate of Peter Krafel  
 Estate of Lee Kwok Poh  
 Estate of Helen Macauley  
 Estate of Mavis Matthews  
 Estate of Dougald McLean  
 Estate of Dorothy Reynolds  
 Estate of Catherine Shepparbottom  
 Estate of Roger Sheppard  
 Estate of Robert Ulin  
 Estate of Iva Young  
 Estate of Barbara Winkley  
 Estate of Lavinia Sinclair

## Why I give

**Both John and Sonya know how science enables people to understand the wonders of the natural world as something far more fascinating than we could ever imagine. It should not be taken for granted.**

As a former Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science, John Biggins lives on the Sunshine Coast with his partner Sonya, a retired Hospital Scientist. Practical environmental initiatives have always been a strong focus for them because they like tangible outcomes. For many years, they lived on rural properties which they revegetated, transforming barren paddocks into wildlife habitat. They still work with community groups — rehabilitating public lands to increase biodiversity.

“We have advocated for sustainable environmental management most of our lives, but we’re concerned about the nation’s focus on economic growth and material prosperity over nature,” says John. “An effective solution won’t emerge unless the concept of custodianship that is so much a part of Indigenous culture is fully embraced. We need to draw on the knowledge of Traditional Owners.”

John read two articles in *habitat* in 2017 that emphasised evidence-based planning, tackling problems upstream and the need to change systems and structures instead of implementing quick fixes for symptoms. This really aligned with John’s thinking, and is an approach they both fully support.

John and Sonya thoughtfully decided to leave a gift to ACF in their will. They have always wanted to make a contribution and feel a bequest will enable others to continue the work on their behalf when they’re not around.

If you would like to find out how a gift in your will can power bold change in the future, please contact [bequests@acf.org.au](mailto:bequests@acf.org.au) or call 03 9345 1120.



“  
We want to try to  
make a difference  
and help other  
people carry on the  
good work after  
we’ve gone.”

— Sonya



## Pro bono and partner support

ACF is fortunate to receive in-kind and financial support from many businesses, individuals and partner organisations.

### Consultants

Republic of Everyone  
RMIT's School of Media & Communication

### Legal services

Angus Scott and Kate Gover  
Arnold Bloch Leibler  
Environmental Defenders Office NSW  
Environmental Defenders Office QLD  
Environmental Justice Australia  
King & Wood Mallesons  
Chris McGrath  
Neil Williams SC

### Nuclear free campaign assistance

Australian Nuclear Free Alliance  
Cat Beaton  
Kirsten Blair  
Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation  
Dimity Hawkins  
International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)  
Eve Kantor/Mark Wootton  
Mav Media  
Mia Pepper  
Radio 3CR  
Sydney Environment Institute  
Nat Wasley

### Partnerships

Intrepid Travel and Intrepid Foundation  
Olkola Aboriginal Corporation  
Patagonia

## Workplace giving

We thank staff from the following organisations who have kindly contributed \$500 or more through workplace giving.

Australian Securities & Investments Commission  
Australian Taxation Office  
CAF Australia Good2Give  
Charles Sturt University  
Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
Department of Defence  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Department of Health and Ageing  
Department of Human Services  
Epoch Systems Development  
King & Wood Mallesons  
Melbourne Water  
National Indigenous Australians Agency

## Volunteers and fellows

Our community created ACF and our community powers us today.  
Thank you to our amazing volunteers who show up, speak out and act.

### Library volunteers

Maelor Himbury  
Mary Trudzik

### Fundraising volunteers

Fran Chicas  
Tim Edney  
Ella Krockenberger  
Yolanda Krockenberger  
Nick Pastalatzis

### Supporter Services volunteers

Beryl Blake  
Sharnee Fitzgerald  
Jett Painter  
Kate Woods

### Communication and campaign volunteers

Vivian Harris  
Jordan Lambe  
Lachlan Maclean  
Conor Marshall  
Scott Matheson  
Zachary Power  
Neil Sutton  
Rachael Szumsk  
Victoria Taylor  
Brigitte Walsh  
Loretta White

### Climate election campaign volunteers

Melissa Abel, Community Communications Coach  
Julian Atchinson, Events Coordinator  
Simon Ball, Events Coordinator  
Liz Balough, Phonebank Coordinator  
April Broadbent, Field Office Coordinator  
Penny Brown, Advocacy Coach  
Daniella Conser, Field Office Coordinator  
Gabrielle Di Vietri, Events Coordinator  
Pam Donnelly, Field Office Coordinator  
Nicki Duncan, Field Office Coordinator  
Bron Elmore, Field Office Coordinator  
Dilan Fernando, Calling Party Coordinator  
Tara Jones, Outreach Team Leader  
Vicky Karitinos, Phonebank Coordinator  
Russell Kelly, Doorknock Coach  
Hung Le, Phonebank Coordinator  
Joseph Lea, Visibility Tactics Coordinator  
Ben Manassah, Climate Stories Coordinator  
Harley McDonald-Eckersall, Outreach Team Leader  
Jacqui Mitchell, Doorknock Coach  
Geoff Mulhal, Field Systems Support Coordinator  
Capucine Prager, Visibility Tactics Coordinator  
Tyler Rotche, Field Office Coordinator  
Jamie Spitari, Doorknock Coach  
Zhijie Wen, Community Engagement Volunteer

### 60L Management Committee

Jodi Bastien  
Alan Pears

## **Fellows**

April Broadbent, Organising

Brendan Cooper, Organising

Bruno Friedel, Nature Campaign

Ben Fulton-Gillon, Video Production

James Haigh, Organising

Isabel Kimpton, Social Media

Elizabeth Morrow Foley, Organising

Bruce Naylor, Brand & Engagement

Karen Uy, Communications and Mobilising

## **Climate stories participants**

Jacqui Dunn

Steph Gardner

Amanda Lamont

Glenn Morris

Elizabeth Morrow Foley

Miranda Muir

Lisa Panting

Amita Roy

Lisa Thompson

Nerida Walker



# ACF environmental performance

**ACF's Melbourne 60L premises is a landmark sustainable building for Australia. Rainwater, solar panels, natural lighting and energy efficient appliances assist in achieving a commercially viable, healthy, low energy, resource efficient and minimal impact workplace.**

The 60L building uses just one-fifth of the mains water and one-third of the electricity used by conventional buildings of the same size and class. 60L common areas are powered by on-site solar, and tenancies are powered by 100% accredited green power. A Green Lease encourages tenants of the 60L Green Building to operate efficiently within their tenancies and to maximise the environmental benefits of the building.

Environmental performance	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
<b>ACF Melbourne Office</b>			
Total water consumption (kL) <sup>1</sup>	284	260	306
Mains water	164	178	210
Onsite roof-harvested tank water	120	82	96
Total electricity consumption (kWh) <sup>2</sup>	76,958	79,335	73,250
<b>All ACF</b>			
Total distance flown by staff and Council & Board members (km) <sup>3</sup>	766,166	739,639	969,547
Employees who commute without a car (%)	95	97	96
<b>Total emissions which are 100% offset (tonnes CO2 equiv)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>251</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>212</b>

1 ACF Melbourne office. Overall building water consumption has risen due to increased building headcount.

2 ACF Melbourne office (100% accredited green power)

3 Increased due to staff travel overseas for learning (ACF Quokka Scholarship), and UN Conference of Parties for Convention for Biological Diversity.

4 Includes staff air travel, car reimbursement, car rental, taxis, paper consumption, waste and freight. Fully offset by purchased Australian Carbon Credit Units.



**96% of employees**  
walk, cycle or catch  
public transport to work

## Social performance and organisational culture

**We strive to build a workplace where everyone can perform at their best. It's something we take very seriously.**

That's why we recently undertook the fourth iteration of the Organisational Cultural Inventory which measures our workplace culture and effectiveness. The results revealed we have further cemented our cultural transformation. For the first time, we have shifted our culture more than 20% into the most constructive categories, indicating we are a more collaborative and empowered workplace than ever.

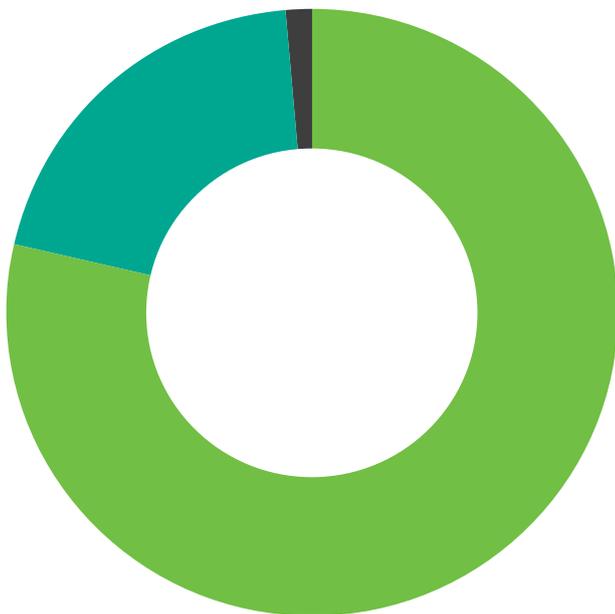
In the last financial year, we did significant work to grow the capacity of our leaders to be the very best people managers through a professional coaching and development program. We also increased opportunities for innovation in our organisation, asserted new quotas to increase workplace diversity, and continued our Fellowship program for up-and-coming environmental activists, giving them the opportunity to receive hands-on experience with our staff.

Staff statistics	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total Staff Full Time Equivalent	59.79	65.39	67.15
Avoidable Turnover Rate (%)	13.9	13.5	10.3
Average Annual Training per employee (hours)	16	18	22

Staff engagement and satisfaction	2016	2018
*Measured every two years	74%	76%

Members and Supporters	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total ACF Supporters – connected through following our work, membership, donating or taking action	335,340	456,309	616,362
Members and Donors	47,550	56,421	61,754

**STAFF COMPOSITION**



- Full Time 59
- Part Time 15
- Casual 1

**ALL STAFF GENDER**



- Female 61%
- Male 39%

**GENERATION - ALL STAFF**



- Baby Boomers 11%
- Gen X 35%
- Gen Y 54%

**GENDER IN MANAGEMENT**



- Female 57%
- Male 43%

# The future is shaped by those **who take action today**



## Our Board

ACF is governed by a volunteer Board which contributes a broad range of expertise, interest and involvement in environmental work and dedication to ACF's purpose, values and strategy for change.

The Board comprises seven ACF Councillors – ACF's President, Vice Presidents and four Councillors elected to the Board – and up to four further members appointed (co-opted) by Council.

We acknowledge the significant, voluntary contributions of the following external members of the Board's Finance Audit and Risk Committee: Mary Latham, *former Treasurer*, Amanda McIntyre, Jane Smithers, Jonathan Andrews, Alex Woerndle.

**Back row, L to R:** Donna Bagnall, David Hood, Miles George *Treasurer*, Garry Gale

**Front row, L to R:** Jon Anstey *Hon. Secretary*, Ash Peplow Ball, Mara Bún *President*, Tim Chapman *Vice President*

**Not present:** Jimmy Cocking *Vice President*, Ros Harvey, Erika Avellaneda Celis

## Our Council

Elected by our members, the Council is ACF's core representative body. It comprises 21 Councillors, each elected for a three-year term. Council's role is to select the Board, develop long-term strategy and policy in collaboration with our Board and CEO, and engage with our members.

**Back Row, L to R:** Jimmy Cocking *Vice President* NT, Tim Chapman *Vice President* NSW

**Middle Row, L to R:** James Eggleston WA, Ash Peplow Ball VIC, Leon Cermak SA, Margaret Steadman TAS, David Hood QLD, Gemma Plesman QLD, Mia Pepper WA, Revel Pointon QLD

**Front Row, L to R:** Melanie Poole VIC, Sue Richardson SA, Anne Martinelli VIC, Philippa Rowland SA, Mara Bún *President*, Sarah English WA, Shar Molloy NT, Daisy Barham NSW, Sarah Reid ACT

**Not present:** Donna Bagnall NSW, Erika Avellaneda Celis TAS



# ACF financial position summary

**ACF delivered another financial surplus for the 2018-2019 financial year. This is the fifth surplus in a row – a testament to the generosity of our supporters coupled with strong budget management by our team.**

Operating revenues from donations, bequests and memberships grew from \$12.58 million to \$14.08 million, an increase of 12%, in part due to a generous bequest from the estate of the late Michael Jones. Mr Jones was a long-time supporter of ACF and his legacy will have an enduring impact on our work.

Faced with the climate and extinction crises, the Board committed to ramping up urgent environmental work that is above and beyond our annual budget. As a result of this year's surplus, \$2 million was allocated to the Environmental Impact Fund that was established in 2017. This year, the Environmental Impact Fund dramatically improved ACF's influence through two significant projects:

**1. Building strong community participation in making climate change a key issue in the 2019 federal election.** Research told us it was important to raise awareness of the climate crisis early, so we ran a long and consistent campaign. Thousands of volunteers worked with us and, together, we had a strong voice across the nation and in our target electorates. We could not have operated at this scale without additional funding.

**2. Establishing an Environmental Investigation Unit to uncover how individuals, businesses and government can abuse power to damage or disregard nature.** Additional funding has allowed us to experiment with new tactics that cut through and this project has been a tremendous success as detailed in the pages on our nature campaign and change the story work.

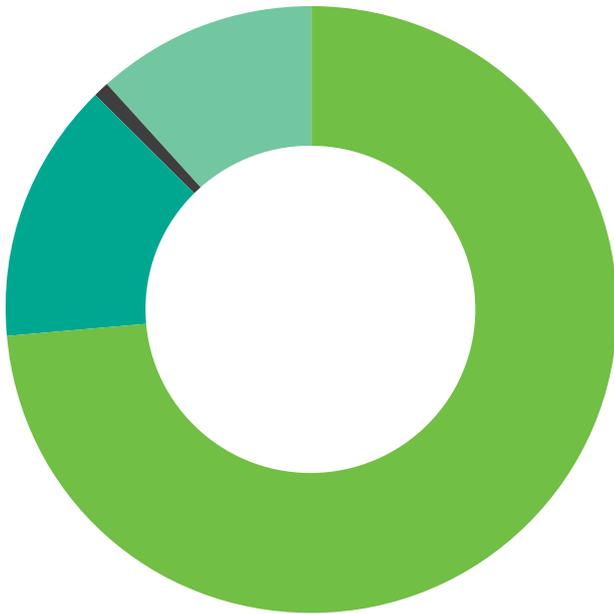
Our total expenditure on environmental activities continues to grow, reaching \$7.88 million in 2018-2019. This represents an 18% increase on the prior year and more than 54% of our total expenses.

We held our fundraising expenditure steady at \$4.6 million for the third year in a row. This means our return on donor investment has improved by 17% over this period — for every \$1 we spend on fundraising, we are now raising \$3.05.

During the year we replaced our ageing donor management software in a major project that was completed on time and on budget. The new system allows ACF to better serve our donors in an increasingly complex digital world and at a lower cost.

With careful management, ACF has built financial reserves that balance a need for resilience, with capacity to deliver focused and timely environmental campaigns where they are most needed. On the verge of a new decade, we have renewed determination and resilience to be a powerful voice for nature. Thank you for your continued financial support.

**REVENUE \$15.89M**



- Individual donations \$11.72m
- Bequests \$2.19m
- Other fundraising \$0.17m
- Rent and investment income \$1.81m

**EXPENDITURE \$14.58M**



- Environmental initiatives \$7.88m
- Donor care and acquisition \$4.62m
- Management and operations \$1.49m
- Non-operating activities \$0.59m

For every \$1 we  
spent on fundraising  
**we raised \$3.05**

# We love **our beautiful planet**

**Australian Conservation Foundation**

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Carlton VIC 3053

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**Email** [acf@acf.org.au](mailto:acf@acf.org.au)

**Web** [www.acf.org.au](http://www.acf.org.au)

**f** Australian Conservation Foundation

**t** @AusConservation

ABN 22 007 498 482

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**AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**