

# australian earth laws alliance annual report 2022 - 2023





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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Cover image: female or juvenile male Satin Bowerbird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*).  
Maiala, Mount Glorious, D'Aguilar National Park, Jinibara Country, Queensland.  
Photo by James Lee

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Wompoo fruit dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*),  
Maiala, Mount Glorious, 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 all their hard work. 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.



# A NOTE FROM OUR NATIONAL CONVENOR

**Dr Michelle Maloney,  
AELA National Convenor**

On behalf of the AELA staff and volunteers, I'm pleased to share our annual impact report with our networks and friends. As we experience the impacts of escalating climate change, there has never been a greater need for new governance systems and Earth-centred action. This is evidenced by the growing demand for our work and support. We have been working with Indigenous leaders, environmental and social justice community groups, Local Councils, policy makers, researchers, international networks and passionate individuals, to connect, learn, and support the growing movement for Earth-centred systems change.

Through our four key programs – **education and culture change, community capacity building, systems change** and **building critical networks** – we continue to provide innovative thought leadership and practical guidance and support for change makers.

The 2022-2023 financial year has been hugely productive, with more webinars, educational courses, advice and mentoring than ever before. Enjoy reading the overview of our work – and as always, reach out and connect with us anytime!





# Highlights from AELA's work from July 2022 to June 2023

2

**AELA Education** courses: the 4-week Introduction to Earth Laws course and the 8-week Earth-Centred Futures course.

26

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

59

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

63

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

93

**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

945

**hours** of AELA YouTube content viewed by AELA followers

6,903

**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)

8,690

**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, extractivist world view 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.

## 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’.





# AELA's Key Programs

AELA has 4 key programs to help us achieve our mission:

1

## Education and culture change

We create Earth-centred cultural change by providing education opportunities - including courses, workshops, webinars, cross-cultural learning and creative programs.

2

## Community Capacity Building

We provide community capacity building support to people, communities and organisations advocating for Indigenous First Laws, Rights of Nature and Earth-centred governance in their local area.

3

## Systems Change Projects

We build systems change by empowering people, groups, and organisations to understand and implement systems change in practice – including through our Greenprints framework.

4

## Critical Networks

AELA prioritises building partnerships and supporting social change networks, in order to work with other amazing people and groups, and strengthen the impact of everyone's work.

5

## Strengthen AELA's Resources & Governance

# AELA's Activities in 2022 - 2023

## 1. EDUCATION AND CULTURE CHANGE

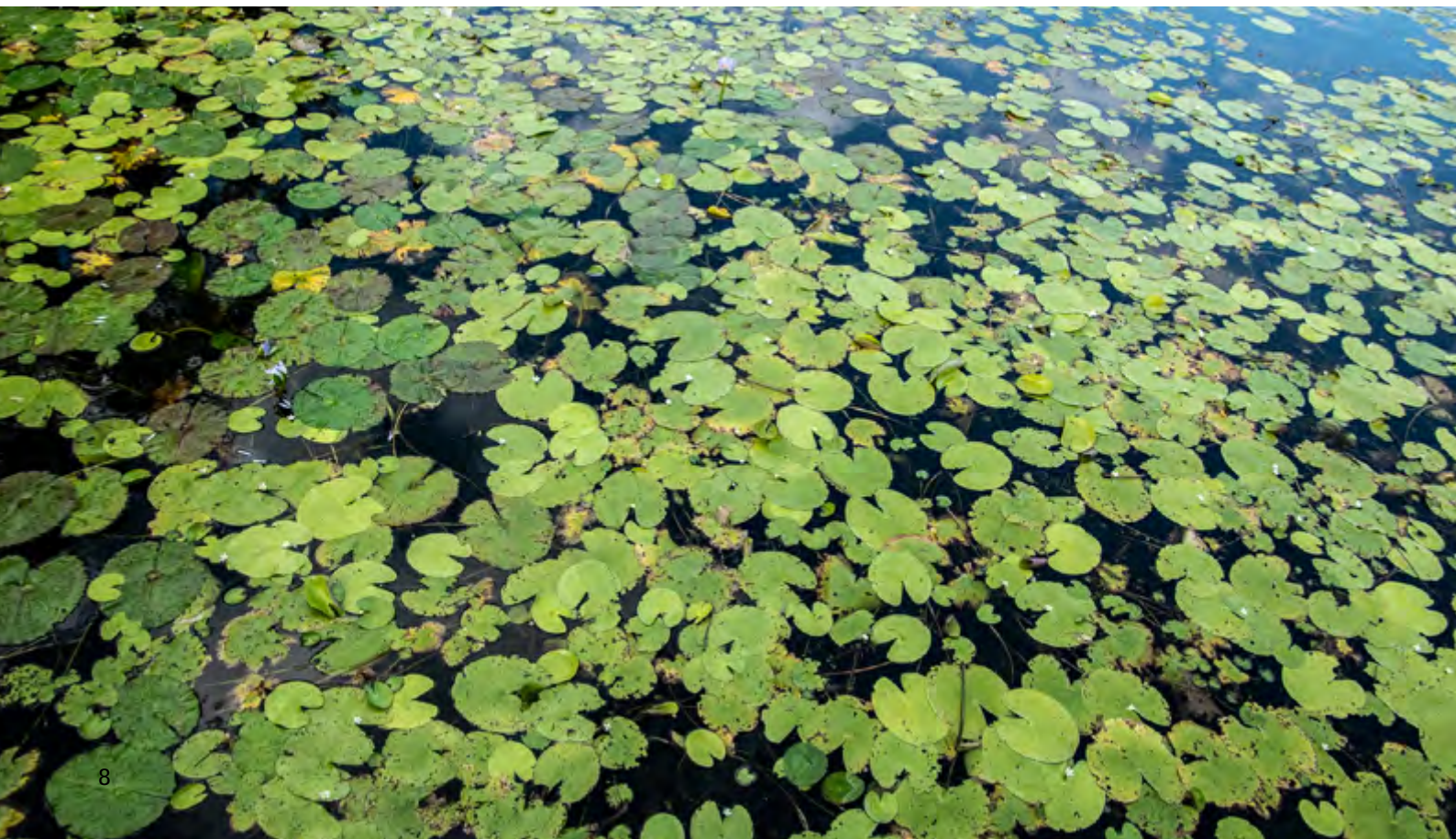
### 1.1 Providing education and information about ecocentric governance

AELA continues to be Australia's leading organization providing education and raising awareness about the holistic, 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 140 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 AELA hosting nearly 60 private meetings throughout the year, to provide expert advice about Earth laws to community groups, researchers, political representatives and others.

*Waterlilies at Nudgee Waterhole Reserve, Turrbal and Jagera Country, Brisbane. Photo by James Lee*



# AELA Education testimonials

EARTH-CENTRED FUTURES COURSE  
JULY - AUGUST 2022



This thoughtfully-constructed course connects deep ideas with interdisciplinary practice in an enlivening and impactful way. **Come for the impressive line-up of guest speakers; stay for the well-paced course materials, warm facilitation, community connections and enthusiastic support** for applying Earth-centred concepts to your life and work.



This course has renewed my energy and optimism for the future. **It is a highly pertinent and inspiring course for anyone who feels distressed about the current climate crisis or disillusioned with the systems that have lead us here.** It highlights the brilliant innovation and discussions that are already happening in the world, and provides coherent frameworks for change that not only make sense but feel good too.

What an absolute relief!



The ideas in this course made me tingle with inspiration. Just what I needed to feel encouraged in my pursuit for a better world.

Thanks AELA!



I would recommend this course to those interested in Earth-centred issues. The course introduced me to many new ideas, perspectives, and strategies, including systems change, alternative economic and legal approaches, and Indigenous Relationist ethos.



This course has been amazing and I am beyond glad that I took part. Engaging topics, inspiring guest speakers and motivating members.

**This course has changed the way I see the world,** and the people around me.



## Professional Development Courses

### AELA Courses



**12 Jul 2022 – 30 Aug 2022**

Earth-Centred Futures



**7 Feb 2023 – 28 Feb 2022**

Introduction to Earth Laws

### NENA Course – co-hosted by AELA



**2 May 2023 – 20 Jun 2023**

Building a New Economy for Australia - co-hosted with the New Economy Network Australia (NENA)





*Afternoon sun at the Chermside Hills Reserve,  
Turrbal and Jagera Country, Queensland.  
Photo by James Lee*



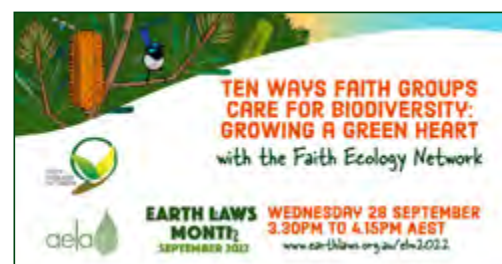
# Education - Public Webinars

- 14 Jul 22 **Introduction to Scenario Planning**  
with Dr Kiah Smith
- 19 Jul 22 **Space Exploration: An Update for Earthlings**
- 4 Aug 22 **Introduction to Systems Change: Theories and Practice**
- 1 Sep 22 **Navigating our way in uncertain times**, with Caresse Cranwell & Sophia van Ruth, Wicked Elephants
- 5 Sep 22 **Collaborations in Art & Science**,  
with Nadine Schmoll, Miles Parsons,  
Andy Grodecki and Tessie Liddell
- 5 Sep 22 **Population, Consumption & Climate Change**,  
with Ian Lowe, Jane O'Sullivan  
and Haydn Washington
- 6 Sep 22 **What would it take to build an Earth Centred Economy?**  
with Richard Denniss, The Australia  
Institute, in conversation  
with Michelle Maloney, aela/nena
- 7 Sep 22 **Degrowth in Australia**,  
with Anitra Nelson and Terry Leahy
- 8 Sep 22 **Can a Wellbeing Economy protect the environment?**  
with Katherine Trebeck, Mike Salvaris  
& Gareth Hughes
- 8 Sep 22 **Reflecting on the Rights of Nature**,  
with Thomas Linzey and Mari Margil



- 8 Sep 22 **Medium Expectations: How can we reduce our demands on the living world? Indigenous and non-indigenous perspectives**, with Mary Graham, Ross Williams, and Michelle Maloney
- 9 Sep 22 **Post-Extractivism: What could life look like beyond the Extractive Economy?** with Natalie Lowrey, Liz Downes, Marta Conde and Carlos Zorrilla
- 12 Sep 22 **How much DNA do you share with an octopus? The science of interconnected life on Earth**, with Ian Lowe & Brendan Mackey
- 12 Sep 22 **Performing for the Earth**, with Simon Kerr and Robin Davidson
- 14 Sep 22 **Ecocide Laws in Australia: What's Possible?** with Rob White, Gwynn MacCarrick, Danielle Celermajer, Anthony Burke & Michelle Maloney
- 14 Sep 22 **Creating a regenerative Australia: join us for updates from the Aussie Regen movement!**
- 14 Sep 22 **Making Ecocide a Crime: International Update** with Jojo Mehta, Stop Ecocide International
- 15 Sep 22 **Earth Jurisprudence in Practice**, with Carlotta Byrne, Michelle Maloney and Margaret Stewart
- 19 Sep 22 **What can we learn from deep listening to the natural world?** with Andrew Skeoch
- 20 Sep 22 **Caring for our Oceans: An update from around the Pacific**, with the Ocean Rights and Kinship Alliance
- 20 Sep 22 **Building Nature Positive Futures** with Delwyn Jones, The Evah Institute - *Greenprints Exchange Workshop Series*
- 21 Sep 22 **Regenesis: The Blue Mountains Creative Arts Network**
- 21 Sep 22 **Living Democracy**, with Tim Hollo, in conversation with Michelle Maloney
- 22 Sep 22 **Ecological Law and Governance - A new paradigm for environmental governance**
- 23 Sep 22 **Green extractivism and the Australian energy transition**

- 26 Sep 22 **How paying attention to rocks can save the world,**  
with Marian Drew and Clive Willman
- 27 Sep 22 **Making Ecocide a Crime: An Update from around the Pacific,**  
with John Miller, Lyndon De Vantier, Alan Webb
- 27 Sep 22 **LAUNCH EVENT: 2022/2023 Citizens' Inquiry into Australia's Planning Laws**
- 28 Sep 22 **Embodying Nature** with Johanna de Ruyter & Caresse Cranwell, Wicked Elephants
- 28 Sep 22 **Ten Ways Faith Groups Care for Biodiversity: Growing a Green Heart**
- 29 Sep 22 **Launch of the 2022 Earthwords & Artlings Anthology**
- 29 Sep 22 **Rights of Nature: International Symposium**
- 29 Sep 22 **Taking action for Climate Change**  
with Brendan Mackey and Melissa Jackson
- 22 Nov 22 **2023 Greenprints Adventure - Information Session**
- 30 Nov 22 **Rights of Nature and Earth Laws - An Introduction to Key Concepts and Approaches**
- 1 Dec 22 **Mapping the Social Ecology of your Community -**  
with Caresse Cranwell and Deb Collins, Wicked Elephants
- 5 Dec 22 **Are Sustainable Futures Still Possible?**  
with Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe







9 Mar 23

**Caring for our oceans - exploring cultural connections and kinship with whales**

12 Apr 23

**AELA's Creative Conversations**  
with Merete Megarritty and Renata Buziak



12 Apr 23

**Should the Moon have legal rights?**  
with Alice Gorman, Cassandra Steer, Eytan Tepper, Mari Margil, and Michelle Maloney



21 Apr 23

**Protecting Future Generations -**  
with Sophie Howe, former Welsh Future Generations Commissioner

4 May 23

**Repairing our relationship with rivers: the role of law,**  
with Erin O'Donnell



10 May 23

**Caring for our oceans - exploring cultural connections and kinship with whales**

18 May 23

**Carbon and Nature Offsets: In the Market for Ecocide?**



25 May 23

**AELA's Creative Conversations**  
with Marian Drew and Michelle Maloney

27 Jun 23

**Trends in Climate Litigation in Australia**

with Justice Brian Preston



*Superb Fairy Wren, lutruwita Tasmania.  
Photo by James Lee,*

## 1.2 Hosting educational workshops with Indigenous Partners

AELA is committed to working in solidarity with Indigenous partners, to share Indigenous and cross-cultural information and education about Caring for Country, Indigenous First Laws and Earth-centred governance. We are also committed to contributing to the decolonisation of ideas and knowledge systems in Australia.

To do this work, AELA works very closely with our sister organisation, Future Dreaming Australia. Together, we host public workshops, private mentoring, organisational training and development, and other activities for our AELA networks.

Some of our workshops are featured below.

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



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

AELA co-hosted online workshops with our sister organisation, Future Dreaming. 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.



#### Fire Country – Indigenous Fire Management Practices

The 'Fire Country' workshop was held during AELA's 'Earth Laws Month', showcasing a fascinating discussion between Bindal/Juru man and Future Dreaming director, Ross Edwards, and Victor Steffensen, co-founder of the Firesticks Alliance and the National Indigenous Fire Workshop, and author of 'Fire Country'.



## Regenerative Songlines Australia

AELA is pleased to support and host online activities organized by our partner network, Regenerative Songlines Australia.

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.

*Regenerative Songlines Australia event ‘Yarning Circle about Caring for Country and Regenerative Practices’, featuring Mary Graham, Anne Poelina, and Tyson Yunkaporta.*





## 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 co-founded the New Economy Network Australia (NENA) in 2016/2017. Since then, AELA has continued to devote the time and resources of our staff and networks, to supporting the volunteer led initiative.

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 AELA's Earth Economies work has included:

- ❖ Hosting AELA and NENA's first "Economics for the Earth" Week of webinars 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





*Board walk through alpine wetlands, Hartz Mountains National Park, Tasmania.  
Photo by James Lee,*



## 2. BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

AELA works with individuals, groups and community-based organisations to provide support for Earth-centred community capacity building in Australia. This work includes supporting people who wish to advocate for Indigenous First Laws, Rights of Nature, Legal Personhood for Nature, Local Ecological Custodianship, Community Eco-Governance (Greenprints) and other Earth-centred governance initiatives in their jurisdiction or local community.

### 2.1 Support community groups and organisations to take action

Much of AELA's community capacity building work is carried out within our "Earth Laws Centre" (AELC), which provides a focus for education, information sharing and mentoring around governance transformation.

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. We also provide private mentoring, community workshop facilitation support, cross-cultural communication advice and training and other support activities, to empower local community groups and organisations to carry out their own Earth laws advocacy and community building work.

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.



**In 2022-2023, our community capacity building 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 (BMCC) to meet its commitments around Rights of Nature, by participating in the BMCC Planetary Health Initiative Steering Group;
- ◇ Supporting a community group in South East Queensland called 'Care4Esk', to enable them to carry out koala and wildlife monitoring and community education, and to engage with their Local Council about Earth-centred care;
- ◇ Supporting Councillor Debra Mar, to introduce Rights of Nature and Ecocentric governance innovations to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council;
- ◇ Supporting the Hawkesbury-Nepean Water Keepers management group as they develop strategies for working with local First Nations Peoples, and to develop shared Earth Laws and Rights of Nature projects.

*Image: Blue Mountains, Shutterstock*





### 3. SYSTEMS CHANGE PROJECTS

To support Earth-centred systems change in Australia, AELA focuses on two streams of work:

- ◇ showcasing alternatives to current 'business as usual' human-centred governance models;
- ◇ supporting communities and organisations who wish to use AELA's 'Greenprints framework' to explore pathways to Earth-centred governance in their own bioregion.

Through our education programs and public events, we enable people to learn about new governance models, how to create systems change and how to connect personal and professional aspirations and activities, to broader systems change work.

A list of webinars and discussions held in our 'systems change' program can be seen on **page 24**.

Through our Greenprints program, we have developed a comprehensive pathway for people to learn about – and begin implementing – significant systems change in their own communities.



## Working with Greenprints partners

### **LITHGOW TRANSFORMATION HUB IN 2022-2023**

AELA was pleased to be engaged by the Lithgow Transformation Hub, to bring the Greenprints program to the Hub's "Regenerating Lithgow" project. 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.

### **REGEN BRISBANE**

AELA also supported a range of community initiatives that connected into the Regen Brisbane network – including auspicing a project funded by InGrained Foundation, to create biodiversity verge gardening projects.

### **GREENPRINTS FOR THE GOLD COAST**

AELA worked with groups and community leaders in the Gold Coast region, to introduce the Greenprints framework, and is looking forward to developing a Greenprints pilot project in the region in the coming year.





## Greenprints Webinars included:

### Introduction to Scenario Planning

with Dr Kiah Smith

- 14 July 2022

### Introduction to Systems Change: Theories and Practice

with Dr Jose Ramos

- 4 August 2022

### Building Nature Positive Futures

with Delwyn Jones, The Evah Institute

- 20 September 2022

### Are Sustainable Futures Still Possible?

with Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe

- 17 November 2022

### Mapping the Social Ecology of Your Community

with Caresse Cranwell and Deb Collins, Wicked Elephants

- 1 December 2022

### Protecting Future Generations

with Sophie Howe, former Welsh Future Generations Commissioner

- 21 April 2023





## Background to the Greenprints Program

'Greenprints' was created by AELA's National Convenor, Dr Michelle Maloney, to help civil society groups and interested government authorities understand, and take very practical steps towards creating, Earth-centred governance. Greenprints 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*

## 4. CRITICAL NETWORKS

AELA prioritises building partnerships and supporting social change networks, in order to work with other amazing people and groups, and strengthen the impact of everyone's work. We believe that only by joining forces, working together and amplifying shared efforts, will we be able create the systems change we need. We support – and where necessary, create – networks at the local, regional, and International levels.

### 4.1 AELA contributes to international networks, to influence international Earth-centred initiatives 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 coordinates the Australian working group: “**Stop Ecocide Australia**”, and also 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 in a number of important international networks. Some of Michelle's affiliations that connect AELA to important initiatives around the world include:

- ◇ Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN) - Advisory Council
- ◇ Earth Trusteeship Initiative - Steering Group
- ◇ International Ecological Law and Governance Association (ELGA) - Steering Group
- ◇ Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights (CDER) - Associate
- ◇ Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) - Members Working Group
- ◇ IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law - Member
- ◇ UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network - Member



## 4.2 AEELA is a member of Earth-centred networks across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region

AEELA continues to connect with and support Earth-centred initiatives across our region, including:

- ◇ Ocean Rights and Kinship Alliance (ORKA), co-facilitated by AEELA to host educational webinars and meetings with members and experts around the Asia Pacific;
- ◇ Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature's 'Asia Pacific Hub';
- ◇ Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative; and
- ◇ AEELA is also currently developing new networks to connect Earth laws researchers, Earth Ethics specialists and deep ecology/human-nature connections in Australia.

*Eastern grey kangaroo and joey,  
Tinchi Tamba Wetlands Reserve,  
Turrbal & Jagera Country, Brisbane.  
Photo by James Lee.*





## AELA's co-facilitates the Ocean Rights and Kinship Alliance (ORKA)



### Caring for our Oceans: An update from around the Pacific

AELA co-hosted online workshops with the Ocean Rights and Kinship Alliance, bringing regional and global partners together to discuss and share updates about:

- ◇ Indigenous led projects in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific;
- ◇ the Universal Declaration for the Rights of Oceans, and;
- ◇ new developments in international law, including proposals for greater protection for Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)



### Caring for our Oceans — exploring cultural connections and kinship with whales

AELA hosted two webinars exploring our connections and kinship with the ocean and our interconnected community of marine life.

The workshops featured speakers from across the Pacific, including Tēvita O Ka'ili, Helen Naupa, Ma'ara Maeva, Fiafia Rex, Salanieta Kitolelei, and Elise Huffer.



## 5. AEELA GOVERNANCE

As a small not-for-profit organisation, good governance is vitally important for AEELA. In the 2022-2023 financial year, we received another unqualified audit, demonstrating our strong financial management. Please see our Financial Report at the end of this document for further details.

AEELA secured sufficient funds during the financial year, to support one full-time and two part-time staff. We continued 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.



*Perons tree frog (Litoria peroni).  
Gunaikurnai Country, East Gippsland,  
Vic. Image by Matt Clancy via  
Wikimedia Commons (CC BY 2.0 Deed).*



## Our Team 2022-2023

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (VOLUNTARY)

Ross Williams  
Dr Michelle Maloney  
Dr Edward Morgan  
Leanne Leserve  
James Lee

Chairperson  
Company Secretary  
Director  
Treasurer  
Director

### PAID STAFF, PART-TIME (FROM 1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023)

Michelle Maloney  
James Lee  
Sarah Bashforth

National Convenor  
Operations Manager and Greenprints program  
Administration Manager

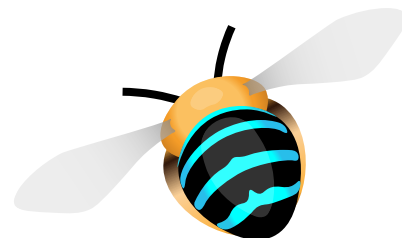


# How you can connect with AELA's work

## 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)

# Treasurer's Report

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

AELA's FY2023 financial performance continues to reflect a strong operational position for the organisation. With the ongoing support of our donors, we continue to build on AELA's capacity to deliver our diverse range of work, through online and in-person events, workshops, training, and on-ground project developments through the Greenprints Initiative. AELA's focus remains on promoting the understanding and practical implementation of Earth-centred law, governance, and ethics in Australia. See page 3 of the Directors' Report for a list of our activities during the year.

For the full year, AELA's income was \$243,553 with most of the income, \$221,794, coming from donations and appeals to support AELA's work and projects. Contractor and consulting fees continued to comprise the majority share of expenses throughout the year, increasing significantly on the previous year's expenditure. Despite the increased expenditure, the overall profit for the year, at \$32,463, is larger in comparison to the previous year.

AELA's net assets of \$84,345 included current assets of \$228,072 and unearned income recorded as a current liability. Our cash flow remained robust and very similar to the previous year, ending the year with \$228,072 after payment of operating activities.



# AELA's Financial Reports 2022-2023

## AUSTRALIAN EARTH LAWS ALLIANCE LIMITED

ABN 54 156 139 221

FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 JUNE 2023

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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 2023, 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<br/>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).</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, from the areas now known as Townsville to Bowen, and 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, and piloting the method through partnership program with the Lithgow Transformation Hub (NSW).
- 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, ethical frameworks and local/public participation in environmental decision making - so that they 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                  | 4        |
| 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 2023, the total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company wound up is \$1,820 (2022: \$1,810).

## 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

20 September 2023

Principal  
Douglas Wood FCA RCA  
Associate  
George Vourantonis RCA  
Consultants  
George Raffan RCA  
Simon Joyce RCA

ABN 70 766 560 849  
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North Sydney NSW 2059  
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North Sydney NSW 2060  
Tel (02) 8350 5850  
www.fosterrafran.com.au


**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 2023 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  
20 September 2023



# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 30 June 2023

|   | Notes | 2023<br>\$     | 2022<br>\$     |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>   |       |                |                |
| Conferences and workshops   |       | 3,903          | 13,297         |
| Interest  |       | 110            | 100            |
| Donations and appeals fund  |       | 221,794        | 168,753        |
| Memberships   |       | 12,426         | 7,318          |
| Other   |       | 5,320          | 3,073          |
| <b>Total Income</b>   |       | <b>243,553</b> | <b>192,540</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>  |       |                |                |
| ASIC  |       | 762            | 1,456          |
| Bank  |       | 10             | 30             |
| Catering  |       | 430            | 714            |
| Computer  |       | 262            | 253            |
| Communications – zoom and internet                                  |       | 1,613          | 1,531          |
| Conferences and workshops   |       | 470            | 6,561          |
| Consulting  |       | 72,976         | 93,504         |
| Contractor  |       | 103,571        | 46,813         |
| Donations and appeals   |       | -              | 220            |
| Event and other refunds   |       | 2,171          | -              |
| Insurance   |       | 2,047          | -              |
| Legal – Trademark registration                                      |       | 3,750          | -              |
| Motor vehicle   |       | 921            | 1,710          |
| NENA  |       | 80             | -              |
| Other   |       | 1,636          | 1,289          |
| Postage, printing and stationery                                    |       | 237            | 424            |
| Publication and information management                              |       | 3,312          | 2,830          |
| Professional development  |       | 209            | 220            |
| Rent  |       | 11,076         | 9,500          |
| Telephone   |       | -              | 2,157          |
| Travel  |       | 2,657          | 3,304          |
| Website design and management                                       |       | 2,900          | 2,853          |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>  |       | <b>211,089</b> | <b>175,370</b> |
| <b>Surplus before income tax expense</b>                            |       | <b>32,463</b>  | <b>17,170</b>  |
| <b>Income tax expense</b>   |       | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>       |
| <b>Surplus for the year</b>   |       | <b>32,463</b>  | <b>17,170</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>32,463</b>  | <b>17,170</b>  |

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ended 30 June 2023

|  | Notes | 2023<br>\$     | 2022<br>\$     |
|--|-------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                        |       |                |                |
| Cash – Community Access                      |       | 37,606         | 16,023         |
| Cash – Card Account                          |       | 961            | 745            |
| Cash – AELA Fund                             |       | 186,689        | 134,207        |
| Other – PayPal                               |       | 2,816          | 906            |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                          |       | <b>228,072</b> | <b>151,881</b> |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                   |       |                |                |
| Unearned Income – Funding Grant              |       | 95,000         | 100,000        |
| Other Current Liabilities – Auspice Projects |       | 48,727         | -              |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                     |       | <b>143,727</b> | <b>125,000</b> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                            |       | <b>84,345</b>  | <b>51,881</b>  |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                                |       |                |                |
| Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2021             |       | 51,881         | 34,711         |
| Income for the Year                          |       | 32,463         | 17,170         |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                          |       | <b>84,344</b>  | <b>51,881</b>  |



# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 30 June 2023

|  | Notes | Total equity<br>\$ |
|--|-------|--------------------|
| 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>      |
| Balance at 1 July 2022                                       |       | 51,881             |
| Income for the year  |       | 32,463             |
| Other comprehensive income for the period, net of income tax |       | -                  |
| <b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>                               |       | <b>84,344</b>      |

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

|  | Notes | 2023<br>\$     | 2022<br>\$     |
|--|-------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Operating services</b>                        |       |                |                |
| Receipts from:                                   |       |                |                |
| • auspice projects                               |       | 80,626         | -              |
| • conferences and workshops                      |       | 3,903          | 13,297         |
| • donations and appeals fund                     |       | 216,794        | 133,816        |
| • memberships                                    |       | 12,426         | 7,318          |
| • interest income                                |       | 110            | 100            |
| • other income                                   |       | 5,320          | 3,073          |
| Payment to auspice projects                      |       | (31,899)       | -              |
| Payments to suppliers                            |       | (211,089)      | (175,370)      |
| <b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b> |       | <b>76,191</b>  | <b>76,191</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          |       | 76,191         | (7,830)        |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year     |       | 151,881        | 159,711        |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>    |       | <b>228,072</b> | <b>151,881</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 principal place of business is 57 Highlands Drive, Narangba, QLD 4504.

The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 20 September 2023.

### 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, the 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.



#### 4. Trade and other payables

This represents net amounts for the following Auspice Projects:

- (a) Care4Esk - Grant amount received from the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources for the Koala Community Grants Program in the Esk/Somerset region in South-East Queensland.
- (b) CD Institute.
- (c) The Women's Climate Congress.

The amount is presented as a current liability as payment is due within 12 months. The amounts received are recognised initially at their fair value.

|   | 2023          | 2022     |
|---|---------------|----------|
|   | \$            | \$       |
| <b>Other Payables – Auspice Projects:</b> |               |          |
| Care4Esk                                  | 34,293        | -        |
| CD Institute                              | 13,136        | -        |
| The Women's Climate Congress              | 1,298         | -        |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>48,727</b> | <b>-</b> |

# 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 2023 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  
20 September 2023

Principal  
Douglas Wood FCA RCA  
Associate  
George Bourantonis RCA  
Consultants  
George Raffan RCA  
Simon Joyce RCA

ABN 73 766 660 349  
PO Box 601  
North Sydney NSW 2059  
Level 3, West St  
North Sydney NSW 2060  
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## **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 12 which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 and the statement of comprehensive income for the period 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 2023 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,  
North Sydney, NSW, 2060

20 September 2023

Back cover: Wompoo fruit dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*), Maiala, Mount Glorious, Jinibara Country, Queensland. Photo by James Lee



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