



Climate Action Merri-bek Inc
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Climate Action Merri-bek Incorporated

Annual Report June 2025

Welcome to our first Annual report for Climate Action Merri-bek as an incorporated non-profit association.

John Englart
Convenor/President
Climate Action Merri-bek, 25 May, 2025

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Incorporation as a non-profit association

Climate Action Merribek was started in 2008 as a grassroots citizens climate action group. We remained unincorporated for 16 years. Finally, it became too difficult to organise as citizens, with so many bureaucratic hurdles placed in our path for our simple and basic activities. So we embarked on becoming an incorporated non-profit association.

In March 2024 we incorporated using the model rules as adapted with our name and stated purposes of association. We were incorporated as a non-profit association on 19 March, 2024. Incorporation registration number: No. A0122668A

Model Rules as adopted (name, purpose and financial year inserted)

<https://climateactionmerribek.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-03-20-model-rules-came-ribek.pdf>

We Upgraded our Bendigo Bank Account to be operated online with two committee members to sign for any payments.

An Australian Business Number (ABN) was also applied for. Our ABN: 75 263 787 311

We embarked upon an immediate membership drive for formal members, using an [online form](#) that archives member details in a Register of Members.

Our Purpose

The purposes of the association are —

To take action on climate change at municipal, State, Federal Government and international levels. Our members have come together out of concern about the lack of meaningful political action on climate change, and a recognition that we need to take responsibility for our future. We need a rapid transition to a zero carbon society to prevent severe climate change that will have a devastating effect on our lives and those of future generations. We come together:

- To put pressure on political leaders to take serious action on climate change via activities such as submissions, protests, attending rallies and engaging in discussion with local politicians, and to show that there is a strong community support for serious action
- To provide a focus and outlet for residents wanting to take action
- To provide community education and awareness on climate change and what we can do about it on individual, local, national and even international levels
- To create networks with other community-based organisations as part of a broader, more coordinated environmental movement.

Membership and Meetings

Membership

On 15 April 2024 we had 68 registered members. An audit was done of our membership register on 23 May 2025 eliminating duplicate memberships. We currently have 89 formal members, with the overwhelming majority resident in Merri-bek suburbs.

We have:

- a newsletter email list with over 500 people on the list
- A google email group for CAM members.
- A CAM & NUCA Whats App chat for committee members.

General monthly meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month, and are open for all members to attend. General meetings were held February to November in 2024 and February to May 2025. They are usually hybrid meetings using zoom. An end of year outside function in December 2024 had to be relocated to the Moreland Hotel due to extreme heat conditions, a sign of the times and of climate change.

Engagement on Social Media

Facebook:

Climate Action Merri-bek Organisation page April 2024: 744 likes • 970 followers.
May 2025: 775 likes • 1k followers
CAM Discussion Group April 2024 has 923 members
May 2025 has 982 members

Twitter and Bluesky

Due to the changes made to twitter by Elon Musk, we have stopped posting to our @CAMoreland Twitter account and started an account on Bluesky in 2025.
See our Bluesky profile here: <https://bsky.app/profile/camerribek.bsky.social>

We have a starter pack on Aus NGO climate and Enviro news here to help connect to other Australian climate NGOs on Bluesky :
<https://bsky.app/starter-pack/camerribek.bsky.social/3lbgpyozv352b>

Website:

Due to a change of name to align with the municipal change in name, in August 2023 we created a new website with a new domain at <https://climateactionmerribek.org/> copying all posts made on the old website from 2008 to the new website.

We have published 93 blog posts since April 2024, including as part of the Council election campaign and the recent Federal Election Campaign. You can see all our Federal, State and Council election campaign posts here: <https://climateactionmerribek.org/elections/>

Council membership activity grant

Our incorporation and formal membership allowed for us to apply for a membership activity Grant with Merri-bek Council in 2024. Our recurrent costs are estimated at about \$3000 per year with managing the website, engagement tool subscriptions, printing, marquee and table and chair hire for Festivals, hall hire, printing costs, etc. We were successful in getting a Council grant in May 2024.

Note, as per conditions of Council, no money from Council grant was spent as part of our issue based Election campaigns.

Membership of Coalitions and Alliances

CANA - We are a member and pay an annual subscription fee of \$126.50 to Climate Action Network Australia (CANA). This is the peak NGO climate organisation in Australia. This gives us access to the CANA chat email list, network support for organising. We participate in the Awesome Grassroots network on email and Signal. Sending NGO delegates to UN Climate Change Conferences is through CANA UN accreditation.

Natural Turf Alliance - this is a Sydney based alliance on the campaign against synthetic turf. No membership fees. Information sharing on synthetic turf.

Environment Victoria - We joined EV in May 2025 as a larger community organisation (over 50 members) This is the Victorian peak environment organisation. Group Membership is \$140 for 3 years.

Upfield Transport Alliance - We are a foundation member of the Upfield Transport Alliance which does advocacy and campaigning on the need to upgrade the Upfield Line to improve its service delivery and frequency via duplication and extension of the Upfield Rail Line to Wallan. No fees. This is a local campaign group. Through the Covid pandemic it went into campaign hibernation, but is subsequently ramping up activities.

Stay Grounded Network - Joined September 2018. No fees. International advocacy network working to limit aviation emissions and in advocating the moratorium on expansion of airport infrastructure.

We also worked on campaigns/issues with Walk on Merri-bek, Merri-bek Bicycle User Group (MBUG), Brunswick Residents Network (BRN), Merri Food Hub, Australian Conservation Foundation, ACF NxNW group, Lock the Gate, 350 Australia, Beyond Gas Network, NO Northern Incinerator Wollert, Doctors for the Environment, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), Vote Climate, Coburg Uniting Church.

Specific Campaigns

Say No to Waste Incineration and Waste to Energy

Our February 2024 [blog post](#) on the VIC EPA consultation on the Wollert Waste to Energy Incinerator proposal raised significant concern and helped initiate a community campaign opposing the Wollert Waste Incinerator. This campaign is continuing. It has also put us in touch with the Lara Campaign against a Waste Incinerator, and Toxics Free Australia.

Read our April 2024 [submission](#) to the EPA. We also did a [submission](#) in April 2025 on Striking the right balance for waste to energy in Victoria.

Don't Frack the NT

We worked with Beyond Gas Network, Lock the Gate, Australian Conservation Foundation and others to bring Indigenous owners and Northern Territory Environment Centre representatives to Coburg Town Hall meeting for an in-person presentation to people in Merri-bek and surrounds about Gas expansion in the Northern Territory. See November 4, 2024 – [Coburg Town Hall: Voices from the Frontline of the Climate Crisis – an urgent call from the NT – 23 November](#)



Advocacy to Wills Labor MP Peter Khalil

We engaged with our local Federal Labor MP on climate issues. This was done through passing briefings and open letters to his office on a regular basis.

Prior to the May 2022 election Peter Khalil had promised to establish a Climate and Environment Advisory Group. It took 13 months to establish this committee in June 2023, after repeated requests. This Committee met with Peter Khalil a number of times but we were always allocated just a 30 minute time slot and always ran out of time. There was limited feedback to this committee on the priority issues raised with him.



By the second round of coal approvals in September 2024, 18 people in the advisory committee resigned en-masse as a protest. Peter Khalil never acknowledged the work community members put into this committee to advise him on climate issues.

Federal Election Campaign

We worked alongside a myriad of climate and environment groups in Wills to successfully raise climate action as an issue during the election campaign. We started talking to other groups in July 2024 and our campaign ramped up in February 2025. It included leafleting, climate signs, climate conversations, climate stalls, candidate forum, and handing out climate scorecards at pre-poll and on election day. You can read some of our activities to raise climate as an issue on this [blog page](#).



We note and congratulate Peter Khalil, our Labor MP, who was re-elected with a margin of about 1600 votes. We also note he [signed](#) the climate emergency declaration in 2016, and we still expect him to meet that commitment that he signed, and to represent his constituents who demanded greater action in not approving new fossil fuel projects and in phasing out coal and gas as part of taking ambitious climate action.



Submissions

We have made 12 formal multi-page submissions since February 2024. 5 were State level submissions, 5 Federal Government submissions, 2 Merri-bek Council submissions.

- May 4, 2025 - Submission: Victoria's Draft Infrastructure Strategy (Victoria)
- April 24, 2025 - Submission: Striking the right balance for waste to energy in Victoria (Victoria)
- April 10, 2025 - Submission: Victoria's Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030 (Victoria)
- January 16, 2025 - Submission: Browse Carbon Capture and Storage Project (Federal)
- January 6, 2025 - Submission on McDonald Reserve Facility Design Plan (Council)
- November 27, 2024 - Submission: PFAS Forever Chemicals and Artificial Turf (Federal)
- November 26, 2024 - Submission: Nuclear would add to Cost of Living and is a distraction to climate solutions (Federal)
- August 17, 2024 - Submission: Net Zero Transport Roadmap Consultation (Federal)
- July 4, 2024 - Submission: Inquiry Into Climate Resilience (Victoria)
- April 17, 2024 - Submission: Wollert Waste to Energy Incinerator (Vic EPA)
- March 28, 2024 - Submission: Glenroy to Coburg Cycling Route (Council)
- February 21, 2024 - Submission: New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (Federal)



**Submission:
Victoria's Draft
Infrastructure
Strategy**



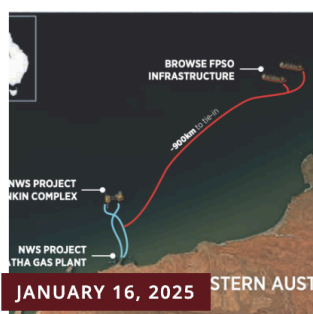
**Submission: Striking
the right balance for
waste to energy in
Victoria**



**Submission:
Victoria's Climate
Action Strategy
2026-2030**



**Fighting High Energy
Bills for Renters: A
Call to Action**



**Submission: Browse
Carbon Capture and
Storage Project**



**Submission on
McDonald Reserve
Facility Design Plan**

Climate Action Merri-bek endorsements

Climate Action Merri-bek Endorsements are made to support other civil society organisation statements, open and private letters. They may be international from the Climate Action Network, or the Climate Action Network Australia, or by individual organisations working in the climate space.

Endorsements express our solidarity by adding our name and logo to public statements or reports. As a small grassroots group we don't have the resources to initiate on many issues, but endorsement allows us to express our solidarity as part of the broad climate movement.

Decisions on endorsements are made by the Convenor and announced as part of our general meetings. Endorsements are often made within a very limited time frame, sometimes of a day or two of notice, hence the need to delegate this function for rapid action.

- 23 March 2025 - CAM Sign-on End Ocean Fossil Fuel exploration. UNOC3 Sign-on Letter: End Fossil Fuel Exploration in the Ocean. Draft [Letter](#)
- 24 March 2025 - CAM sign-on Rushed changes to EPBC Act Joint Letter to the Prime Minister (re Salmon Farming amendment to EPBC Act)
- 1 April 2025 - CAM sign-on to Asks on energy to COP30 president - [Link](#)
- 4 April 2025 -CAM Sign-on [Statement on Palestine Genocide](#) by The Palestinian Institute for Climate Strategy
- 29 January 2025 - Statement on climate action to Federal Parliamentarians by CANA
- 29 January 2025 - CSO letter to IPCC: calls on the IPCC to centre equity in how it approaches modelling and pathways for this Assessment Cycle, to put forward scenarios that prioritise near term action and real solutions to the climate crisis, and to avoid reliance on highly speculative technological fixes
- 29 January 2025 - Healthy Homes for Renters Statement. Policy was developed with input from speciality expertise including from Tenants Union, ACOSS, Better Renting, BSL, EEC, Rewire, JEC, and ECA, and went through two rounds of consultation with members of Healthy Homes for Renters. [statement](#) [Policy Brief](#)
- 19 October 2024 - 2024 Civil Society Equity Review <https://www.equityreview.org/> "Fair Shares, Finance, Transformation. Fair shares assessment, equitable fossil fuel phase out, and public finance for a just global climate stabilization"
- 11 October 2024 - Endorsed PATH open letter on including walking and cycling in NDCs in open letter to COP29 [Link](#)
- 6 September 2024 - On Australia's commitment to CETP (Glasgow Statement) agreement to phase out export finance for fossil fuels. Australia made this commitment at COP28 and has 12 months to comply.
- 6 September 2024 - NGO open letter to Climate Minister Chris Bowen on next NDC target advocating for 75% below 2005 levels by 2030, and achieve net-zero by 2035. This target aligns with the Paris Climate Agreement and global Mission 2025 coalition's aim to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Strengthening our NDC also positions Australia as a credible leader in global climate negotiations, essential as we aspire to co-host COP31
- 22 March 2024 - CAM endorsement for Banking on Climate Chaos report 2024 [PDF](#)

TO PARLIAMENT:

DON'T GUT AUSTRALIA'S ENVIRONMENT LAWS.

The Government is proposing changes that will weaken our national environment protection laws and benefit destructive, extractive industries.

These changes could also prohibit civil society from challenging government decisions, prioritising the profits of polluting projects over transparency and due process.

That's not how democracy works.

We demand these changes be rejected and Australia's environmental laws be strengthened, not weakened.

Bob Brown Foundation | Australian Conservation Foundation | Greenpeace Australia-Pacific | Friends of the Earth | The Wilderness Society | Australian Marine Conservation Society | The Sunrise Project Australia | The Australian Rainforest Conservation Society | Lock the Gate Neighbours of Fish Farming | Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania | Blue Derby Wild | Friends of the Bays | Tasman Peninsula Marine Protection | Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre | Tasmanian Alliance for Marine Protection | NWTAS for Clean Oceans | Queensland Conservation Council | Environment Tasmania | Conservation Council ACT | Nature Conservation Council of NSW | Conservation Council WA | Keep Our Coasts Clean | Environment Centre NT | Australian Forests & Climate Alliance Inc. | Lighter Footprints | Australian Religious Response to Climate Change | Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network | Beyond Gas Network | Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action | Centre for Climate Safety | Doctors for the Environment Australia | Clarence Climate Action | Climate Action Merri-bek | Planet Project | Currie Country Social Change | Darebin Climate Action Now | Yarra Climate Action Network | Environment Council of Central QLD | Environmental Advocacy in Central QLD | Environment East Gippsland Inc. | Green Music Australia | Peoples Climate Assembly | Sydney Knitting Nannas and Friends | Climate Writers | The Australian Foundation for Wilderness | The Green Institute | Victorian Forest Alliance | Wilderness Australia | The Australia Institute

Australia Institute research shows salmon farming is driving the endangered Maugean skate to the brink of extinction, triggering a federal EPBC review of salmon farming in Tasmania's Macquarie Harbour.

Photo: Rio Tinto's Bengalla coal mine by Lock the Gate
 Authorised by the Australia Institute, 113 Canberra Avenue, Griffith ACT 2603

australiainstitute.org.au

The Australia Institute
 Research that matters.

Festivals and stalls

Sydney Road Street Party

We had stalls at the 2024 and 2025 Sydney Road Street Party. The 2024 stall focussed on climate letters to Wills MP Peter Khalil.

The 2025 stall focussed on climate conversations and distributing climate signs to highlight climate as an issue in the Federal election.



Glenroy Festival

We had successful stalls in 2024 and 2025 at the Glenroy Festival. We conducted sustainable transport surveys at both festivals.

Our campaign on a 7 day service for the 536 bus route from Glenroy to Fawkner has met with success with advocacy by Kathleen Matthews-Ward MP, and an announcement in the 2025 budget of funding a 7 day service.



Fawkner Festa

Successful stalls at the Fawkner Festa in 2024 and 2025.

350 Australia came on board in 2025 to distribute no more coal and gas signs and help with climate conversations.



Banner Painting Workshops

We had two successful banner making workshops preparing general banners for our climate stalls in 2024 and 2025. Accompanied by pizza and red wine.



Merri-bek Council

Our Convenor John Englart continues to attend Council general meetings in the public gallery. He has been attending Council meetings on a regular basis for over a decade. He does a Climate and Sustainability review of each Council Agenda and publishes this at the Climate Action Merribek Facebook discussion group.

Members of Climate Action Merri-bek have had a number of in-person meetings both with Councillors and with Council staff, which has helped clarify two way communication and information to improve council projects and governance with regards to environmental outcomes.

As a citizen stakeholder organisation Climate Action Merri-bek is represented on the Sustainable Merri-bek Advisory Group (SMAG) and the Sustainable Transport Advisory Committee (STAC), both of which are citizen advisory committees established by Council to provide feedback and advice to Council Officers and to Council on policy and strategy.

The terms for these committees expire in June 2025. Council will decide on what citizen advisory committees will be established and will review relevant criteria, before advertising Expressions of Interest for new committees.

A membership activity grant from Merri-bek Council allows us to interact with you our members and the general community making for a more vibrant and sustainable community.

Financial Statement

Climate Action Merri-bek Profit/loss statement 1/5/2024 to 30/4/2025		
	Expenses	Item totals
Memberships		
CANA	\$126.50	\$126.50
Public Liability Insurance (May 2024 to 1/4/2024)	553.78	
Public Liability Insurance 12 months from 2/4/2025	\$538.15	
		\$1091.93
Comms Outreach resources		
Zoom	\$253.68	
Survey Monkey	\$312.00	
Wordpress email	\$62.27	\$627.95
Festivals - Merri-bek CC		
Sydney Rd street party stall hire	\$232.50	
Glenroy Festival stall hire	\$208.12	\$440.62
Printing Costs	\$0	\$0
Venue Hire	\$0	\$0
Catering (no receipt – not claimed on Council grant)	\$30	\$30
Total		\$2317.00
Revenue	Income	
Council Grant	\$3000	
Donations from members	\$290	
Total		\$3290.00
Bank Balance at 1/5/2024		\$1433.21
Expenses		-\$2317.00
Pending reimbursement to J Englart for Wordpress Email		\$62.27
Revenue		\$3290.00
Bank Balance at 30/4/2025		\$2468.48

I certify that Climate Action Merri-bek's purpose was carried out in accordance with the Agreement with Merri-bek City Council. \$713 to be returned to Council as unspent money from Council Grant.

I declare that the statement of income and expenditure is complete and correct.

Andrea Bunting

Authorised officer, Climate Action Merri-bek Inc