

The Sunrise Project Australia

# Annual Report

**2022**



# Letter from the Chair

2022 saw extreme weather events hitting Australia and the rest of the world. We saw severe rainfall and flooding across Eastern Australia with record rainfall devastating communities like Lismore in NSW and in Onslow WA, Australia's highest ever temperature of 50.7°C was recorded.

Tragically we saw at least 23 people die from the flooding in south eastern Queensland and eastern NSW. Thousands of people lost their homes across the NSW northern rivers region and the NSW SES had to respond to over 31,000 calls for help in just six weeks.

While Australia experienced record breaking flooding; heat waves, wildfires and drought swept across the Northern Hemisphere. India and Pakistan experienced record-breaking heat waves. Pakistan also endured record-breaking floods which impacted approximately 33 million people and killed over 1,700 people.

China experienced a particularly severe heatwave that persisted for 70 days affecting over 900 million people. The heat was accompanied with low rainfall which exacerbated drought conditions in China. Wildfires were also particularly severe across Europe in Spain, Portugal, Romania and France.

These events reinforce the critical importance of The Sunrise Project's work to speed up the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

And in 2022 thanks to support from our amazing funding partners we were able to significantly grow our grants program by \$11m, making over \$44m in grants to almost 200 organisations in Australia and around the world. This growth has enabled us to increase our impact.

As we have continued to grow we have developed a new global governance and legal model and 2023 will see the establishment of a global Sunrise network with formal partnerships with new Sunrise entities in Europe and the USA.

To ensure we continue to uphold the highest standards of governance and compliance we have continued to update our policies and practises as well as our risk register.

As you will read in the annual review significant wins have been achieved over the last year and I want to thank everyone who is part of the fantastic Sunrise team.

I would like to thank all my Board colleagues - Catherine, Erna, Giles, Jason, John, Miranda, Sam and Sudha for their expertise, advice, support and hard work.

Special thanks to Miranda Nagy who is stepping off the Board after ten years of amazing service - we will all miss her razor sharp intelligence, passion and commitment. I also want to thank Sudha Nandagopal who has moved off the Australian Board to lead the new Sunrise Inc Board in the US.

As always, thanks to our funding partners for their continued dedication and support.

Huge thanks to our dedicated staff team for their commitment, passion, determination and skills and to the incredible network of courageous partners and movements that we are privileged to work alongside.

2023 will be another critical year as we continue to strive for climate justice, please join us on the journey.

Best wishes



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**Claire Mallinson**  
Chair of the Board

# Sunrise Australia Board of Directors



**John Hepburn** Founder and Co-Executive Director, Sunrise Australia

John is an activist and social entrepreneur with over twenty-five years experience running environmental campaigns. In 2017, he was an inaugural recipient of the Climate Breakthrough Award, which was the catalyst for Sunrise to scale its work globally. Prior to founding The Sunrise Project in 2012, John spent a decade leading campaigns with Greenpeace, and previously worked on a wide variety of environmental campaigns at a grassroots level. He is the founder of several non-profit recycling businesses, which led to him being awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2002. John holds degrees in Manufacturing Systems Engineering and Business Management, and before becoming an activist, worked for several years as an engineer making components for the oil, gas and coal industries.



**Sam La Rocca** Co-Executive Director, Sunrise Australia

Sam leads The Sunrise Project's Australian Program. He brings over twenty-five years experience building people powered movements for a socially just and ecologically sane world. Sam holds a multidisciplinary degree in environmental science, and while completing his first class honours thesis on grassroots mobilisation, he co-founded activist education outfit The Change Agency to deliver social movement education, campaign strategy and organising training programs to community groups around Australia and internationally. He's worked as a senior political advisor in federal parliament and led highly successful electoral campaigns. He has facilitated movement-wide processes for the Climate Action Network Australia and Friends of the Earth International's Asia Pacific Region; and he has a strong interest in building powerful networks to catalyse system change.



**Claire Mallinson** Chair

Claire joined the Board in December 2019, she is passionate about The Sunrise Project's mission and purpose and brings strategic expertise, business acumen and leadership experience. Claire has a deep understanding of campaigning and the power of activism across international boundaries with over 30 years of senior leadership experience with environmental, human rights, disability and cancer research INGOs/NGO's in Australia and around the world.

Claire was the National Director (CEO) of Amnesty International Australia (AIA) for twelve years and part of Amnesty International's Global Leadership Team for a decade. Whilst National Director of AIA Claire oversaw the growth of AIA's supporters by 400% and the delivery of significant human rights wins in Australia, Asia Pacific and globally. She built, led and developed key partnerships including business leaders, major funders, Indigenous communities and elders and civil society leaders and activist groups and was part of the Board team that developed and implemented major governance reform. Claire is an advisor, coach and mentor to CEO's, senior executives and Boards and is a Graduate and Member of AICD, Chief Executive Women, and Women on Boards. Claire has been Chair of the Board since June 2020.



**Catherine Fitzpatrick** Deputy Chair

Catherine has been involved in climate and energy campaigning with non-profits for four decades working primarily in Australia, the Pacific, Canada, China and Southeast Asia. She first became involved in activism during the Franklin campaign in the 1980s, and since 1996 Catherine has campaigned on climate and energy issues working for the David Suzuki Foundation and Greenpeace. She spent the last decade working in Asia on air pollution, coal transition, campaign strategy and audience segmentation. Catherine now focuses on mentoring and coaching leaders in the climate movement. She joined the Sunrise Project board in July 2019 and lives in Tasmania on nipaluna land.



**Jason Field** Director

Jason is a Koori with ancestral connections to the Bidjigal and Walbunja peoples. Over nearly thirty years he has worked in areas of human rights and Indigenous policy and programme delivery.

Jason has diverse Indigenous policy interests including land and sea management, education, stolen generations, housing and the protection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rights to their country, knowledge and heritage. He has worked at the local, regional, state, national and international level, having participated in various United Nations for a including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and as an advisor to the federal environment department for the negotiations of the Nagoya Protocol.

Jason is the Executive Officer with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University and an aspiring PhD candidate.

*Jason joined the board in September 2022 and we are excited to welcome him to Sunrise.*



**Giles Gunsekera** Director

Giles is the Founder and CEO of Global Impact Initiative. Giles has over 25 years' experience of building and developing teams and businesses for global enterprises. Giles has held senior roles in the financial services industry spanning recruiting, training, product, distribution and leadership.

Giles has received an Outstanding Alumnus award from Oxford for creating an innovative, sustainable business that generates positive social impact. His business, Global Impact Initiative (GII) is one of only thirty-five (35) Global Compact LEAD companies, recognised for their high levels of engagement in the United Nations. GII has been a UN LEAD since 2019 and is the only Australian firm to be recognised as a UN LEAD. The business works under five key pillars of Gender Equality, Indigenous Communities, Health, Affordable Housing and Climate.

Giles is a Senior Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australia, Fellow of the School of Social Entrepreneurs, Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders, and Member of the Australian Institute of Training and Development. Giles is an Industry Fellow at the Business School of the University of Technology, Sydney.

Giles has a unique blend of leadership and business skills gained in the corporate environment married with financial and governance skills gained in the Not-for-Profit sector. Giles holds numerous Volunteer Not-for-Profit Directorships ranging from International Aid, Human Rights, Disabilities, Education, Arts and Sports. Giles is on Advisory Boards for the United Nations for Climate & Health and Sustainable Finance. He is an Advisory Board Member of the Securities and Investments Institute of Asia Pacific. Giles has formal academic qualifications from Oxford University, Melbourne University, Monash University and the Financial Services Institute of Australia.



**Aviva Imhof** Director

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Aviva joined the Board in mid- 2015. She is the Deputy Director of the International Energy Programme at the European Climate Foundation (ECF), which she joined after two years with The Sunrise Project as Pacific Coal Network Coordinator for the international coal network. In this role she supported the activities of a diverse set of groups in the Pacific coal region, working to develop the support structures and infrastructure for the international coal network. Prior to joining The Sunrise Project, Aviva worked with International Rivers first as Southeast Asia Program Director and then as Campaigns Director, managing the organisation’s Latin America, Southeast Asia, Africa and re-granting programs. Aviva has extensive experience in campaigning, fundraising, grants management, and financial and organisational management.

*Aviva resigned from the board in May 2022 and we would like to sincerely thank her for the years of dedication and service to Sunrise.*



**Sudha Nandagopal** Director

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Sudha is a highly regarded organiser, facilitator, strategist, and movement builder focused on democratising systems of power. Her career includes leadership roles in strategic communications, international organising, program design, policy creation, and political campaigns. Through this work and her leadership in social, environmental, climate and racial justice organisations, Sudha has developed expertise in multi-sector stakeholder engagement, networks, collaborative problem solving, and building power with communities of colour, immigrants, and refugees in the United States.

As Chief Executive Officer of Social Venture Partners International (SVPI), Sudha cultivates and expands a philanthropic network to catalyse more resources to communities around the globe, demonstrate ways for philanthropy to share power and wealth, and build stronger relationships between philanthropists and communities. Under Sudha’s leadership in response to the systemic crises magnified by the COVID 19 pandemic and the renewed global reckoning on racial justice, SVPI launched Reimagine Giving, to inspire donors to become system change advocates. Prior to joining SVP International, Sudha co-founded, in partnership with community leaders, and led the City of Seattle’s Equity & Environment Initiative.

Sudha is a published author and an expert consultant for foundations, local governments, and national environmental organisations. Grist Magazine recognized Sudha as one of their inaugural Grist 50 visionaries who will “lead us to a more sustainable future.” Puget Sound Business Journal recently recognized Sudha as one of the region’s 40 under 40 for her leadership in philanthropy and the social change sector. Sudha holds a degree in Biology and Society from Cornell University which informs her systems thinking and interdisciplinary approach.

*Sudha resigned from the Board in November 2022 and we would like to sincerely thank her for the years of dedication and service to Sunrise.*



**Miranda Nagy** Director

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Miranda is Principal Lawyer in Class Actions at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers. Her legal practice in the field of class actions is centred on corporate governance, market integrity and consumer protection. She has a long standing interest in effective environmental regulation and has advised and acted for environmental organisations in litigation.

Miranda is a founding director of The Sunrise Project and was the first Company Secretary. Her focus is on the importance of sound, careful governance within organisations and she has a close familiarity with regulations affecting charities and companies.

*Miranda resigned from the Board in March 2023 and we would like to sincerely thank her for the years of dedication and service to Sunrise.*



**Erna de Vries** Director

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Erna is a retired petroleum geologist and financial analyst with a keen interest in sustainability and corporate ethics. She studied Earth Sciences and worked as a geologist with international oil and gas companies including Shell, BHP and Ampolex. After working in the Netherlands, UK and Brunei, her career brought her to Australia. Erna obtained her MBA in Sydney and went on to work as a senior executive in corporate and institutional banking with Bankers Trust and then Westpac as Head of Resources Research and Commonwealth Bank as a senior risk manager. She has been involved in the financing decisions of many major mining and energy projects.

For the last 15 years Erna has been an active volunteer in various local community campaigns. Her experience with the oil & gas and mining sectors in Australia and skills in financial analysis add depth to the total effectiveness of the Board.

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS & OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited  
 ABN 65 159 324 697  
 As at 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>	73,809,994	51,457,688
Other Income	12,963	718,210
	<u>73,822,957</u>	<u>52,175,898</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative expenses	(1,234,703)	(1,132,302)
Depreciation expense	(183,362)	(174,546)
Employee benefits expense	(9,488,192)	(7,810,175)
Finance costs	(16,174)	(13,917)
Grant distribution costs	(44,446,073)	(33,145,386)
Loss on foreign exchange	(525,262)	-
Occupancy expenses	(126,785)	(86,608)
Other expenses	(487,500)	(258,663)
Program expenses	(6,927,646)	(4,708,284)
	<u>(63,435,697)</u>	<u>(47,329,881)</u>
<b>Surplus before income tax</b>	10,387,260	4,846,017
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>	10,387,260	4,846,017
<b>Other comprehensive Income</b>	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive Income (loss) for the year</b>	<u>10,387,260</u>	<u>4,846,017</u>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited  
 ABN 65 159 324 697  
 As at 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	29,976,594	17,776,186
Trade and other receivables	922,466	1,293,975
<i>Total current assets</i>	<u>30,899,060</u>	<u>19,070,161</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	2,641	81,868
Right-of-use assets	197,062	345,387
<i>Total non-current assets</i>	<u>199,703</u>	<u>427,255</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>31,098,763</u>	<u>19,497,416</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	11,151,497	9,934,611
Employee benefits	513,353	388,554
Lease liabilities	146,937	153,545
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	<u>11,811,787</u>	<u>10,476,710</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Employee benefits	43,796	17,849
Lease liabilities	74,779	221,716
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>	<u>118,575</u>	<u>239,565</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>11,930,362</u>	<u>10,716,275</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>19,168,401</u>	<u>8,781,141</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated funds	19,168,401	8,781,141
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>19,168,401</u>	<u>8,781,141</u>



**The Sunrise Project Australia Limited**

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Cover photo by Sam Cumming on Unsplash.

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**We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous peoples and local communities of the lands on which we live and work. We recognise the leadership of these communities in the struggle for climate justice and our responsibility to uplift their voices and histories.**