

australian earth laws alliance  
annual report 2021 - 2022





The Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which AELA operates and practices.

AELA acknowledges that the sovereignty of the First Nations Peoples of the continent now known as Australia was never ceded by treaty nor in any other way. AELA acknowledges and respects First Nations Peoples' laws and ecologically sustainable custodianship of Australia over tens of thousands of years through land and sea management practices that continue today.

Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.



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Australian magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*),  
by the Wivenhoe Dam, Jinibara Country,  
Queensland. Photo by James Lee

## A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

### Ross Williams

On behalf of the AELA Board of Directors, we'd like to thank our staff and volunteers for another fantastic year, and we'd like to thank everyone in the AELA community for your support and participation in our programs and events. As a Bindal/Juru person, I'm proud to be part of the AELA Board of Management, and to support AELA's work. The staff and volunteers of AELA are passionate about creating Earth-centred governance and Caring for Country, and doing this by walking together with the First Peoples of this continent. I continue to be inspired by our team, and our network of communities, who are committed to decolonising our knowledge and governance systems and making life-centred systems change. This past year has been an exciting one for AELA, with our first major grant funding enabling our incredibly hard-working Co-Founder and National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney, to earn an income from managing AELA, and enabling us to employ a small team who are incredibly committed to AELA's mission. Our goal now is to continue to grow that funding, so we can continue to grow AELA's amazing body of work.



## A NOTE FROM OUR NATIONAL CONVENOR

**Dr Michelle Maloney,  
AELA National Convenor**

I'd like to extend our deep gratitude to everyone who supports and participates in AELA's work – we're very thankful to be working with you! This financial year has been fantastic, for so many reasons. Securing a year of funding support has been nothing short of a dream come true – to be able to earn a living by continuing to grow AELA's Earth-centred systems change work, and to continue to be able to support the work of others, is a gift. This year has been jam-packed with excellent adventures: AELA continued to provide education and awareness raising across more than 100 events and private meetings.

We've been excited to have been approached by several Local Councils, and members of different political parties, to provide advice about Rights of Nature, Ecocide and other Earth-centred concepts and initiatives. We've refined our Earth-centred "Greenprints" program and have started preparing for the practical use and implementation of Greenprints in at least half a dozen communities, with the full 'Greenprints Adventure' starting in early 2023. In July we auspiced and helped host the launch of Indigenous led initiative 'Regenerative Songlines Australia' and continue to collaborate with Future Dreaming, to share Indigenous knowledge about ecological governance, with a wide range of audiences. In addition, my work leading our sister organisation, the New Economy Network Australia (NENA) has enabled AELA and NENA to collaborate to organise our first 'Earth Economics' week, which will be held in September.

The coming financial year is going to be an important one for us – where we begin to delve more deeply into bioregional and place-based Earth centred systems change. Despite the challenges that we all face together – due to our climate changing world, the biodiversity loss crisis and ongoing fight for justice by our Indigenous colleagues – I've never been more excited about the work that AELA is doing with our colleagues and partners.





# Highlights from AELA's work from July 2021 to June 2022

2

**conferences** co-hosted by AELA: *Regen Brisbane* Two-Day Symposium (July 2021), with Regen Brisbane; and "Growing a Wellbeing Economy for Australia" NENA Annual Conference, co-hosted with the New Economy Network Australia, November 2021

19

**national webinars and workshops**, including some that were co-hosted with our sister organisations, Future Dreaming Australia and the New Economy Network Australia (NENA)

21

**volunteers** participated in our Australian Earth Laws Centre and Greenprints Programs, including 3 University internships

42

times our **National Convenor provided advice** about Earth centred governance in private meetings

83

**public talks** given by our National Convenor, including: public lectures, panel discussions, podcasts, media interviews and online presentations about Earth jurisprudence and Earth-centred governance

665

**hours** of AELA YouTube content viewed

7,451

**people listened LIVE** to a presentation, webinar, podcast or workshop about Earth laws, with our National Convenor (with more engagement via recordings released after live events and presentations)

19,795

**unique visitors** to our AELA website.  
[www.earthlaws.org.au](http://www.earthlaws.org.au)



## AELA's Mission

To increase the understanding and practical implementation of Earth-centred governance in Australia.

## Our Vision

Thriving ecocentric societies, living within their ecological limits and nurturing the living world.

## Our Role

We are a unique think-tank and capacity building organization, providing creative leadership and support to others, to build Earth-centred governance.

## AELA's History and Theory of Change

AELA was created in 2012, by a group of environmental lawyers who were inspired by the theory of Earth jurisprudence. Today, AELA is a multi-disciplinary network working to address the root causes of the ecological crises and continues to be inspired by Earth jurisprudence and the Earth-centred governance of Indigenous Peoples in Australia and around the world.

Earth jurisprudence suggests that we need to recognise that humans are only one part of nature ('one member of the Earth community'), that we are interdependent with the living world, and we need to govern ourselves and our societies, so that we nurture rather than destroy the living world.

## THE PROBLEMS AELA IS WORKING TO ADDRESS

From an Earth jurisprudence perspective, industrialised societies have created the current ecological crisis – a climate changing world, with declining biodiversity and ecological health – due to our human-centred attitudes and actions. These attitudes and actions have led to the creation of systems of governance (including law, economics, education and politics) that see humans as separate from nature, and that treat nature as just human property for endless use and consumption.

## THE NEED FOR NEW GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

The need for new governance systems has never been greater. To care for our shared home, we need to transition from human-centred to Earth-centred systems of governance, so we can nurture the living world upon which we depend. Despite the indisputable scientific evidence about climate change and environmental decline – and more than four decades of ‘sustainable development’ efforts – Australia’s governance systems have not adapted sufficiently (or at all) to address the root causes of the ecological problems we face, and therefore are unable to make the changes necessary to respond to the current ecological crises.

## AELA’S STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

AELA is committed to building long term systems change, so that human societies can shift from human-centred to Earth-centred governance. We focus on building systems change that will impact on our legal, economic, educational and democratic systems.

AELA carries out its work by supporting multi-disciplinary teams of professionals engaged in research, education, publications, community capacity building and creating new models of Earth centred governance. Our team includes our staff, volunteers and networks of partners and colleagues – including First Nations community leaders, lawyers, economists, scientists, deep ecologists, artists, ethicists and community development practitioners.

## OUTCOMES

Our strategies and programs aim to work across and connect core governance issues in Australia in order to: increase education and awareness about how current governance systems work; create and demonstrate how Earth-centred alternatives can work; and build communities of people inspired by and able to implement Earth-centred governance.

### What is governance?

AELA’s work focuses on how we can shift from governance systems that are human-centred and support endless growth on a finite planet, to governance systems that are Earth-centred, regenerative and nurture all life.

There are many different definitions of ‘governance’.

Within AELA, we use a simple definition: ‘the rules we make to live, work and play together in human society’.



# AUSTRALIAN EARTH LAWS ALLIANCE

*Cape Conran, Bidawal, Gunaikurnai and Nindj-  
Ngudjam Ngarigu Monero Country, Victoria.  
Photo by James Lee*





# AELA's Core Strategies

AELA has 5 core strategies to help us achieve our mission:

## 2. Building community

to (i) create ecocentric alternatives to current governance systems and, (ii) directly support civil society groups and organisations who wish to build Earth-centred governance.

## 1. Education and awareness about Earth-centred governance:

with a focus on community education, professional development, and teaching into tertiary institutions.

## 3. Influencing public policy in Australia:

to catalyse governments (especially Local Councils) to consider and adopt ecocentric policies.

## 4. Leading and contributing to international networks:

to support the wider global Earth laws movement and bring new ideas into Australia from colleagues and networks around the world.

## 5. Strengthen AELA's Resources & Governance

# AELA's Activities in 2021 - 2022

## 1. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

### 1.1 Provide education and information about ecocentric governance

AELA continues to be Australia's leading organization providing education and raising awareness about the Earth-centred systems change needed to build a successful and just society into the future. Every year, AELA hosts dozens of events – online and in person – to bring Earth-centred ideas and practices to a variety of audiences.

AELA hosted and co-hosted more than 150 public and private events and meetings during the financial year. This included: public lectures, panel discussions, conferences, community workshops and other public gatherings, to provide information and education about ecocentric governance.

This also included more than 40 private meetings hosted by our National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney, throughout the year, to provide expert advice about Earth laws to community groups, researchers, political representatives and others. Michelle also worked tirelessly to respond to all requests for interviews and mentoring support.

*Great Bowerbird (Chlamydera nuchalis) at Cable Beach, Broome / Yawuru Country, WA. Photo by James Lee, during AELA's visit to Broome and the Kimberley, July 2021.*



## Selection of public talks and interviews by our National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney

### **Public talks included:**

**The ongoing crisis of water injustice on the Barka River** - part of the launch event for the Australian National University (ANU) Water Justice Hub, *'Virtual Exhibition: AquaWhen'*, 15 September 2021

**Earth-centred Economics - Ways Forward** - Centre for the Advancement of Steady State Economics NSW (CASSENSW), 23 April 2022

**Weaving Up Renewal - Caring for Future Generations and the Earth** - panel discussion at the online National Congress of Women event, 28 April 2022

**The Future of Environmental Activism in Queensland** - Women's Environmental Leadership Australia (WELA), 7 May 2022

**Ladauto Si, Earth laws and new economic frameworks** - guest presentation for Catholic Religious Australia, Sydney, 24 May 2022

**Regenerative Australia - Earth-centred perspectives** - presentation for Logan City Council in conjunction with screening of *Regenerate Australia*, 15 June 2022

**Indigenous Food Systems - in conversation with Bruce Pascoe** - Northey Street 2022 Winter Solstice event, 18 June 2022

**Earth jurisprudence and the work of AELA** - Guest presentation to the Queensland Faith Communities Council, Brisbane, 22 June 2022

**Earth-centred governance and wellbeing indicators** - forum for Conservation Council ACT Region, 29 June 2022

**The ideas that lie beneath: Earth laws and Earth jurisprudence** - Risk and Resilience Summit, Australian Government, Sydney, 29 June 2022





Lamington National Park / Yugambeh Country, QLD.  
Photo by James Lee

## Exploring Earth Laws – AELA Seminar Series

In 2021-2022 AELA finalised a seminar series that started in early 2021, titled “Exploring Earth Laws”. Webinars and workshops were held online on Zoom, and brought together academics, legal practitioners, First Nations Peoples and environmental and animal rights activists, to explore innovative laws from around the world and existing legal approaches in Australia.

Many researchers and experts from the seminar series are now connected to AELA’s Australian Earth Laws Centre (AELC).

### The Seminars included:



### Climate Conscious Lawyering

with the Hon. Judge Brian Preston, Chief Justice of the NSW Land and Environment Court

- 1 July 2021



### Creating Ecocide Laws in Australia:

a roundtable with the Ecocide Laws Australia working group featuring Dr Michelle Maloney, Dr Gwynn MacCarrick, Professor Danielle Celermajer, Professor Anthony Burke and Professor Rob White.

- 24 November 2021



### An introduction to Indigenous First Laws

with Dr Anne Poelina.

- 8 June 2022





## Introduction to Rights of Nature and Earth Laws – AELA Online Workshops

From July 2021 to October 2021 AELA continued its Rights of Nature workshop series, and hosted three online workshops titled “Introduction to Rights of Nature and Earth Laws”, which involved more than 100 participants.

*Tasmanian short-beaked echidna (Tachyglossus aculeatus setosus) in Coningham Nature Recreation Area, lutruwita / Tasmania.  
Photo by James Lee*



## Teaching into Universities and Schools

During 2021-2022 AELA's National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney, taught Earth laws into three University Masters Classes at the Australian National University (ANU), University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Michelle also joined Future Dreaming, in teaching into two University of New South Wales (UNSW) Masters Courses. Michelle also built on the experiences of early 2021, when she designed Earth-centred governance exercises for a successful school project.





## 1.2 Hosting educational workshops with Indigenous Partners

AELA is committed to working in solidarity with Indigenous partners, to share cross-cultural information and education about:

- ◇ Caring for Country, and
- ◇ Indigenous perspectives of Earth-centred governance.

In 2021-2022, AELA's work included partnering with [Future Dreaming Australia](#) and [Regenerative Songlines Australia](#).

### AELA's work partnering with Future Dreaming Australia



#### Connecting to Place, Caring for Country – workshops co-hosted with Future Dreaming Australia

From August 2021 to May 2022, AELA co-hosted online workshops with our sister organisation, Future Dreaming. These workshops attracted more than 150 participants. Titled 'Connecting to Place, Caring for Country', these workshops featured Indigenous leaders Adjunct Associate Professor Mary Graham (University of Queensland and Kombu-merri and Waka Waka person), Ross Williams, Future Dreaming and Bindal/Juru man, and AELA's National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney.



#### Caring for Country – The work of Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers

AELA continued to work closely in partnership with our sister organisation, Future Dreaming Australia, to host online events and hold private meetings with people seeking advice about building cross cultural knowledge about Caring for Country and Earth-centred systems change.

One of these events included showcasing the fantastic work of Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers around Australia.

- 8 June 2022

## Regenerative Songlines Australia

In July 2021, AELA was pleased to support the hosting of the launch event for 'Regenerative Songlines Australia'. The video recordings from this important event can be found on the [Regenerative Songlines website](#).

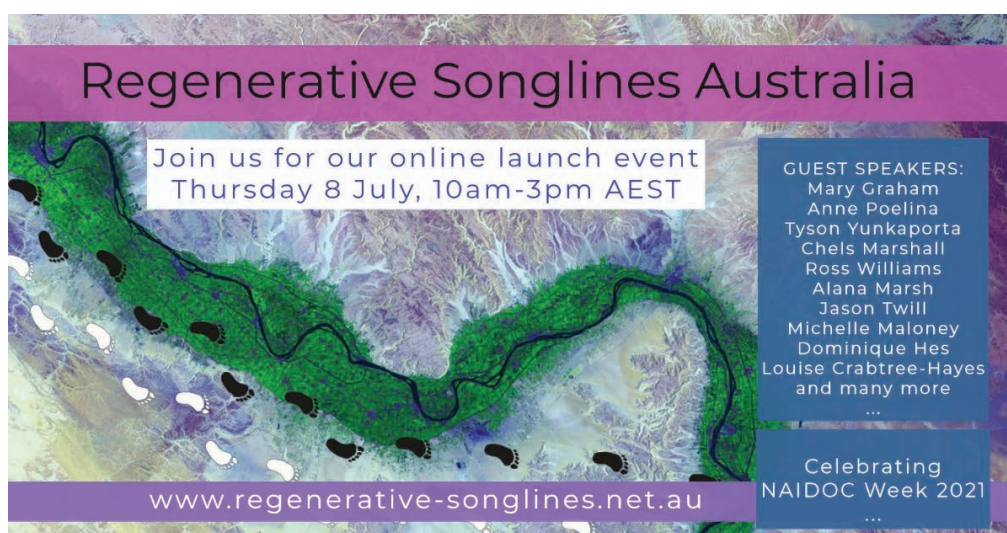
Regenerative Songlines Australia is an Indigenous led initiative, working to create continent wide connections, conversations and initiatives that enable people to Care for Country and build regenerative economies and societies. Regenerative Songlines Australia is:

- ◇ led by First Nations peoples and inclusive of all Australians;
- ◇ focused on amplifying local and bioregional initiatives, with a view to maintaining
- ◇ diverse approaches, while strengthening interconnections, mutual learning, and
- ◇ real project collaboration and outcomes;
- ◇ multidisciplinary and includes regenerative economies, societies, ecological
- ◇ stewardship and design practices; and
- ◇ connected to international "regenerative roadmap" partners.

The launch event included Indigenous leaders from around Australia, including **Dr Mary Graham, Dr Anne Poelina, Tyson Yunkaporta, Chels Marshall, Ross Williams, Alana Marsh** and many more. Our National Convenor, **Dr Michelle Maloney** was one of the guest speakers.

In October 2021, Regen Songlines hosted an online event called 'Celebrating our Songlines', which featured **Dr Anne Poelina, Dr Mary Graham, Tyson Yunkaporta** and **Jacinta Tobin**.

Events and activities will be planned each year, to share Indigenous knowledge and promote First Nations' Peoples' regenerative projects and work.





## 1.3 Earth-Centred Economies

### Why AELA Is Committed to Reshaping Our Economic System

Today's dominant economic system is built on the foundations of a global industrial and financial system with immense productive capacity, but the extractive nature of which has created extreme income disparity and social injustice and wrought devastation on the natural world. Earth jurisprudence calls for us to rethink and redesign our legal, economic and political systems, so that they nurture rather than destroy the Earth community. To this end, AELA is committed to supporting the creation of new economic systems and thriving local economies, characterised by small scale, socially just enterprises and community initiatives that nurture the Earth community.

### What AELA Is Doing to Support Economic Systems Change

Throughour "EarthEconomies" Program, AELA is working collaboratively with civil society organisations, economists and community advocates in Australia and overseas, to explore and implement innovative, Earth centred economic systems change.

AELA's National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney, co-founded the New Economy Network Australia (NENA) in 2016/2017. Since that time she has worked in a voluntary capacity as a Director and Manager to help build the network, which now has thousands of people, organisations and businesses connecting with each other. NENA is a network of individuals and organisations across civil society and Local Government working together on peer-to-peer learning and collaborative projects, in order to transform Australia's economic system so that it serves people and nurtures, rather than destroys, the Earth community.

### This year our work has included:

- ❖ Planning AELA and NENA's first "Economics for the Earth" in September 2022
- ❖ Continuing to support and co-host events with NENA, about ecological and Earth-centred economics
- ❖ Continuing to support and be a member of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance globally, at the international level, and stay connected to other international networks and initiatives such as the Doughnut Economics Action Lab
- ❖ Building a strong economic 'stream' within the Greenprints Program, to support communities on the ground, to explore and reshape local economies





Lamington National Park,  
Yugambeh Country, QLD.  
Photo by James Lee,



## 2. BUILDING COMMUNITY

### 2.1 Create ecocentric alternatives to current human-centred governance systems

#### 2.1.1 Greenprints – AELA's unique approach to creating Earth-centred governance and systems change

As part of AELA's commitment to creating Earth-centred alternatives to current governance systems, we have spent more than five years researching, developing and piloting a multi-disciplinary, Earth-centred and 'decolonising' systems change framework called "Greenprints".



### Achievements this year

In 2021-2022, AELA hosted a range of information sessions, private presentations and public lectures about Greenprints, which directly reached more than 1,500 people (and is expected to reach even more people via recordings now available on AELA's YouTube Channel).

As part of AELA's promotion of the multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary work of the Greenprints program, from early 2021 we created and hosted our first 'Greenprints Exchange Workshop Series', featuring experts from a range of disciplines, who shared knowledge and insights relevant to the Greenprints approach. The Greenprints team also continued working with several Local Councils, in private meetings and discussions, to explore how Greenprints might be used within Local Council Strategic Planning processes. A range of other meetings and advisory activities are already planned for 2022-2023.

By mid 2022, AELA began preparing for the practical 'roll out' of the Greenprints across a range of communities in Australia. The 'Greenprints Adventure' will begin in early 2023 and a number of community groups are planning to use the approach in their communities. And we were pleased to be invited to have the Greenprints approach used as the 'scaffolding' for the important work of the Lithgow Transformation Hub over the coming 2 years.

## Working with Greenprints partners

### Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council

In July 2021, AELA's Greenprints Team, Dr Michelle Maloney and James Lee, were invited to Broome (in the Kimberley region) to participate in the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council's Water Justice Advisory Circle. AELA is working in partnership with community leaders from the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council (MFRC), and is using the Greenprints program to provide research that supports the Council's goals. The MFRC represents First Peoples of what is now called the Kimberley region.



*Dr Michelle Maloney and James Lee (back left) with members of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council in Broome (Yawuru Country). July 2021.*

### Lithgow Transformation Hub

At the end of the financial year, AELA was pleased to be engaged by the Lithgow Transformation Hub, to bring the Greenprints program to the Hub's "Regenerating Lithgow" project, which will run in 2022 and 2023. Regenerating Lithgow is an important capacity building project, that will assist the recovery from the impacts of the bushfires through education, skills building, mentoring and creative activities that will improve interconnected resilience across key areas of the natural, built, economic, and social environment. The Regenerating Lithgow coordinating team is using the Greenprints approach as the 'scaffolding' to connect its various projects, and to bring the entire project into the biophysical capacity of its bioregion.



## Greenprints Webinars included:

### **Greenprints & Doughnut Economics – can Brisbane live within the doughnut?**

- 21 October 2021

### **Showcasing Brisbane through bioregional knowledge**, co-hosted with Regen Brisbane

- 4 November 2021

### **How 'Greenprints' can help us create Earth-centred governance**

- 18 November 2021

### **Planetary Boundaries: 2022 Update with Professor Will Steffen**

- 29 March 2022

### **Decolonising Our Thinking and Actions with Dr Mary Graham, Professor Yin Paradies and Dr Michelle Maloney**

- 13 May 2022

### **Doughnut Economics: Global Action Lab Update with Rob Shorter, from the UK's Doughnut Economy Action Lab**

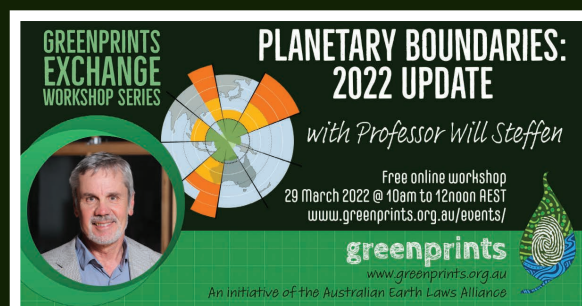
- 16 May 2022

### **Indigenous Philosophy and the Relationist Ethos with Dr Mary Graham**

- 9 June 2022

### **How to Use the Greenprints Approach with Dr Michelle Maloney**

- 23 June 2022





## Background to the Greenprints Program

'Greenprints' was created by AELA's National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney, in early 2016, to help civil society groups and interested government authorities understand, and take very practical steps towards creating, Earth-centred governance. The Greenprints approach has been progressed and piloted by AELA's team between 2016 and 2021, and it fills an important gap, because while we have 'blueprints' to document the design of building and engineering projects, we don't yet have effective 'greenprints' for helping us construct Earth-centred human societies and economies that can nurture the Earth community and live within our ecological limits.

Greenprints provides a practical, step-by-step approach to help people understand both the big picture and the small details, of how to create systems change, transform our societies, and thrive within our ecological limits. It is place-based, encouraging people to start with their bioregions or catchments, and it demystifies and connects the many existing concepts, models and methods that can be used to create sustainable and regenerative communities and organisations.

For more information about Greenprints, please visit: [www.greenprints.org.au](http://www.greenprints.org.au)



*The Greenprints website banner.  
Design by Michelle Maloney, Artwork by Kat Atkinson*



## Regen Brisbane / Meeanjin

Another exciting element of AELA's work 'building community' is Regen Brisbane.

During the 2021-2022 financial year, AELA auspiced the creation of "Regen Brisbane". As AELA is based in Brisbane, this 'Regen Brisbane' initiative is a way for AELA staff and volunteers to connect with our local place and join the growing movement of people working to generate conversations and initiatives that build a regenerative (rather than extractive) culture, society and economy.

Regen Brisbane was launched at a 2-day event in July 2021, which brought more than 100 people together in a hybrid event. The event demonstrated how the Greenprints approach can be used as a structure to bring different people and ideas together across a region, to explore truly regenerative futures.

*Right (top): Regen Brisbane Meeanjin, launch event banner*

*Right: Beyond 2032 workshop series event banner*

*Below: Participants at the QSEC/Greenprints Beyond 2032 forum*

In 2022, Regen Brisbane worked with the Queensland Social Enterprise Council (QSEC) to host a series of 4 workshops, exploring Brisbane's culture, society, ecology and economy. More than 100 people participated via online and in person events. The ideas developed at these workshops will form a foundation for Regen Brisbane's further community engagement work in 2023, and in particular, will be a stimulus for the facilitation of a "Peoples' Plan" for the 2032 Olympics.





## 2.1.2 Australian Peoples' Tribunal for Community and Nature's Rights

As part of AELA's commitment to supporting ecological justice and demonstrating alternative governance models, AELA created the Australian Peoples' Tribunal (APT) for Community and Nature's Rights in 2016.

In March 2022, AELA's Australian Earth Laws Centre (AELC) began preparing for the 2023/2024 "Citizens' Inquiry into Australia's Planning Laws". Staff and student interns from the AELC began researching and writing background briefing documents about planning laws in each State and Territory, which will inform the Citizen's Inquiry *Terms of Reference* and Public Hearing process in 2023.

The APT holds Public Inquiries and hears Ecological Justice Cases, brought on behalf of flora, fauna, ecosystems, bioregions and local communities around Australia. As a 'citizens' tribunal' the APT is not a government endorsed activity nor do any of its activities, decisions or recommendations have the force of government-sanctioned law. The APT aims to respond to situations where the current Australian legal system is perceived as failing to support community and nature's rights. The APT provides an educative and culturally transformative forum in which to present a positive, alternative process to address environmental justice and Caring for Country.

The APT Panel is made up of First Nations Peoples, lawyers, community representatives and eminent scientists, hears Inquiries and Cases, and makes recommendations for restorative justice, innovative law reform and socio-political reforms that will Care for Country and protect the Rights of Nature.

For more information about the APT please visit: [www.tribunal.org.au](http://www.tribunal.org.au)



*The Citizens' Inquiry into Australia's Planning Laws 2023/2024 will receive testimonies from people about all planning issues, including relating to urban, rural and other communities. Photo: Suburban development in Canberra ACT*



## 2.2 Support community groups and organisations to take action

### Australian Earth Laws Centre (AELC)

The Australian Earth Laws Centre (AELC) is the umbrella program for AELA's work exploring and promoting Earth-centred law and regulation – including Earth jurisprudence, Rights of Nature, Ecocide and First Nations Peoples' First Laws. The AELC provides educational opportunities and capacity building support to communities, researchers and others, to help them understand current law and governance, and take action to make systems change.

AELA's National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney, participates in conferences, workshops, public talks, reference groups and advisory groups, in order to advocate for Earth centred law and governance. The grant funding AELA received at the beginning of the 2021-2022 financial year also enabled us to employ a part-time lawyer and program manager, Ms Christina Meyers, to support and develop the work of the AELC.

#### **In 2021-2022, the AELC's work included:**

- ◇ Continuing to work with Regen Songlines Australia ([regenerative-songlines.net.au](http://regenerative-songlines.net.au)) and Future Dreaming ([futuresdreaming.org.au](http://futuresdreaming.org.au)), to co-host Indigenous-led knowledge events and projects, aimed at educating Australians about Indigenous First Laws.
- ◇ Supporting the Blue Mountains City Council in the lead up to its announcement in April 2021, that it would adopt Rights of Nature as an operational principle for its work;
- ◇ Hosting three online 'Introduction to Rights of Nature' Workshops throughout the financial year, which involved over 100 participants;
- ◇ Creating the Ecocide Laws Australia (ELA) Working Group – made up of legal experts, law scholars and law students, who are promoting discussion and debate about ecocide laws and developing model laws for Australia. This working group hosted webinars, panel discussions and workshops during the financial year and is planning to draft model laws and host a range of events in 2022/2023.



In May/June 2022, the AELC team also began creating an extensive 'Ecocentric Toolkit' and 'Ecocentric Network' that will be launched in early 2023.

*Below: AELA's Ecocentric Toolkit graphics in development.  
Design: Michelle Maloney, Artwork: James Lee*



## 3. INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY IN AUSTRALIA

### 3.1 3.1 Catalyse government and public policy influencers to adopt ecocentric governance

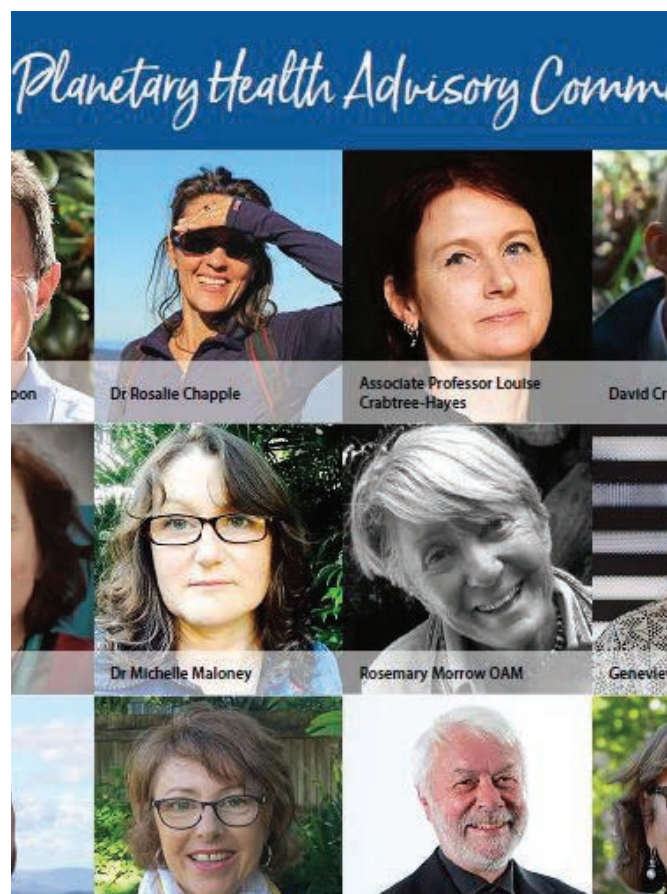
When AELA was first created in 2012, our primary focus was on working with (and within) civil society, to focus on community based education and systems change projects. Over the past three years, AELA has been approached by a growing number of Local Council representatives, members of different political parties and individuals working within government structures, seeking advice about Earth-centred systems change. Consequently, in reviewing our core pillars of work in early 2021, it was decided to create a specific program focus on supporting and educating government and policy makers about Earth-centred systems change. This program is in its early days, but we're excited about the interest that different organisations are showing in Earth laws and Earth-centred systems change.

In the 2021-2022 financial year, Dr Michelle Maloney gave presentations and workshops about Rights of Nature, Earth laws and Greenprints to a range of groups – and AELA continued to give workshops to several Local Councils and several political parties who invited AELA to provide information to inform their policies and approaches.

AELA is planning a series of events and activities for 2022/2023 that are aimed specifically at providing information about Rights of Nature and Earth Laws to Local Councils.

## AELA part of the Blue Mountains City Council Planetary Health Committee

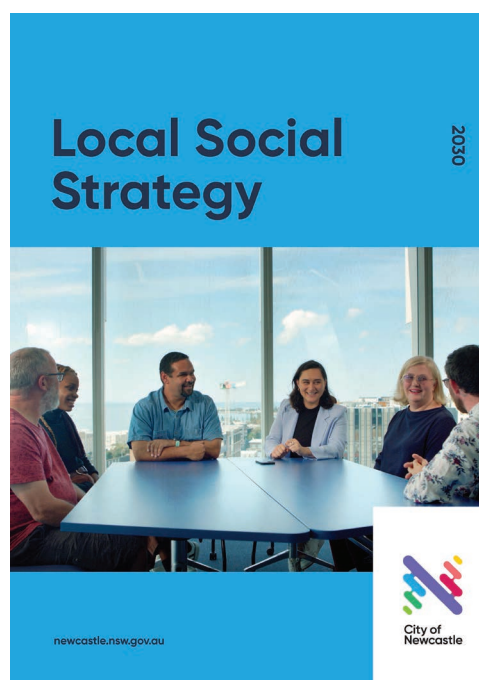
In April 2021, the Blue Mountains City Council adopted the Rights of Nature as an operational principle for its work. Leading up to this decision, during 2020 and 2021, AELA's Dr Michelle Maloney provided support to community members in the Blue Mountains, and later provided workshops to staff in the Blue Mountains City Council about the Rights of Nature. This work led to AELA being invited to join the Blue Mountains City Council Planetary Health Committee and join a number of advisory discussions throughout 2021-2022.



Blue Mountains Planetary Health Advisory Committee members. Image: Blue Mountains City Council website: <https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au>

## AELA's Greenprints approach now part of Newcastle City Council strategies

After a range of discussions with innovative thinkers within the Newcastle City Council, AELA's Earth-centred program and framework, "Greenprints" has been adopted and referenced in the Newcastle City Council's "Local Social Strategy". Greenprints was referenced as a "strategy [that] will help our community to thrive while using our resources wisely and not exceeding the capacity of our ecological systems."



Newcastle City Council's draft "Local Social Strategy" document references the Greenprints approach. See pages 15 - 16.

## 4. LEADING AND CONTRIBUTING TO INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

### 4.1 Contribute to international networks, influence international Earth-centred progress and bring new ideas to Australia

AELA collaborates with a wide range of civil society, research/academic, not-for-profit, First Nations and community/grass roots organisations, to advocate for Earth centred governance across all levels of Australian society. AELA also works hard to offer leadership, and stay connected with, a wide range of international networks advocating for Earth-centred law and governance. Our goal is to contribute to the global discourse and action around ecological justice and Earth-centred governance, and to bring the best new ideas from around the world, into the Australian context.

AELA's Christina Meyers coordinates **Stop Ecocide Australia**, and supports the amazing volunteers who are working to bring the **Stop Ecocide International** campaign to communities, politicians and practitioners in Australia.

AELA is represented by Dr Michelle Maloney on a number of important local and international organisations and networks. Some of Michelle's affiliations that connect AELA to important initiatives around the world include:

- ◇ International Consultant, [UN Women \(Climate Justice and Rights of Nature\)](#)
- ◇ Steering Group, International [Ecological Law and Governance Association \(ELGA\)](#)
- ◇ Associate, [Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights](#)
- ◇ Members Working Group, [Wellbeing Economy Alliance \(WEAll\)](#)
- ◇ Member, [IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law](#)
- ◇ Member, [UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network](#)
- ◇ Advisory Council, [Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature \(GARN\)](#)



## 5. CONTINUING STRONG AEELA GOVERNANCE

### 5.1 Ensure strong and effective governance and resourcing for our organisation

2021-2022 saw AEELA continue to attract a range of highly skilled professional volunteers, and grow our 'Greenprints Exchange' Experts Network, to build a rich, diverse and highly capable team. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has shared their time, knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise into the AEELA network.

#### **Building a financial base for AEELA**

AEELA secured grant funding in June 2021 which provided (for the very first time) a part-time income for our National Convenor, as well as two additional part time positions: an Executive Assistant and Program Lead for Greenprints.

In June 2022 AEELA was again able to secure grant funding for the work of our National Convenor, and four part time positions, which provided a wonderful opportunity to grow our capacity and our productive output.

#### **Our Background – and why our first grant funding in 2021 is so exciting!**

AEELA was created in 2012 by a group of concerned environmental lawyers, with a view to building a professional network for people interested in Earth jurisprudence.

Since that time, under the leadership of Dr Michelle Maloney, AEELA has grown into a unique, multi-disciplinary organization focused on growing Earth-centred systems change.

From 2012 to 2021, AEELA's Co-Founder and National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney worked in a voluntary capacity to build AEELA from the ground up. At first this was part-time, but after Michelle survived a gruelling year of cancer treatment in 2015/2016, Michelle devoted her time to building AEELA while earning an income from separate but connected work.

To have received funding to continue her work leading and building AEELA has been, in Michelle's words "something like a dream come true". We are very grateful and are looking forward to now building upon this initial grant, to grow AEELA's financial resources.



## **Our Team 2021-2022**

### **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (VOLUNTARY)**

Ross Williams	Chairperson
Dr Michelle Maloney	Company Secretary
Dr Edward Morgan	Director
Leanne Leserve	Treasurer
James Lee	Director

### **PAID STAFF, PART-TIME (FROM 1 JULY 2022)**

Michelle Maloney	National Convenor
James Lee	Operations Manager and Greenprints program
Christina Meyers	Project Officer, Earth Laws Team
Kira Athanasiov	Project Officer, Greenprints and Regen Brisbane
Sarah Bashforth	Executive Assistant

## VOLUNTEERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO AELA'S WORK DURING 2021-2022

(part-time positions, often 1 day per week for several months)

Margot Slabbert	Earth Laws Team
Lillie Priede	Earth Laws Team
Lauris de Clifford	Earth Laws Team
Kashmir Miller	Earth Laws Team
Matt Georgevits	Earth Laws Team
Julie Boxtel	Earth Laws Team
Austin Jenish	Earth Laws Team
Maurice Mabiriizi	Earth Laws Team
Matt Gore	Greenprints
Karen Whitehead	Greenprints
Miya Isherwood	Greenprints
Claire Reymond	Greenprints
Mark Taylor	Communications
Anna Mullins	Earth Laws Team and Social Media

## STUDENT INTERNS (PART-TIME)

### LAW AND JUSTICE

Elise Dorsa, Queensland University of Technology

### SOCIAL SCIENCE

Zane Branco, Griffith University

# The coming year: 2022–2023

With grant funding supporting our National Convenor and three other part-time positions for 2022–2023, AEELA is getting ready for a highly productive year. Some of our plans include:

## **12 July to 30 August 2022 – “Earth Centred Futures” Course (8 weeks)**

In 2022, AEELA will be hosting its first, 8-week, multi-disciplinary professional development course, titled: ‘Earth Centred Futures’. With international and Australian guest speakers, covering critically important ecocentric theory and practice, this course is not to be missed.

## **Ongoing learning and professional development workshops and webinars**

### **Greenprints Exchange – Monthly Workshop Series**

AEELA will continue to host a range of amazing workshops, with guest speakers from our Greenprints Exchange - from around Australia and around the world – to provide learning and sharing opportunities for the Greenprints community and other interested people.

### **Australian Earth Laws Centre – Monthly Workshop Series**

AEELA will continue to host our webinar series featuring Earth laws updates from practitioners and experts around

the world, with a focus on Indigenous First Laws, Rights of Nature, Ecocide and decolonising the law. This webinar series provides learning and sharing opportunities for our legal community and other interested people.

## **September 2022 – “Earth Laws Month”**

AEELA is hosting its inaugural ‘Earth Laws Month’ in September 2022, which it plans to create as an annual event. September will feature webinars, workshops, training, public lectures, online art exhibitions and much more. Events and speakers will cover the full range of multi-disciplinary fields that are part of Earth-centred governance, including: Indigenous law and knowledge systems, western law and regulation, economics, ethics, politics, business and more.

## **July to December 2022 – outreach and development of ‘Greenprints Adventure’ materials**

In the coming year, we’ll be continuing our Greenprints outreach, and developing our support materials, for helping communities engage in the Greenprints Adventure in 2023.



## The coming year: 2022-2023 (continued)

### 7-28 February 2023 – “Introduction to Earth Laws Course” (4 weeks)

AELA will be hosting a 4 week, ‘Earth Laws’ professional development course – for lawyers, law students and interested people.

### From February 2023 – Greenprints Adventure

The “Greenprints Adventure” is being designed by AELA to enable interested community groups and organisations to work their way through the [Greenprints Steps](#). The ‘adventure’ involves a 12-24 month initial program of events and activities, including a nationally coordinated online webinar and community-meet up series, together with in-kind support to host activities, events and research projects in your local community. For more details, visit [www.greenprints.org.au](http://www.greenprints.org.au)

2023  
GREENPRINTS  
ADVENTURE

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

Tuesday 22 November @ 12pm-1pm AEST

Tuesday 8 December @ 12pm-1pm AEST

<https://events.humanitix.com/tours/gpa-2023>

*Join us to learn about the 2023 Greenprints program and find out how your community might get involved!*

**greenprints**

[www.greenprints.org.au](http://www.greenprints.org.au)

An initiative of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance



Above: The Greenprints Adventure info session banner

# How you can connect with AELA's work

## Become a member

Visit the membership page on our website:

<https://www.earthlaws.org.au/membership/>

## Volunteer your time

Consider volunteering your skills and time to AELA projects. You can volunteer at any time. Just visit our Professional and Student Volunteer webpage on our website for the information: <https://www.earthlaws.org.au/volunteer-with-aela/>

## Make a donation

AELA relies on donations and income from events, to run our programs. You can make a one-off donation or become a monthly donor, here:

<https://www.earthlaws.org.au/donate>

## Leave a bequest

If you would like to add AELA as a beneficiary to your will, please contact us anytime and we can assist with suitable wording for your documents.

## CONTACT US

- ➡ Email: [aela@earthlaws.org.au](mailto:aela@earthlaws.org.au)
- ➡ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianEarthLaws/>
- ➡ Visit our website: [www.earthlaws.org.au](http://www.earthlaws.org.au)







*Alpine wetlands near Hartz Peak,  
Hartz Mountains National Park, Tasmania.  
Photo by James Lee*



# Treasurer's Report

**Leeanne Leserve**  
**AELA Treasurer**

AELA's FY2022 financial performance, again reflected a strong operational position against the economic uncertainty of the pandemic. With the generous support of our donors, we were able to build and maintain capacity to progress the broad range of work by AELA and develop the Greenprints Initiative. Our focus then was to deliver on our objectives to promote the understanding and practical implementation of Earth-centred law and governance in Australia. For a list of our activities during the year, see page 3 of the Directors' Report.

For the full year, AELA's income was \$192,540 due to \$158,816 donated to support AELA Projects including Greenprints. Expenses increased primarily by payment of consulting and contractor fees, and rent towards establishing a shared workspace called AELA House for the continued research, development and delivery of AELA work including other partnership initiatives. Overall, profit for the year at \$17,170 is comparable to the previous year.

AELA's net assets of \$51,881 included current assets of \$151,881 and unearned income recorded as a current liability. Our cash flow remained robust ending the year with \$159,711 after payment of operating activities.



# AELA's Financial Reports 2021-2022

## AUSTRALIAN EARTH LAWS ALLIANCE LIMITED

ABN 54 156 139 221

FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 JUNE 2022

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## Directors' Report

The Directors of Australian Earth Laws Alliance Limited (AELA) present their Report together with the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022, and the Independent Audit Report.

### Director details

The following persons were Directors of AELA during or since the end of the financial year:

<b>Dr Michelle Maloney Director and National Convenor</b>	<b>Ross Williams - Director</b>
<p>Michelle Maloney is Co-Founder and was appointed National Convenor and Director in March 2012.</p> <p>Michelle is on the Board of Management of Future Dreaming Australia (a not-for-profit company); and on the Management Committee of the New Economy Network Australia Cooperative (NENA), and was previously Chairperson of the Environmental Defenders Office (QLD) (2013-2017)</p> <p>She has over 30 years' experience designing and managing climate change, sustainability and environmental justice projects in Australia, the United Kingdom, Indonesia and the USA. This includes ten years working with indigenous communities in Central Queensland.</p> <p>Michelle holds a Bachelor of Arts/Law (Honours) from the Australian National University and a PhD in Law from Griffith University.</p>	<p>Ross Williams joined the AELA Board in November 2017.</p> <p>Ross is of the Bindal and Juru peoples, now known as Townsville to Bowen, Erub and Mer in the Torres Straits. He has worked with many groups and organisations in natural and cultural resource management for over 35 years. He is passionate about supporting and assisting in the Caring for Country Principles, with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders throughout Queensland, Australia and internationally. Ross is on the Board of Management of Future Dreaming Australia and is involved in a range of mentoring and community support projects in South East Queensland.</p> <p>Ross is dedicated and passionate about assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to be the best they can be through building self-confidence, social and cultural resilience.</p>
<b>Leeanne Leserve - Director</b>	<b>James Lee - Director</b>
<p>Leeanne Leserve was appointed to the Board on 1 June 2018.</p> <p>She has more than 17 years' experience in policy analysis, regulations and compliance, sustainability and financial reporting in the energy industry.</p> <p>Leeanne holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Newcastle, Master of Environmental Law from the University of Sydney and is CPA qualified.</p>	<p>James Lee was appointed to the Board on 23 November 2019.</p> <p>He has a strong interest in interdisciplinary approaches to addressing ecological challenges and exploring the role that cultural practices can play in informing and supporting Earth-centred governance.</p> <p>James has a background in art, music (BMus) and film studies (GradDip Film &amp; TV) and holds a Master of Environmental Management from the University of New South Wales.</p>



Dr Edward Morgan - Director	
<p>Edward Morgan was appointed to the Board on 23 November 2019.</p> <p>He is a Research Fellow at Griffith University and supports a range of AELA's projects that require expertise bridging the natural and social sciences. Edward's research interests include the interaction between science and society for sustainability; governance and planning for water sensitive cities; and environmental justice.</p> <p>Edward holds a PhD (Natural Resource Management) (GU), MSc (Environmental Science) and MSci (Chemistry).</p>	

### Principal Activities

During the year, the principal activities included:

- Hosting and participating in a broad range of conferences, workshops, public lectures, podcasts and webinars, to educate the legal profession and wider community about Earth centred law and governance.
- Developing the Greenprints Initiative, including drafting the Greenprints Handbook, developing MOUs to work on Greenprints in the Kimberley Region, and with Regen Sydney, Regen Brisbane, Regen Perth and Regen Tablelands.
- Continuing to support the development of the New Economy Network Australia; the Ecological Law and Governance Association, the International Wellbeing Economy Alliance and the Australian Hub of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.
- Progressing the work of the Australian Earth Laws Centre, including working with the Blue Mountains City Council on Rights of Nature and creating an Australian working group exploring what ecocide laws could look like in Australia.
- Continuing to auspice the work and events for sister organisation 'Future Dreaming Australia', a partnership initiative managed by First Nations people and non-indigenous people, to share ecological knowledge and Care for Country.
- Auspicing and supporting 'Regenerative Songlines Australia', an important Indigenous initiative supported by AELA and other non-indigenous allies.

## Objectives

AELA's short-term objective is to promote the understanding and practical implementation of Earth Jurisprudence (Earth centred law and governance) in Australia.

The long-term objective is to see reform of Australian governance systems – including law, economics, education and ethical frameworks - which reflect an earth centred worldview.

## Strategy for achieving objectives

AELA works as a 'think and do' organisation. We aim to achieve our objectives by conducting outreach, education and information activities (workshops, public lectures, conferences, educational courses); conducting and sharing research (including the publication of books, edited collections, journal publications and electronic articles); and partnering with a wide range of other organisations and initiatives, to build networks of people and organisations promoting and implementing Earth centred governance.

## Directors' meetings

The number of meetings held during the year and attended by each director:

	Board Meetings	
	Eligible to Attend	Attended
Dr Michelle Maloney	5	5
Ross Williams	5	4
Leeanne Leserve	5	5
James Lee	5	5
Dr Edward Morgan	5	5

## Contribution in winding up

AELA is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a Company Limited by Guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 30 June 2022, the total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company wound up is \$1,810 (2021: \$1,650).

## Auditor

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under s 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is on page 5 of this Financial Report and forms part of the Directors' Report. Foster Raffan Chartered Accountants were appointed auditors on a pro bono basis during the year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:



**Dr Michelle Maloney**

Director and National Convenor

19 August 2022

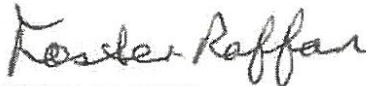
Principal:  
Douglas Wood, FCA, RCA  
Associate:  
George Vourantionis, RCA  
Consultants:  
George Raffan, RCA  
Simon Joyce, RCA

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North Sydney NSW 2060  
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## **AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUSTRALIAN EARTH LAWS ALLIANCE LIMITED**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the audit of Australian Earth Laws Alliance Limited for the year ended 30 June 2022 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporation Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



**FOSTER RAFFAN**

**Chartered Accountants**



**G D Wood, FCA**  
Principal

RCA # 4479

North Sydney  
19 August 2022



# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Conferences and workshops		13,297	22,201
Donations and appeals		9,937	23,777
Donation gift trust		158,816	32,309
Interest		100	15
Memberships		7,318	4,700
Other		3,073	471
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>192,540</b>	<b>83,473</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Advertising		-	292
ASIC		1,456	-
Bank		30	-
Catering		714	2,084
Computer		253	99
Communications – zoom and internet		1,531	2,291
Conferences and workshops		6,561	6,214
Consulting		93,504	24,958
Contractor		46,813	6,480
Donations and appeals		220	1,868
Furniture – AELA House		-	336
Future Dreaming		-	1,500
Membership information management		-	110
Motor vehicle		1,710	2,438
NENA		-	120
Other		1,289	758
Postage, printing and stationery		424	721
Publication and information management		2,830	2,969
Professional development		220	212
Rent		9,500	4,180
Telephone		2,157	2,251
Travel		3,304	3,006
Website design and management		2,853	2,886
Volunteer		-	325
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>175,370</b>	<b>66,096</b>
<b>Surplus before income tax expense</b>		<b>17,170</b>	<b>17,377</b>
<b>Income tax expense</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>17,170</b>	<b>17,377</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the period, net of income tax</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive Income for the year</b>		<b>17,170</b>	<b>17,377</b>

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash – Community Access		16,023	9,728
Cash – Card Account		745	604
Cash – AEEL Fund		134,207	149,278
Other – PayPal		906	101
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>151,881</b>	<b>159,711</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Unearned Income – Funding Grant		100,000	125,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>100,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>51,881</b>	<b>34,711</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2021		17,334	17,334
Income for the Year		17,170	17,377
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>51,881</b>	<b>34,711</b>

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2020		17,334
Income for the year		17,377
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of income tax		-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>		<b>34,711</b>
Balance at 1 July 2021		34,711
Income for the year		17,170
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of income tax		-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>		<b>51,881</b>

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Operating services</b>			
Receipts from:			
• conferences and workshops		13,297	22,201
• donations and appeals		9,937	23,777
• donations		133,816	157,309
• memberships		7,318	4,700
• interest income		100	15
• other income		3,073	471
Payment to suppliers		(175,370)	(66,096)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>(7,830)</b>	<b>142,377</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	-
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(7,830)	142,377
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		159,711	17,334
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>		<b>151,881</b>	<b>159,711</b>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. General information and statement of compliance

The general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001, Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. A statement of compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) cannot be made due to the company applying not-for-profit specific requirements contained in the Australian Accounting Standards.

The Australian Earth Laws Alliance is a Public Company limited by guarantee incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The address of its registered office and principle place of business is 7 Hazlitt Street, Banyo, 4014.

The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 19 August 2022.

### 2. New, revised or amending accounting policies

AASB 1058 *Income for Not-for-Profit Entities* and AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. AASB 1058 clarifies and simplifies income recognition, in conjunction with AASB 15. These standards shift the focus from a reciprocal/non-reciprocal basis to a basis of assessment that considers the enforceability of a contract and the specificity of performance obligations.

AASB 1058 applies when a NFP entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives; the excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amount' is recognised as income immediately.

Under AASB 15, an entity recognises revenue when (or as) a performance obligation is satisfied. This occurs when 'control' of the goods or services underlying the particular performance obligation is transferred to the customer.

These new standards are not applicable for the reporting entity but are relevant for an annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 July 2019.

Accounting standards issued but not yet effective have not been adopted.

### 3. Summary of accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared using the measurement bases specified by Australian Accounting Standards for each type of asset, liability, income and expense. These measurement bases are more fully described below:

### **3.1 Revenue**

Revenue includes conferences and workshops, fundraising activities, and member contributions. It is recognised when the amount can be measured reliably, collection is probable, the costs incurred or to be incurred can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured by reference to the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

### **3.2 Donations and fundraising**

Donations and fundraising are collected and recognised when the reporting entity gains control, economic benefits are probable and the amount of the donation can be measured reliably. This is limited to amounts banked and recorded in the bank accounts.

### **3.3 Operating expenses**

Operating expenses are recognised in the accounting records at the date of their origin.

### **3.4 Income tax**

There is no provision for income tax as the company is exempt under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

### **3.5 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and demand deposits, together with other short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

### **3.6 Economic dependence**

AELA is dependent upon the ongoing receipt of community and member donations, and ongoing income from events and webinars to ensure ongoing continuance of its programs. At the date of this report, the Directors' have no reason to believe that this financial support will not continue.

### **3.7 Significant management judgement in applying accounting policies**

When preparing the financial statements, management undertakes a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions about the recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

### **3.8 Events after the reporting period**

No adjusting or significant non-adjusting events have occurred between the reporting date and the date of authorisation.

# Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance Limited:

- a. The financial statements and notes of the company are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - i. Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*; and
- b. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:



**Dr Michelle Maloney**  
Director and National Convenor  
19 August 2022



Principal:  
Douglas Wood FCA, FCA  
Associate:  
George Vourantonis FCA  
Consultants:  
George Raffan FCA  
Simon Joyce FCA

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[www.fosteraffan.com.au](http://www.fosteraffan.com.au)

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN EARTH LAWS ALLIANCE LIMITED**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Australian Earth Laws Alliance Limited as set out on pages 6 to 11 which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022 and the statement of comprehensive income for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

### **Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Act 2001*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Our declaration to the directors is set out on page 5.

## Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Australian Earth Laws Alliance Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.



**FOSTER RAFFAN**  
Chartered Accountants



**GD Wood, FCA**  
Principal

RCA # 4479

Level 6, 8 West Street,  
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19 August 2022





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