

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited

2023
Annual
Report



Letter from the Chair

As we reflect on the past year, the urgency of our mission has never been clearer. The climate crisis continues to escalate, with its impacts felt across the globe and disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable among us.

The evidence is stark and undeniable. This year, we witnessed the world's hottest days on record, with temperatures in some regions approaching the limits of human habitability. The World Health Organization reports that extreme heat is now claiming nearly half a million lives annually. From wildfires raging across continents to the existential threat facing our own Great Barrier Reef, the consequences of our continued reliance on fossil fuels are impossible to ignore.

These impacts are not distributed equally. It is the marginalised communities – women, children, the poor, and minority groups – who bear the brunt of this crisis. This reality underscores the fundamental injustice at the heart of climate change and reinforces our commitment to a just and equitable transition to a sustainable future.

In response to these challenges, Sunrise Australia has undergone significant transformations to enhance our effectiveness and amplify our impact. We've strengthened our board's expertise by co-opting Ceren Ayas and Kiera Peacock, enhancing our capabilities in grants management and financial oversight. We've also initiated a comprehensive board training and development program, including participation in the Australian Institute of Company Directors' Not-for-Profit Governance Course. We continue to refine our board's skills mix through ongoing succession planning and targeted recruitment efforts.

These changes reflect our commitment to evolve alongside the rapidly shifting landscape of the climate crisis. We recognise that solutions that seemed viable even two years ago may no longer suffice. Our adaptability is crucial as we navigate the complex interplay of social, technological, economic, and political factors that shape our work.

What remains unwavering is our belief in the power of inclusive, purpose-driven social movements to drive the systemic change needed to avert climate catastrophe. We are dedicated to fostering and supporting networks that span individuals, communities, corporations, and governments, all united in the pursuit of a sustainable future.

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As we look ahead, we are filled with gratitude for the tireless efforts of our staff, the trust of our funders, the dedication of our movement allies, and the passion of our members. Your collective commitment fuels our optimism and determination in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Together, we will continue to push for faster, bolder action on climate change, always centring the principles of justice and equity in our work. The road ahead is challenging, but with your support, we remain steadfast in our mission to create a world where people and nature thrive.

Thank you for standing with us in this critical moment for our planet.



Claire Mallinson
Chair of the Board

Sunrise Australia Board of Directors



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/NGOs 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 with business leaders, major funders, Indigenous communities and elders, civil society leaders, and activist groups. She was of the board team to develop and implement major governance reform. Claire is an advisor, coach, and mentor to CEOs, senior executives, and boards, and is a graduate and member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Chief Executive Women, and Women on Boards. Claire has been Chair of the Board since June 2020.



John Hepburn Founder and Executive Director

John is an activist and social entrepreneur with over 25 years experience running environmental campaigns. In 2017, he was an inaugural recipient of the Climate Breakthrough Award, 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.



Erna de Vries Director

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 and gas and mining sectors in Australia and skills in financial analysis add depth to the total effectiveness of the board.



Jason Field Director

Jason is a Koori with ancestral connections to the Bidjigal and Walbunja peoples. Over nearly 30 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 fora (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.



Catherine Fitzpatrick Vice 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 board in July 2019, and lives in Tasmania on nipaluna land.



Giles Gunsekera Director

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. The Founder and CEO of Global Impact Initiative (GII), he has over 25 years' experience in building and developing teams and businesses for global enterprises.

Giles received an Outstanding Alumnus award from Oxford for creating an innovative, sustainable business that generates positive social impact. GI is one of only 35 Global Compact LEAD companies, recognised for their high levels of engagement in the United Nations. Giles holds numerous volunteer Not-for-Profit Directorships ranging from Human Rights to Education; and is on Advisory Boards for the United Nations for Climate & Health and Sustainable Finance, and The Securities and Investments Institute of Asia Pacific. Giles has formal academic qualifications from the Financial Services Institute of Australia and from Oxford, Melbourne, and Monash Universities.



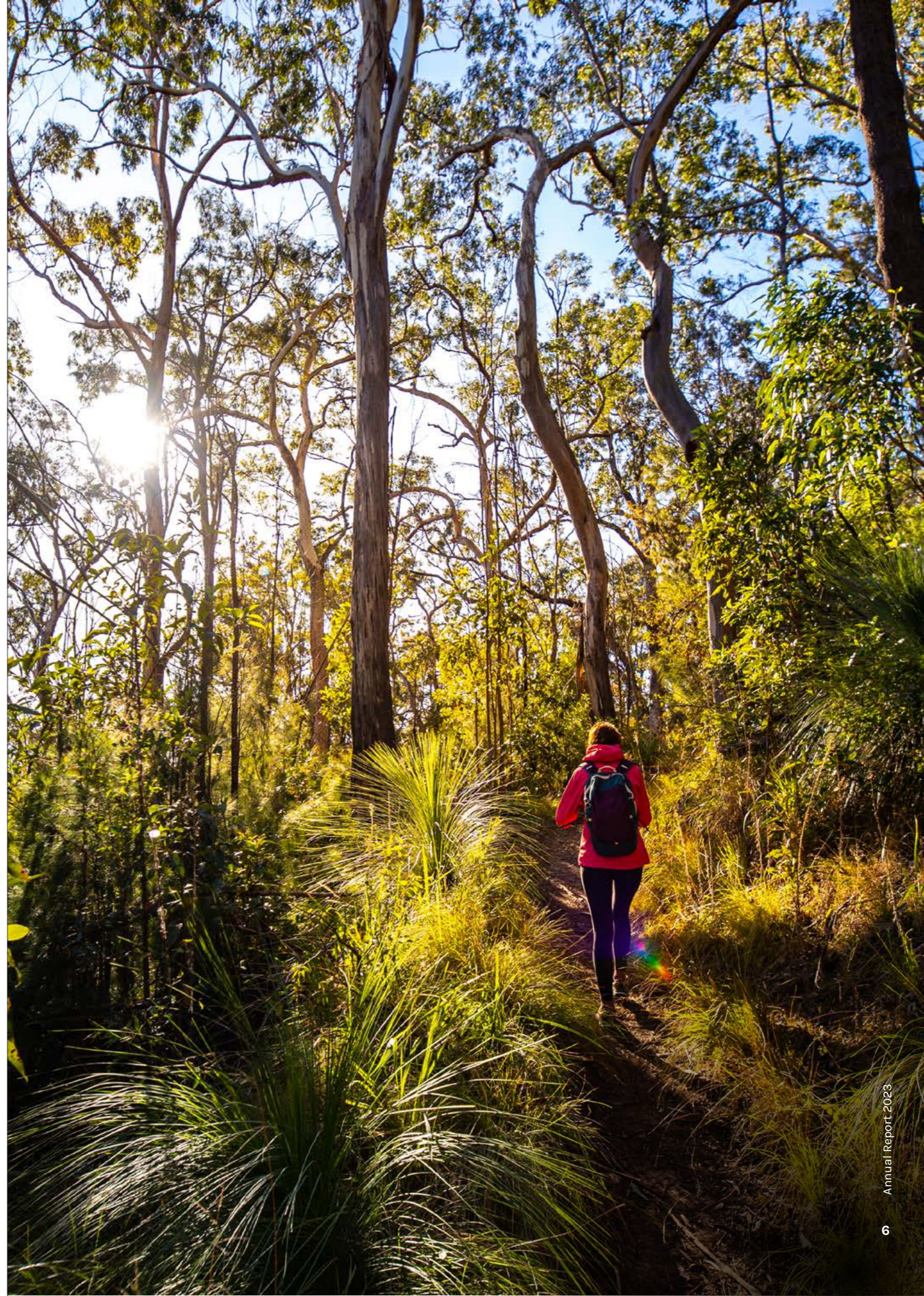
Kiera Peacock Director

Kiera is a Partner at Marque Lawyers, a boutique B Corp law firm in Sydney, specialising in commercial litigation and public law with a focus on political law. She has run a number of cases seeking to use the law as a force for good, from clarifying the law on misleading electoral advertising to challenging government laws restricting phone voting during the COVID restrictions. Kiera is passionate about climate, advocacy, and the strategic power of NGOs. Over the last couple of years, she has been deeply immersed in the community independents political movement, working with incredible local political campaigns seeking to improve democratic participation and elect a genuine community representative.



Ceren Ayas Director

Ceren has worked in various roles in climate mitigation and coal transitions over the last two decades at the European Climate Foundation, the World Wildlife Fund, and as an independent consultant. She is currently working at the Climateworks Centre, Monash University, where she is responsible for managing the delivery of projects and initiatives across Southeast Asia. She is also finalising her PhD with the University of Melbourne's School of Social and Political Sciences' on the justice aspect of energy transitions in the Global South. Her academic work on the political economy of coal and coal transitions has been published in high-impact journals and books.



STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS & OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited
 ABN 65 159 324 697
 As at 31 December, 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Revenue	74,206,046	73,809,994
Other Income	852,147	12,963
	<u>75,058,193</u>	<u>73,822,957</u>
Expenses		
Administrative expenses	(1,503,341)	(1,234,703)
Depreciation expense	(153,452)	(183,362)
Employee benefits expense	(8,224,268)	(9,488,192)
Finance costs	(11,143)	(16,174)
Grant distribution costs	(62,270,906)	(44,446,073)
Loss on foreign exchange	-	(525,262)
Occupancy expenses	(120,413)	(126,785)
Other expenses	(578,040)	(487,500)
Program expenses	(3,177,015)	(6,927,646)
	<u>(76,038,578)</u>	<u>(63,435,697)</u>
Surplus before income tax	(980,385)	10,387,260
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(980,385)	10,387,260
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year	<u>(980,385)</u>	<u>10,387,260</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited
 ABN 65 159 324 697
 As at 31 December, 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	35,988,668	29,976,594
Trade and other receivables	1,097,105	922,466
<i>Total current assets</i>	<u>37,085,773</u>	<u>30,899,060</u>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	17,459	2,641
Right-of-use assets	95,176	197,062
<i>Total non-current assets</i>	<u>112,635</u>	<u>199,703</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>37,198,408</u>	<u>31,098,763</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	17,965,839	11,151,497
Employee benefits	843,555	513,353
Lease liabilities	99,500	146,937
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	<u>18,908,894</u>	<u>11,811,787</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefits	93,735	43,796
Lease liabilities	7,763	74,779
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>	<u>101,498</u>	<u>118,575</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>19,010,392</u>	<u>11,930,362</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>18,188,016</u>	<u>19,168,401</u>
FUNDS		
Accumulated funds	8,304,064	19,168,401
Reserves	9,888,952	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>18,188,016</u>	<u>19,168,401</u>



The Sunrise Project Australia Limited

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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.