



Annual report

2024-25

This decisive decade demands action:
bold, strategic and enforceable.



We acknowledge the Awabakal, Bunurong, Gadigal, Larrakia, melukerdee, Ngambri, Ngunnawal, punnilerpanner, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri peoples, the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our team lives and where the EJA office is located. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise that sovereignty has never been ceded. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The legal system has played a big role in establishing, entrenching and continuing the oppression and injustice experienced by First Nations peoples. At the same time, it has also been a tool of resistance and a framework for advancing First Nations justice.

At EJA, we know environmental justice is inseparable from First Nations justice. Protecting nature and caring for Country depend on the rights, knowledge and leadership of the First Peoples of this continent. We are committed to working alongside First Nations communities to use and reshape the law in ways that uphold self-determination and create just outcomes for people and Country.

WARNING: This document may contain images or names of people who have passed away

Using the law for a radically better world – cutting through political gridlock and forcing corporate accountability.





“The stakes have never been higher. That’s why we represent frontline communities challenging destruction, defending our climate, and driving environmental justice.”

— Nicola Rivers, EJA Co-CEO

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CEOS



This year, together with our courageous clients, donors and supporters, we have continued to achieve tremendous impact for climate, nature and justice. From courtrooms to communities, our work has shown how the law can be a powerful circuit breaker: a tool to protect communities, amplify truth, and force accountability.

We are proud to have supported our clients defending water in the Beetaloo Basin and Namoi; taking Generation Justice's human rights case to the UN; challenging destructive logging and land clearing; and supporting First Nations communities standing strong for Country. Each of these matters is a reminder of what can be won when people stand together for justice.

This work takes place against a backdrop of real challenges. Around Australia, we have seen a rise in intimidating legal tactics designed to bury everyday people, scientists and advocates in costly, draining litigation. This legal bullying strikes at the heart of democracy – chilling dissent, stifling scrutiny and shielding corporate interests. It is a reminder of why EJA's mission matters, and why we continue to push for stronger legal protections that safeguard the public's right to speak out.

This financial year has also been a critical period in Australia's national story. We ended the last term with Labor's re-election and the appointment of a new Environment Minister. Deadlines for stronger national climate targets and long-promised reforms to nature laws have loomed – but too often, our leaders seemed unwilling to prioritise them. All the while, fossil fuel projects were being green-lit and expanded, deepening the very crises we need to urgently resolve.

Through times like these, we are reminded that Environmental Justice Australia's north star remains unchanged: a radically better world. This means a healthy planet, thriving communities, and a legal system with justice at its heart.

Why radically better? Because the challenges we face are vast, and just a little better will never be enough.

To shift course quickly and equitably, we must grab hold of the levers that can transform the systems driving destruction. This is why, in 2025, we are focused on three key areas: nature, climate and justice.

Climate: From defending water in the Beetaloo Basin and Namoi region, to taking Generation Justice's human rights case to the UN, our climate team has acted for clients to take on the biggest drivers of climate harm.

Nature: From Tasmania to the Top End, our lawyers and their incredible clients have fought to stop destructive logging and land clearing, challenged failures to protect threatened species, and pushed for stronger laws to stem Australia's deforestation crisis.

Justice: Across the continent, we have supported First Nations communities defending sacred Country, advancing cultural water rights, and standing against racism and exclusion – ensuring the law serves as a pathway to justice, not a barrier.

Personally, this work has been powered by love for our kids, our communities, and the beautiful natural places we hold dear. We've been inspired by the bravery of people persisting against Goliaths, by barristers and law firms giving their services pro bono, by students volunteering their time, and by the extraordinary generosity of people who believe in our mission. Your support drives us each day.

The law can be technical and complex. But in EJA's hands, it is also a lever, a shield, and a bridge – holding decision-makers to account, breaking corporate impunity, and connecting communities with the justice they deserve.

Together, we are building the foundations for justice, for people and for the planet.

Elizabeth McKinnon and Nicola Rivers
Co-CEOs, Environmental Justice Australia

“We are proud to work on the most pressing issues of our time – supporting communities to hold governments and corporations to account like never before.”

— Elizabeth McKinnon, EJA Co-CEO

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

It has been another year of growth and strength for Environmental Justice Australia. In a time when communities, ecosystems and future generations face immense challenges, EJA continues to prove that a small organisation with deep expertise and determination can have an outsized impact.

In Australia, fossil fuel expansion presses on, nature remains under extraordinary pressure, and communities are routinely cut out of decision-making. Against this backdrop, EJA's role is clearer and more necessary than ever.

What gives me confidence in this critical moment is the strength of this organisation. The EJA team, led by Elizabeth and Nicola, has grown in capacity, skill and reach – building specialist programs, attracting and retaining talented staff, and providing high quality legal services to clients across the continent.

The Board has also gone from strength to strength – focussing this year on financial sustainability, best practice governance and increasing diversity at a Board level, so that we better reflect the communities we serve.

Under a new strategic plan, the legal expertise that EJA brings to the frontline is now backed by stronger communications,

deeper partnerships, and a renewed commitment to First Nations justice. We were also happy to have made a formal Treaty Pledge: a commitment to walk alongside the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and support the journey to Treaty, here in the place now called Victoria, where our head office is based.

None of this is possible without the broader EJA community. From the barristers and firms who give their services pro bono, to the volunteers who dedicate their time, to the members, donors and philanthropic partners who believe in a better world, your support sustains and strengthens this work.

As Chair, I am proud to see EJA holding governments and corporations accountable, and demonstrating what community-powered legal action can achieve.

With the law as our lever, and justice as our compass, this organisation is making a tangible difference, and building the foundations for long-term change.

Tony Kelly
Board Chair





Who we are

We are a national public interest legal organisation using a unique combination of law and advocacy to deliver environmental justice for generations to come.

Our team of lawyers, campaigners and specialists run landmark court cases, high-stakes interventions and informative campaigns – standing shoulder to shoulder with the communities we serve.

Our work is powered by the courageous and visionary EJA community: clients who step up to defend Country, members, donors and supporters who make the work possible, and the volunteers and partners who share their time and expertise.

Together, we are shifting the balance of power towards people and planet.

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

Environmental harm does not fall evenly. Communities already facing disadvantage are often those most exposed to pollution, climate impacts and the destruction of nature.

Meanwhile, the law too often privileges those with the deepest pockets and denies a voice to those most affected, including nature itself.

Environmental justice means fair treatment and meaningful involvement for all people in environmental decision-making, regardless of race, culture, wealth or postcode.

It means laws that protect the living world and empower communities, so that caring for Country is a shared responsibility and a shared benefit.

Our vision

A radically better world – a safe and healthy planet and thriving communities, served by a legal system with justice at its heart.

Our mission

We support clients and communities to use the legal system for a healthy and liveable planet and radically better future.

How we work

The law is a circuit breaker. It can hold the powerful to account, disrupt systems driving destruction, and open pathways to justice.

We make the biggest impact by:

- **Engaging the public** in climate, nature and justice issues that affect their lives.
- **Standing alongside communities** to use democratic and legal processes to defend their rights and protect Country.
- **Running community-powered legal action**, strategic litigation and bold advocacy to secure stronger laws for a safe climate, thriving nature and healthy communities.

Desired outcomes

Communities are empowered as active agents of change for people and planet.

Laws and policies protect, regenerate and sustain nature, climate and communities.

Governments and corporations act with accountability, reducing harm and upholding justice.

Stronger, fairer legal frameworks embed environmental justice at the heart of decision-making.

Our ultimate goals

Australia is decarbonising as quickly, safely and equitably as possible

Complex ecosystems are thriving and First Nations communities' stewardship of Country is legally recognised and respected.



Climate

Taking on the biggest drivers of climate damage

While the world pushes for climate solutions, Australia remains one of the largest fossil fuel exporters on the planet.

Yet governments continue to approve and expand coal and gas projects, ignoring both the science and the communities most affected.

For a safe climate and equitable society, we represent frontline communities to use the law for a safe climate, focusing on:

- **Integrity** in fossil fuel decision-making – so climate and environmental harms cannot be ignored.
- **Accountability** for fossil fuel emissions – ensuring all emissions are properly counted, with no false solutions or loopholes.
- **Responsibility** – making sure those fuelling climate damage and driving injustice are held to account.

Our cases, legal advocacy and investigations are reshaping how governments and corporations must account for climate and environmental harm, and laying the foundations for a safe and fair tomorrow.

CLIMATE HIGHLIGHTS

01

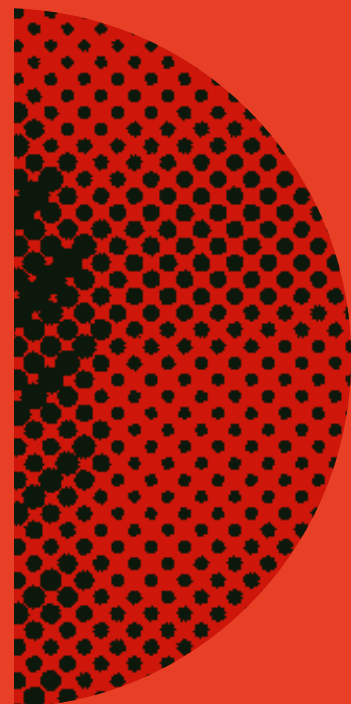
Supporting nine courageous young people with a complaint to the **UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change** to challenge Australia's role in fuelling the climate crisis.

02

Using the EPBC Act "Water Trigger" on behalf of Lock the Gate in the Federal Court to defend precious groundwater in the **Beetaloo Basin from fracking.**

03

Representing the Mullaley Gas & Pipeline Accord in a Federal Court EPBC Act "water trigger" challenge to the **Narrabri Gas Pipeline in NSW.**





GENERATION JUSTICE: YOUNG AUSTRALIANS TAKE THEIR CASE TO THE UN

In April, nine young Australians lodged a human rights complaint with the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Climate Change, represented by Environmental Justice Australia.

Calling themselves Generation Justice, the group argues the Australian government's failure to act urgently on climate change is violating their fundamental rights to life, health, culture and a healthy environment. Their complaint details how weak climate targets, fossil fuel expansion and billions in subsidies breach international human rights obligations – and calls for global pressure on Australia to protect young people's futures.

From First Nations cultural loss to climate anxiety, their stories reveal the lived reality of a generation on the frontline of the crisis. As Australia lacks a national Human Rights Act, they are seeking accountability through international law.

“Climate change is already impacting my life. I believe the Australian government's inaction is holding my generation back from the future we deserve.”

— Chris Black, 18, Generation Justice



ADVOCATING FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE IN SOCIAL HOUSING

In November, EJA's climate lawyers launched a landmark report highlighting how climate change is compounding existing inequalities for social housing communities.

Extreme heat is now Victoria's deadliest climate-related disaster. Yet too many people are forced to endure unsafe, heat-trapping homes – a daily injustice that falls hardest on people with disabilities, First Nations people, older adults, women and children.

EJA's climate lawyers have been pushing for systemic reform at the intersection of climate science, tenancy law, housing standards and human rights protections. By addressing these gaps in the law, lawyers and frontline communities are pushing for homes that are resilient to a warming climate – ensuring every person has the dignity, safety and security they deserve.

COMMUNITY FIGHT FOR VITAL WATER IN NSW FROM A COAL SEAM GAS PIPELINE

In June, the volunteer group Mullaley Gas & Pipeline Accord (MGPA) launched a Federal Court challenge to the Narrabri Lateral Pipeline – infrastructure designed to connect Santos' 850 coal seam gas wells to Australia's east coast market. Represented by Environmental Justice Australia, MGPA argues the Environment Minister failed to apply the "water trigger" when assessing the pipeline, despite its potential impacts on rivers, groundwater and the Great Artesian Basin.

Our client maintains that the pipeline is not a side project but essential to the Narrabri Gas Project, and that its risks to water must be rigorously scrutinised under national environmental law. This case shines a light on the importance of strong safeguards and on the determination of communities to defend the lifeblood of their region: clean, reliable water.

“The climate crisis is also a housing crisis.

As temperatures rise and heatwaves become more frequent, social housing is becoming a ‘hotbed’ of complex and intertwining issues for tenants and their communities”

– Ashika Kanhai, **EJA lawyer**

PROTECTING NORTHERN TERRITORY WATER FROM FRACKING

In late June, EJA lawyers commenced a landmark Federal Court case on behalf of Lock the Gate challenging Tamboran B2's Shenandoah South fracking project in the Beetaloo Basin – a development near the culturally and ecologically significant Lake Woods. The grassroots group argues the project is likely to contaminate groundwater and must be assessed under Australia's national environment laws.

This is the first-ever legal challenge under the expanded “water trigger”, a safeguard designed to ensure unconventional gas projects cannot proceed without rigorous federal scrutiny of their impacts on water. By bringing this case, our client seeks to hold Tamboran B2 to account – and make sure our federal law does its job of protecting Northern Territory water and the communities who rely on it.

“We are pursuing this case because we believe Tamboran’s fracking project is likely to contaminate precious groundwater in the Northern Territory and we want Australia’s national environmental law applied... **Protection of water resources is of the utmost importance.**”

— Georgina Woods, **Lock the Gate**



Nature

Defending vital ecosystems on the brink of collapse

Our planet is hurtling towards mass extinction, with scientists warning that up to 70% of all species could disappear this century.

Yet across Australia, forests, bushland and wetlands continue to be bulldozed, drained and destroyed at alarming rates. Weak laws, loopholes and political inaction are accelerating the crisis.

For people and nature to thrive, we represent communities caring for country and safeguarding vital ecosystems – from the Murray-Darling Basin to Mountain Ash forests to tropical savanna woodlands across the Top End. On their behalf, we:

- **Scrutinise industries** – challenging logging, agribusiness and other drivers of destruction where they fail to meet the law.
- **Hold governments to account** – using the law to ensure ministers and regulators enforce protections and stop greenlighting damage.
- **Secure stronger laws** – closing loopholes, strengthening protections, and ensuring existing laws are applied.

Our clients' strategic litigation has contributed to landmark wins, including the announcement of the end of native forest logging in Victoria. We've gone to court to expose government failures to protect threatened species, challenged destructive engineering projects in fragile floodplains, and defended world-renowned savanna from bulldozers.

NATURE HIGHLIGHTS

01

Taking the Australian government to court on behalf of the Wilderness Society, challenging the failure of successive Environment Ministers to make **recovery plans for wildlife on the brink of extinction.**

02

For Friends of Nyah Vinifera Park, we challenged a government “water offset” project that would build levees and pumps in **fragile floodplains along the Murray River.**

03

Supporting the Environment Centre NT in their push for federal government action against **land clearing at Claravale, protecting one of the last intact savannas on Earth.**

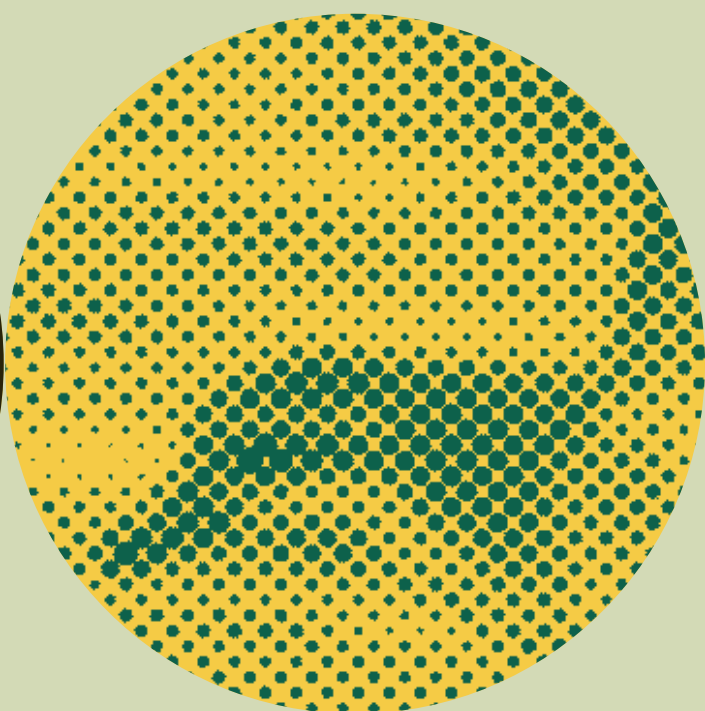
“For decades,
government has failed
to make **recovery**
plans for hundreds of
threatened species in
dire need of better care.”

– Amelia Young,
The Wilderness Society



04

In court challenging
a decades-old
“zombie” permit for
logging on private
land in Victoria –
while scrutinising
Tasmanian native
forest logs being
shipped across
Bass Strait.



“The Murray River can’t speak for itself, so we’re going to court to protect it.”

— Jacquie Kelly, Friends of Nyah Vinifera Park

IN COURT TO COMPEL THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER TO PROTECT THREATENED SPECIES

In March, the Wilderness Society, represented by EJA, filed a Federal Court case against the Environment Minister for failing to prepare legally required recovery plans for threatened species. These plans are like rescue roadmaps, identifying critical habitat, outlining threats, and guiding government decisions to pull species back from the brink. Yet successive ministers have neglected this duty, leaving hundreds of species without the protections they urgently need.


Our client hopes this case will set a precedent, compelling the federal government (now and into the future) to ensure recovery plans are put in place and direct future decisions. Our client says Australia’s extinction crisis demands immediate action, not delay, and hopes this case will help turn the tide for species like the greater glider, ghost bat and Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle.

PROTECTING FRAGILE MURRAY FLOODPLAINS

In April, Friends of Nyah Vinifera Park, represented by EJA, challenged federal approval of a massive engineering project on fragile Murray River floodplains in northern Victoria. The plan would construct levees, regulators and pumps to artificially flood some areas while depriving others – a shortcut designed to avoid returning real water to the river system. Our client argues this project is unlawful, and are concerned that it will be locally damaging and undermine the health of one of the Basin’s most important ecosystems.

This is the first court case to test projects designed to “offset” environmental water recovery under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. If successful, it could force governments to reconsider damaging engineering works. Our clients argue that they should instead deliver natural environmental flows that wetlands, red gums and birdlife need to survive. For Traditional Owners and local communities, it’s about restoring a living river system, not building more concrete walls.



A photograph of three people walking on a dirt path through a dense forest. On the left, a man in a dark jacket and khaki pants walks towards the camera. In the center, a woman in a light-colored puffer jacket and dark pants walks away from the camera. On the right, a man in a blue and white checkered shirt and khaki pants walks towards the camera. The forest is lush with green foliage and tall trees.

“Allowing the use of 50-year-old zombie permits undermines public trust in Victoria’s commitment to lasting forest protection.”

— Steve Meacher, **WOTCH** volunteer

BULLDOZERS IN THE SAVANNA

This year, the Environment Centre NT, supported by EJA, demanded federal scrutiny of plans to bulldoze nearly 7,000 hectares of Daly River savanna woodlands at Claravale Station and Claravale Farm. These savannas are among the last intact ecosystems of their kind on Earth, home to threatened species including the ghost bat and freshwater sawfish and cared for by Traditional Owners for millennia. Following sustained community pressure, in July the owners of Claravale Station had their plans to bulldoze nearly 3,300 hectares of critical ghost bat habitat at Claravale Station suspended.

By exposing this systemic failure, our client is putting a spotlight on both NT government approvals and federal inaction. Bulldozing at Claravale would destroy habitat, scar country and risk worsening the extinction crisis. Our client is calling on the federal Environment Minister to use their powers and hopes to protect the savanna before it is gone forever.

CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO END NATIVE FOREST LOGGING

Even after Victoria officially ended native forest logging in 2024, community groups continue to uncover loopholes threatening species survival. EJA is representing Wildlife of the Central Highlands (WOTCH) in a case against logging in the Central Highlands under a 1977 “zombie” permit – an outdated approval relied on for industrial logging without proper scrutiny. This case is about using Victoria’s strengthened biodiversity laws and giving threatened species the protection they’re entitled to – regardless of property boundaries.

Alongside this work, EJA gave evidence to a Senate Select Committee, which exposed federal subsidies funnelling millions to export Tasmanian native forests to mainland mills, undermining Victoria’s transition to plantations and continuing the destruction of habitat for masked owls, swift parrots and wedge-tailed eagles. Together, these matters show that while governments celebrate progress, the reality on the ground tells another story. We will keep supporting the communities stepping up to demand accountability.

Justice

Strengthening rights and protections

Too many communities bear the brunt of environmental harm yet are shut out of decision-making.

The law can silence and dispossess. But it can also acknowledge rights and deliver justice.

For justice and self-determination, we represent First Nations people and frontline communities using legal avenues to:

- **Back First Nations communities** caring for Country in line with their priorities.
- **Challenge legal barriers** to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agency and environmental governance.
- **Secure justice**, ensuring communities experiencing harm and discrimination can access remedy.
- **Strengthen protections**, driving reforms to remove systemic barriers and enforce rights.

We've provided pro bono support to a Traditional Owner fighting to protect sacred Larrakia Country at Binybara/Lee Point. We've worked with Traditional Owners seeking to pursue cultural water rights along the Murray. And we've supported Traditional Owners seeking robust and transparent consultation over offshore oil and gas on Sea Country in Victoria. This is reshaping laws, strengthening rights, and making sure communities most affected by harm have the power to care for their lands, waters and futures.

JUSTICE HIGHLIGHTS

01

Assisting Larrakia Elder Tibby Quall to stop **land clearing at Binybara/Lee Point** – and securing recognition of Traditional Owners as legal owners of cultural artefacts under NT law.

02

Representing the Taungurung Land and Waters Council to challenge a private hydro scheme on the **Rubicon River**, protecting its **flow and cultural and ecological values**.

03

Yorta Yorta woman Monica Morgan, represented by EJA, used Victoria's laws to successfully argue she had been **racially vilified** – a historic precedent for **justice and accountability**.

PROTECTING SACRED LAND AT BINYBARA/LEE POINT

In June, a Northern Territory Tribunal ordered land clearing to stop at Binybara/Lee Point in Darwin, granting urgent protection to a place of deep cultural and ecological significance. Senior Larrakia elder Tibby Quall, represented by EJA, challenged the government's failure to consult him and recognise the cultural objects found on the land to be of heritage significance. The Tribunal found the process was flawed and, for the first time, recognised Traditional Owners as legal owners of cultural objects under the Territory's Heritage Act.

This is a landmark step to protect Binybara, where Defence Housing Australia has already bulldozed sacred woodland and habitat for threatened species. The Tribunal's decision ensures no further destruction can occur while Mr Quall's case proceeds – a critical reprieve in the fight to protect Larrakia Country.

“An acknowledgment like this from the Tribunal is really strong. **Our culture and this case will remain, for our children in the future, their children, they will have something.**”

— Tibby Quall, Senior Larrakia Elder



STANDING AGAINST RACIAL VILIFICATION

Monica Morgan, a widely known and respected senior member of the Yorta Yorta Nation, successfully argued in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) that she had been racially vilified by a feral horse preservation group. This is the first time a First Nations person in Victoria has used the state's laws to successfully argue they had been racially vilified.

Morgan, represented by EJA, said she had been subjected to years of bullying and intimidation from the Barmah Brumby Preservation Group over Yorta Yorta Nation support of government policy to remove feral horses from Barmah National Park.

VCAT declared that the group had racially vilified Morgan in contravention of the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 (Vic), ordering an apology and the removal of racist material. This outcome sends a powerful message: racial vilification is a form of violence, and communities have the right to demand justice.

DEFENDING THE RUBICON RIVER

In Victoria's high country, EJA represented the Taungurung Land and Waters Council in a successful challenge to a water licence for a private hydro scheme that seeks to dam and divert the Rubicon River. VCAT agreed the licence issued by Goulburn-Murray Water was unlawful and the water licence decision needs to be remade in order to comply with Victoria's water laws. Taungurung Land and Waters Council's challenge affirms the importance of careful scrutiny over the use of ecologically healthy and culturally significant waterways.

For Taungurung people, the Rubicon is part of a broader cultural landscape with deep ancestral significance. On behalf of our client, EJA argued that diverting its flow in the manner described in the now invalidated water licence would have caused serious cultural and ecological harm. This case highlights broader questions about who benefits from public rivers, and whether private gain should come at the cost of Country, culture and the environment.

“This decision is a small victory that shows the white legal system can sometimes acknowledge the detrimental harm of the society it represents. **The system is stacked against us but this time it has worked. It's important our mob know they can utilise this.**”

— Monica Morgan, **senior Yorta Yorta woman**



**“Taungurung people
have cared for this
Country for 1000
generations.”**

— Matthew Burns,
Taungurung Land and Waters
Council

Our people

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Charley Brumby-Rendell
Climate Co-Lead & Senior
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Tessa Fluence
Head of Public
Engagement



Danya Jacobs
Special Counsel



Bruce Lindsay
Justice Lead & Senior
Specialist Lawyer



Ellen Maybery
Nature Co-Lead & Senior
Specialist Lawyer



Ally McAlpine
Justice Lead (from
February) & Senior
Specialist Lawyer



Jane Quinlan
Nature Co-Lead & Senior
Specialist Lawyer
(from April)



Inshani Ward
Special Counsel
(from May)



Emma Wills
Head of Fundraising

Reconciliation Action Plan

We delivered the second year of our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, which is accessible to the public via www.envirojustice.org.au/reconciliation-action-plan

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

We made a formal Treaty Pledge in support of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, which you can find here: www.envirojustice.org.au/legal-work/first-nations-justice/ejas-treaty-pledge.

We further developed our First Nations Engagement Framework to include legal matter checklists and cultural competency expectations.

We built new relationships with First Nations clients through our First Nations program and supported them with issues as diverse as rights to Country in offshore petroleum developments, protection of totemic species, legal avenues to protect Country under cultural heritage legislation, and water rights and cultural flows.

We provided a number of community legal education workshops with a Traditional Owner group and scoped an innovative legal project with an Aboriginal-led organisation.

We consulted with advisor Brooke Scobie to launch our cultural competency framework, which is now integrated with our performance review process.



Photo: Travis Lovett, Deputy Chair and Commissioner of the Yoorrook Justice Commission, addresses crowd on day one of the Walk for Truth at the site of the Convincing Ground massacre, Gunditjmara Country.



Artwork: 'Wangi nga Ngauwingi (The Crow and the Sun)'; 2015, by Brendan Kennedy.

RESPECT

We registered and held National Reconciliation Week events, including a Wurundjeri-led walk to Dights Falls. Many thanks to Joe Costello and Jack George for being our guides.

We continued to include Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country protocols at events and meetings, including at the launch of EJA's Strategic Plan in February 2025.

Staff participated in the Walk for Truth at locations from Portland to Parliament, supporting the Yoorrook Justice Commission Deputy-Chair Travis Lovett.

OPPORTUNITIES

We offered four First Nations internships this year, including to a communications student for the first time. One of our interns has been hired as a part-time paralegal while she continues her legal studies. Many thanks to Dakota, Elisha, Kirra and Tamika for your contribution to EJA.

We started a new internal discussion group for staff to share insights around allyship and First Nations engagement. This is also a forum for us to challenge and improve the ways we operate as an organisation.

We have expanded the training available to staff on culturally appropriate communication and identification practices, First Nations data sovereignty and working with First Nations clients.

We continued to support Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network through a grant and workplace giving, as our way of paying the rent.

We thank Brooke Scobie and Clint Lingard for their continued support as our First Nations advisers in our RAP Working Group.

Our Supporters

We are proudly powered by the generosity of committed, visionary individuals and collectives who believe in using the law to create a radically better world. We wish to gratefully thank all our members, donors, supporters, volunteers and communities.

Your unyielding generosity is the backbone to our independence and our ability to challenge the overarching systems driving destruction.

We are funded by the community, for the community. Below we acknowledge those who contributed \$10,000 or more this year, as well as the many others who chose to remain anonymous.

ACME Foundation

Alexandra Seddon

Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation

Australian Ethical Foundation

B B & A Miller Foundation

Bluesand Foundation

Bob and Bronwyn Baird

Katherine Barraclough and Ashu Jhamb

FAIRGROUND

Five Bucks

Gayle Osborne

Graeme Wood Foundation

Gum Tree Foundation

Harvey Family

Height Morris Foundation

Highgate Foundation, a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation

Isaacson Davis Foundation

James N. Kirby Foundation

Koshland Innovation Extension Fund, a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

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Perpetual Foundation – Jenny and Michael's Sharing Hope Endowment

Vicki Perrett

PMF Foundation

Pool of Dreams Foundation

Southcoast Foundation

Spinifex

The Aranday Foundation

The Bowden Marstan Foundation

The Coalition (Solutions)

TREE – The Regenerative Empowering Earth Fund

Vermilion Foundation

Victoria Legal Aid

Victorian Legal Services Board Grant Program

Wartook Foundation

A gift in your Will for a radically better world

Leaving a gift in your Will is a powerful reflection of your lifetime values and one of the most meaningful ways to protect our environment and the communities who depend on it.

It's a lasting act of care – a way to stand with nature, uphold justice and defend the places you love, for generations to come.

A gift in a Will to EJA will help protect Australia's unique plants and animals, cut the pollution that causes climate change and ensure future generations can enjoy our home as much as we do.

Thank you to our supporters who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy with a gift in their Will.

You can use this suggested wording to include Environmental Justice Australia in your Will. We recommend seeking independent legal advice to ensure your wishes are carried out exactly as you intend.

'I give to Environment Justice Australia (ABN: 74 052 124 375) of 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, VIC 3053, for general purposes, [the whole/residue of my estate] or [...% of my estate] or [the sum of \$....] or [specified property....] free of all debts, duties or taxes and declare that the receipt of an authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge for my executor(s).'

If you have left a gift to EJA in your Will, please let us know. It helps us plan for the future and gives us the opportunity to thank you.

Pro bono and in-kind support

We are deeply grateful to the fierce barristers, legal firms and partners who stood beside our clients this year, offering their expertise pro bono or at greatly reduced rates. Your skill and commitment have added enormous strength to our cases, and shown what solidarity in the law can achieve.

Tiphanie Acreman

Angel Aleksov

Greg Barnes SC

Nicholas Baum

Dr Ashleigh Best

John Birrell

Jamie Blaker

Tomo Boston KC

Nick Boyd-Caine

Susan Brennan SC

Zoe Bush

Adam Chernok

Luke Chircop

Patrick Coleridge

Mark Costello KC

Ella Delany

Marcel Delany

Hannah Douglas

Henry El-Hage

Tom Ellicott

Adrian Finanzio SC

Sarala Fitzgerald

Catherine Gleeson SC

Timothy Goodwin

Gabrielle Guthrie

Peter Hanks KC

Jim Hartley

Eric Heenan SC

Louise Hicks

Laura Hilly

Hive Legal

Veronica Holt

Our heartfelt thanks also go to the many law students and recent graduates who volunteered and interned with us. Your energy, ideas and hard work have been invaluable in powering our legal teams and keeping this movement for justice strong.

Tara Hooper

James Hutton SC

Melinda Jackson

Ben Kelly

King & Wood Mallesons

Richard Knowles SC

Lander & Rogers

Clare Langford

Legal Ready

Brendan Lim

Maddocks

Jack Maxwell

Dan McCredden

Sophie Molyneux

Maya Narayan

Emrys Nekvapil SC

Minh-Quan Nguyen

Stephen O'Connell

Kateena O'Gorman SC

Suganya Pathan

Kim Pham

Tom Pontré

Daniel Robinson

Dr Laura Schuijers

Angus Scott KC

Nick Tweedie SC

Rupert Watters

Kylie Weston-Scheuber

Celia Winnett

Wotton Kearney

Jordan Wright



General statement on financials

In 2024–2025, Environmental Justice Australia realised a deficit of \$836,789 (2024: deficit of \$311,620) which was an improvement on what was budgeted. We were still spending income received in the 2022–2023 year which was committed to multi-year projects.

Total income achieved was \$5,016,000 and comprised grants, donations, and smaller amounts of Victorian government community legal centre funding, legal income and income from interest and investments.

Thanks to the ongoing generosity and belief of our valued members and donors, the total value of donations grew 12% from \$1.84m to \$2.05m and represented 42% of total revenue in 2024–2025.

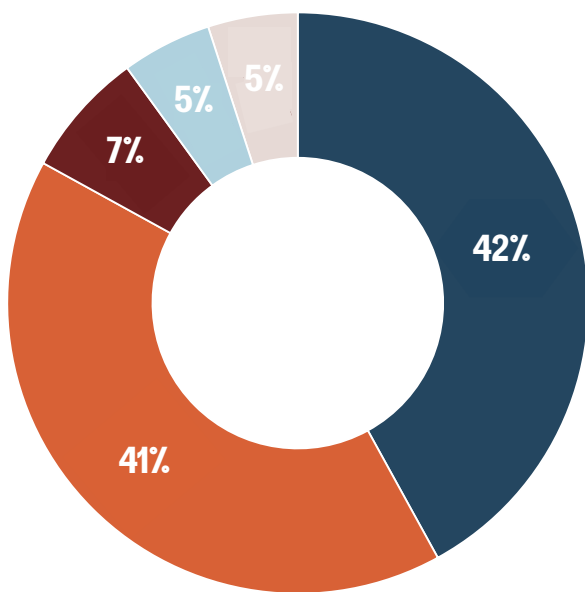
Grants received from Trusts and Foundations dropped from \$2.6m to \$2.1m and were primarily due to the delayed receipt of a grant. State government funding through Victoria Legal Aid remained steady.

EJA's Future Fund received \$50,000 in donations, earned \$126,000 in income and had a balance of \$1.59m at 30 June 2025. This year-on-year growth of our Future Fund ensures EJA remains financially sustainable while we continue to run public interest court cases, legal interventions and advocacy campaigns for our clients and partners with confidence.

A strong focus on our cost base continued in 2024–2025. Total expenses for the year were \$5,852,789, only 4% higher than last financial year, and mostly due to staff costs in our Climate and Engagement teams.

INCOME

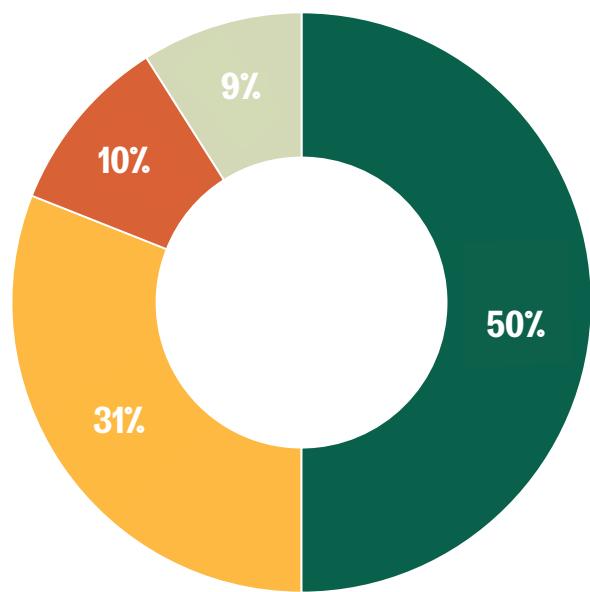
\$5,016,000



- Donations
- Grants
- Government
- Legal Service Fees & Disbursements
- Membership & Other Income

EXPENSES

\$5,852,789



- Legal Programs
- Operations & Management
- Campaigns & Communications
- Fundraising

EJA Awards



Each year, we recognise three outstanding people or groups who have gone above and beyond in their work for environmental justice.

Our 2024–25 award winners are:

THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AWARD

Environment Council of Central Queensland (ECoCeQ)

ECoCeQ is a small, determined community group, that hails from an area surrounded by reefs, rainforests – and coal mines. Formed out of growing concern for the future of these natural treasures, the group has become a powerful voice demanding action on climate change. Over more than a decade of action, this group has changed the course of climate advocacy in Australia including through its landmark “Living Wonders” court cases.

The community group’s leaders Christine Carlisle, Ashleigh Wyles and Jonathan Peter are extraordinarily courageous volunteers. ECoCeQ lodged 19 reconsideration requests and mobilised many thousands of people and environment groups to make complex submissions during a two-week review period. When Australia’s Environment Minister refused to act, the group then took not one but two high profile court cases to the Federal Court, an appeal to the Full Federal Court and then sought special leave to appeal to the High Court.

For more than three years, the ECoCeQ committee have contributed their deep knowledge and insights to shape the legal arguments and provide considered instructions to their EJA lawyers, represented their members, crossed the country at short notice to do press conferences, community webinars, countless radio interviews, photo shoots, podcasts, videos – all as unpaid volunteers with busy lives.

THE PRO BONO AWARD

Tim Goodwin

A barrister at the Victorian Bar and member of the Yuin people of the South East Coast of New South Wales, Tim has provided exceptional pro bono or heavily reduced rate representation in key matters. These include the case led by senior Larrakia elder

Tibby Quall to protect sacred land at Binybara/Lee Point, and in supporting senior Yorta Yorta woman Monica Morgan in her successful racial vilification claim (alongside Adam Chernok and Sophie Molyneux).

Tim is an outstanding advocate for justice, practising in commercial and public law. His distinguished career includes serving as Junior Counsel Assisting both the NT Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children, and the Yoorrook Truth-telling Royal Commission in Victoria. He has also served as Associate to Justices North and Bromberg of the Federal Court of Australia, and as Foreign Law Clerk to Justice Skweyiya of the Constitutional Court of South Africa.

His leadership extends beyond the courtroom. He serves or has served on the boards of Museums Victoria, the Human Rights Law Centre, SharingStories Foundation, and the Aurora Education Foundation. His generosity, wisdom and fierce advocacy make him an inspiring recipient of this year’s Pro Bono Award.

THE VOLUNTEER AWARD

Lily Ward

While completing her Bachelor of Laws (Honours), Lily brought her time, skills and energy to strengthen EJA’s legal work. She supported our Nature program with research, case preparation and client support, bringing dedication, rigour and warmth to every task.

Lily returned for a second semester of volunteering and we were equally excited to welcome her back. During this time, she completed an excellent research paper examining how Victoria’s Treaty process may facilitate the codification and implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), particularly in environmental law, and the challenges in giving FPIC meaningful effect. With Lily’s permission, we shared her work with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations and the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria.

Her commitment to social and environmental justice was evident in all she did, and her contributions made a real difference to our Nature team. Lily exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism that sustains EJA: generous, passionate and committed to justice. Volunteers like Lily expand what is possible, bring fresh ideas and perspectives, and help power the movement for environmental justice.



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**The scale of the
crises we face
demand a bold and
ambitious approach —
to reshape laws, hold
power to account, and
drive lasting change.**



Using the law for a
radically better world

