



Climate Action Merri-bek Inc
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ABN: 75 263 787 311

Climate Action Merri-bek Incorporated Annual Report July 2026

Welcome to our second Annual report for Climate Action Merri-bek as an incorporated non-profit association. Maggie Cowling Convenor/President Climate Action Merri-bek, August 17, 2026

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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, meetings, engagement

On 30 June 2026 we had 121 registered 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 and active members.

- General monthly meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month (except for December and January), and are open for all members to attend. In December we hold an end of year function.

Engagement on Social Media

Climate Action Merri-bek Facebook page has 1,132 followers (as of June 30, 2026). This was a net increase of 97 over the financial year.

Over 12 months to June 30, 2026, our Facebook page had 139,213 views. About 48,000 views occurred in the last 2 weeks of July 2025, when we were posting about the passing of John Englart. Much of our engagement comes through posting as CAM in community Facebook groups.

Climate Action Merri-bek Facebook Discussion group has 1127 members.

Our Bluesky profile was re-activated in July 2026.

<https://bsky.app/profile/camerribek.bsky.social>

Website

Our website is at <https://climateactionmerribek.org/>

In the 12 months to June 30, 2026, we published 55 blogposts, including 2 which received over 1000 views each). Total views were 23,683, Most were referrals from Facebook, followed by Google Search.

We have set up new pages for the 2026 state election, plus added the following new menu items: Sustainable Living, Campaigns, and Advocacy.

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, May 2025 and May 2026.

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 \$130.90 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.

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.

Climate for Change - We share stalls, survey questions, MP engagement resources

ACF Community Melbourne NxNW - We share stalls, support each other's campaigns eg forests, National Parks, letter-writing

NUCA (Neighbours United for Climate Action) - We support NUCA's website which promotes many local climate groups; share NUCA's resources (such as Humanitix) and networks.

Inclusive and Sustainable Communities Working Group - We learn from locals in the north of the Municipality and offer CAM's support

Specific campaigns:

No Waste incineration

We have been working with groups opposing waste incineration at Wollert and Sunbury. We participated in the Parliamentary Inquiry into the development and expansion of waste-to-energy (WtE) infrastructure in Victoria. We campaigned on No Waste Incinerators at community events and the Climate Convergence. More details on the [campaign page](#).



Public Transport

We campaign for improved bus services in Merri-bek. We have in the main taken a route-by-route approach, campaigning particularly for improved bus services on routes 506, 508, 526 and 534. Our campaigns have led to upgrades. We also campaign for improved bus services in Fawkner, including a new footbridge to provide access to Reservoir buses. More details on our [bus campaign page](#), plus our [advocacy page](#).

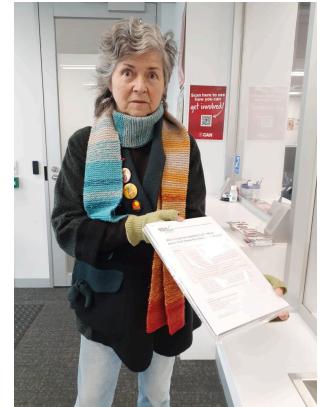


We have worked with other local activists on rebooting the Upgrade Upfield Train Line campaign. This includes the development of a new website. More details on [the campaign page](#).

Advocacy to Peter Khalil, federal MP for Wills

We joined with other climate groups to protest gas and coal approvals, especially the NorthWest Shelf. We made a submission against Northwest Shelf approval. We participated in Vigil to End Fossil Fuels outside Peter Khalil's office every Tuesday from June 3rd 2025 to June 2nd 2026 (with a break over the holiday season). We called for stronger emissions

targets in 2025. We welcomed Australia signing the Belem Declaration for a “just orderly and equitable” transition from fossil fuels, and welcomed the Santa Marta conference on the transition. We met with Peter Khalil twice to call for stronger action and delivered letters including 99 letters from constituents calling for stronger action. More details on our [campaign page](#).



Communities for climate compensation

Members of CAM attended [Tipping Point](#) (Friends of the Earth and 350 Australia) training webinars on the ‘Make the Big Polluters Pay’ campaign and helped form a local group Merri-bek for Climate Compensation. The campaign aims to have local governments pass motions to advocate to federal government for a levy on the big fossil fuel polluters.

The levy would feed into a fund to support local councils and communities cope with the costs of climate change impacts and building resilience. The group has around 10 active members, an active [petition](#) with plans to continue using the survey and the petition at events during 2026. Merri-bek Council received the campaign well, but were limited by governance in the wording of the motion, which asked instead for a report due this month. More about the campaign [here](#).



Household waste

In 2026 we advocated for fortnightly rubbish collection in Merri-bek to reduce waste to landfill. This included meeting with Council officers and councillors, plus writing blogposts with a solutions orientation. See [here](#) and [here](#). Some of our suggested solutions were taken up in the motion to Council.

Affordable, renewable energy for all

One of the working groups organised in 2026 is focussing on affordable, renewable energy and implications for policy at a state level. The team has been networking in this area and organising a public forum for 26th August, which aims to:

- help people gain access to affordable and renewable energy now, especially those who face barriers eg through low income, language barriers, lack of familiarity with technology, renters
- Identify what more needs to be done and what the policy implications are, for advocacy and follow up

State election campaign

In 2026, we are campaigning on climate issues for the state election, to be held on November 28. Our campaign groups are:

- *No waste incinerators, circular economy, waste generally:*
- *Better buses*
- *Upfield Line improvements:*
- *Affordable Renewable Energy for all*

Submissions

We participated in the Parliamentary Inquiry on The development and expansion of waste-to-energy (WtE) infrastructure in Victoria. We resubmitted an earlier [submission](#) written by John Englart

Climate Action Merri-bek endorsements

Open letter on Victoria's Electoral Laws

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vISZQmWSNq0rLv7pChf8WtV_F2jR8UdSAh9s12MOi9U/edit May 2026

Submission on Road Map to halt and reverse Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030 (Coalition for Climate Ambition) March 2026

Joint statement on EPBC reforms from Lock the Gate and ECNT

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xcKlyU85jkHYS4IOBqB0NV5F6DNJInlqwEv0Od4jwY/edit> November 2025

Festivals and Stalls

Climate Action Merri-bek participated in the following Merri-bek festivals and events:

- Fawkner Festa - focus on transport. Gathered many postcards for the minister in spite of the downpour.
- Sydney Road Street Party - focus on PT, fossil fuel letters for Khalil
- Glenroy Festival - focus on incinerators, PT
- Environment Day for Multicultural Communities - focus on Fawkner public transport survey and post cards to the Transport Minister

We also had a stall at the Victorian Climate Convergence focussing on the incinerator issue, which had been largely overlooked by NGOs; and the Degrowth Festival, focussing on the phase out of fossil fuels (petition).



Engagement with Merri-bek Council

Speaking at Council meetings

Climate Action Merri-bek members regularly ask questions and make statements at Council meetings. These include:

- August 2025: Designated parking for shared e-bikes in Merri-bek.
- August 2025: Honouring John Englart
- September 2025: State Election Advocacy Priorities: Request to include road safety on Sydney Road between O'Hea Street and Boundary Road.
- October 2025: Request for update on Council advocacy for the Fawkner and Newlands area bus routes.
- October 2025: Bus Shelter Program in Merri-bek: request to also include seating and include in budget.
- November 2025 and December 2025: Statement on retaining the former Coburg North TAFE site for skills, innovation and job creation.
- December 2025: Upgrading Lygon Street, plus seating along Sydney Road
- February 2026: Request for Council to publish quarterly reports of road trauma for fatalities and serious injuries in a similar manner to Yarra Council
- February 2026: Statement on Council support for community during extreme heat
- March 2026: Statement on adding seats and shelters to more bus stops in the City of Merri-bek
- March 2026: Statement on Visible Solar Energy Systems in Heritage Overlay
- May 2026: Statement on Festivals Program Refresh
- May 2026: Statement on Merri-bek Community Awards - naming Environmental Sustainability Award after John Englart
- May 2026: Statement on Footbridge across Merri-Creek in southern Fawkner
- May 2026: Statement on Council supporting Climate compensation
- June 2026: Two statements in support of Kerbside Waste Reform - Fortnightly Rubbish Collection
- June 2026: Statement on Places for People Plan

- June 2026: Questions on plans to improve road safety in Glenroy Pascoe Vale Road Activity Centre

Meetings with Council / Workshops

We met with Council officers and participated in workshops including:

- Outreach (Sarah Hussein's role) with Donna Luckman and Sarah. Maggie Cowling and Ian Mack
- Meeting with household waste team
- Coburg Vision (Council)
- Coburg Activity Centre (with Planning Minister)
- Inclusion and Sustainability Meeting in Fawkner in May - Maggie Cowling
- Civic Participation in Fawkner (June)
- Urban Heat Forum - several participated plus Maggie facilitated
- Democracy Lab Networking (June)

Council Advisory Committees and Reference Groups

CAM members are members of the Merri-bek Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Advisory Committee and the Strategic Transport Reference Group
Val and Andrea

State election Strategy Meetings

We held two state election strategy meetings - the first facilitated by Leigh Ewbank and the second by Maggie Cowling - from which we formed working groups and a rough timeline.

Financial Statement

Climate Action Merri-bek Profit/loss statement 1/7/2025 to 30/6/2026		
	Expenses	Item totals
Memberships		
CANA	\$126.50	\$126.50
Public Liability Insurance 12 months from 3/3/26	\$549.31	\$549.31
Consumer Affairs lodgement	\$49.00	\$49.00
Comms Outreach resources		
Zoom	\$246.29	
Wordpress email	\$133.94	
A-Frame sign	59.49	
Survey Monkey subscription	349.09	\$788.81
Festivals - Merri-bek CC		
Sydney Rd street party stall hire	\$247.50	\$247.50
Community Support	\$198.00	\$198.00
Printing Costs	\$623.23	\$623.23
Venue Hire	\$200.00	\$200.00
Catering	\$281.49	\$281.49
Unspent Grant returned	\$61.46	\$61.46
Total		\$3125.30
Revenue	Income	
Council Grants*	\$6000	
Donations from members	\$725	
Total		\$6725.00
Bank Balance at 1/7/2025		\$1553.21
Expenses		-\$3125.30
Revenue		\$6725.00
Bank Balance at 30/6/2026		\$5152.91

I certify that Climate Action Merri-bek's purpose was carried out in accordance with the Agreement with Merri-bek City Council.

* This period includes the payment of the 25/26FY Council grant AND the payment of the 26/27 grant.

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

Pauline Galvin

Authorised officer, Climate Action Merri-bek Inc