

President's Report

21 August 2024

For those that haven't met me before, I'm Tom.

I have been actively involved with EnvA since it was first established two years ago. But this is my first President report, as I only took over the role from James York a few months ago. James - thanks for your help putting my report together!

I also send my thanks to James for his 20 months as EnvA's President – and am very happy to say that James has continued his role on the management committee and is a fantastic supporter of EnvA and our work.

EnvA has now completed its second year of advocating for the environment. There have been many great achievements. But we also have weathered losses which are only to be expected when challenging well-resourced mining companies and government.

Coral will provide an overview of the good and bad in her report, so I will focus on the special mentions in this report.

Firstly, a huge shout out to Tilly Widdowson for her time with EnvA. Tilly was instrumental in helping run multiple events, getting EnvA's stories into media and starring in video clips. She also was the best help in introducing Koko, EnvA's koala mascot, through events and social media. If you haven't met Koko yet, Koko was introduced as a fun way to highlight the plight of koalas in our region and the impacts that coal mines are having on their habitat and the climate change impacts stemming from coal mining and the subsequent burning of coal.

Tilly is now on a working vacation in Central America starting with lot of underwater activities in Costa Rica. In Tilly's words, "I have to explore the world's coral reefs before climate change destroys them". She remains a great advocate for our koalas, reef and the work that EnvA is doing.

I also pass on my thanks to our other outgoing committee members, Maggie and Cassie. They have now moved down south, but I hear that Maggie is now involved with the Wide Bay Burnett Conservation Council and continues to promote EnvA's great work.

On behalf of the committee and all of EnvA's members, I also extend my sincere thanks to Claire Gronow. Claire volunteered for EnvA for much of the last year while in Europe working and exploring. As a volunteer abroad, Claire took on writing a number of EnvA's submissions on proposed coal and climate projects. Anyone that has ever tried to make comment on a proposed fossil fuel project will know that there are 1000's of pages of data and information to work through to fully understand the impacts, and then to digest all this and write in a submission which will influence decision-makers.

Claire also stepped into a role on the management committee on her return to Australia and even moved up here. Welcome to CQ Claire and we look forward to working closely with you in your new role with Lock the Gate.

Also, a huge thank you to Coral. You have worked so hard to get EnvA set up and running. The committee members and everyone that has worked closely with EnvA knows that you have put many hours of work into keeping EnvA's campaigns active and presenting us as a professional and influential group. Thank you for your enthusiasm, knowledge and hard work.

And finally, thank you to all the volunteers that have helped out at events. The events would never have been as successful without you! And to all of the members, your support is really appreciated as encouragement matters and numbers really do count!

It has been a pleasure being involved in such a vibrant, energetic grassroots group who are really making a difference here in Central Queensland.

Go EnvA, may the next year be just as exciting!

Tom Sjolund
President