

## DRAFT MINUTES

### ENVA-CQ's Annual General Meeting

When: 5.30pm, Wednesday 21 August 2024

Where: ZOOM

**Attendance:** Coral Rowston, James York, Tom Sjolund, Maggie Inglis, Christine Carlisle, Sandra Williams, Claire Gronow, Julie Davies, Sophie George

**Apologies:** Anna Hitchcock, Steve Elson, Kirsten Muir, Crystal Falknau, Maryanne Smith, Robert Volker (tried to attend the meeting, but taken off-line due to not being identified in the attendance and introductions agenda item)

**Proxy votes provide by:** Anna Hitchcock, Steve Elson, Crystal Falknau

**Welcome:** Tom welcomed everyone to EnvA's AGM and acknowledged that the meeting was being stolen land from wherever everyone is calling in from. He also noted that EnvA's base was on Darumbal land, but our work extends across the lands of many Traditional Owners.

Attendees were asked to briefly introduce themselves, where they were joining from and their interest in EnvA's work.

#### Endorsement of previous EnvA management committee meeting

**Motion:** That the annual general meeting minutes of 23 August 2023 be formally accepted.

Proposed by: Tom Sjolund

Seconded by: Magie Inglis

Carried.

#### Actions arising from the minutes

- Nil

#### Treasurers report and financial matters

The financial report for the 2023-2024 financial year was sent prior to the meeting.

**Motion:** That the 2023-2024 financial report be accepted as an accurate record of EnvA's finances.

Moved: Coral Rowston

Seconded: Tom Sjolund

Carried.

#### President's Report

Tom presented the President's report for the year (refer Attachment 1)

#### EnvA's achievements for the last year

Coral outlined the progress we have made in our advocacy in fighting against new and expanding fossil fuel projects in the Bowen Basin (refer Attachment 2)



## **Election of management committee**

The current President, Tom Sjolund, thanked the current management committee, Coral Rowston (Secretary), James York, Matilda Widdowson and Claire Gronow for their support and guidance over the last year.

Tom declared all management committee positions vacant.

With the endorsement of members present, Claire Gronow conducted the election process for the election of a President:

### **President:**

Nomination: James York

Proposed by: Coral Rowston

Seconded: Tom Sjolund

Other nominations: Nil

Vote outcome: Majority support for James York to return to the role of President.

### **Secretary:**

Self Nomination: Coral Rowston

Seconded by: Maggie Inglis

Other nominations: Nil

Vote outcome: Majority support for Coral Rowston to continue as Secretary.

### **Treasurer:**

Nomination: Maggie Inglis

Proposed by: Coral Rowston

Seconded by: James York

Other nominations: Nil

Vote outcome: Majority support for Maggie Inglis to take on the role as Treasurer.

## **Committee member positions (up to three positions):**

Nominations:

1. Tom Sjolund, Nominated by Coral Rowston, Seconded by: Sophie George
2. Christine Carlisle, Nominated by Coral Rowston, Seconded by: James York

Vote outcome:

Majority support for Tom Sjolund and Christine Carlisle to be members of the EnvA management committee.

## **EnvA's future direction**

Coral outlined our proposed focus activities for the next year which will be reviews by the management committee at the next meeting (refer Attachment 3).

## **Open discussion on achievement and plans**

James invited any questions about our achievements, our future direction or any other comments.

- Julie Davies has experience in funding opportunities and willing to assist in this and other EnvA work when able.
- Maggie Inglis expressed interest in involvement in EnvA's involvement in the Reef Water Quality consultation and learning more about making submissions on proposed projects.

## **Meeting closed at: 6.55 pm**

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These minutes have been reviewed by the members attending the AGM on [Date to be inserted] and endorsed as an accurate reflection of business and outcomes of the meeting.

President

Date

## **Attachment 1 – President's Report**

### **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 at events. The events would never have been as successful without you! And to all 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  
EnvA-CQ Inc.

## Attachment 2 – EnvA's achievements



**We decided on our four major campaigns...**

- ★ **Koalas not Coal**
- ★ **No new coal and gas**
- ★ **Keep Blue out of CQ**
- ★ **Fixing legislation and policy**

Two posters are shown. The left one is titled 'ABOUT ENVA' and describes the organization's mission and goals. The right one is a placard featuring a koala and the text 'KOALAS NOT COAL!'.

**And we developed posters, flyers and placards for each of these campaigns**

★ **Koalas not Coal** ★

Did you know that thousands of hectares of koala habitat is cleared for coal mines?

Coal mines also release huge amounts of greenhouse gases during operation, and then even more when the coal is transported and burnt.

Koko is here to help!

**Habitat loss and climate change are the two biggest threats to koalas.  
Coal mines significantly contribute to both!**

This section features a koala mascot named Koko, a grey koala wearing a white shirt, with its arms raised. The text 'Koko is here to help!' is written in yellow next to it. Below the mascot, a bold statement reads: 'Habitat loss and climate change are the two biggest threats to koalas. Coal mines significantly contribute to both!'.



## ★ Koalas not Coal ★

We needed good, scientific information to help fight to protect our koalas from coal mines.

Mapping Koala Habitat Disturbance in the Bowen Basin Queensland  
(Central Queensland University, June 2024)

Koalas or coal mines: how the federal government can help protect Australia's most iconic species  
(Koalas not Coal, August 2024)



Find out more using the QR code or at <https://envacq.org/research-projects/>



## ★ Koalas not Coal ★

Spreading the message and getting the community involved



Stalls at the Fig Tree Markets,  
Resilient Rural Living Expo

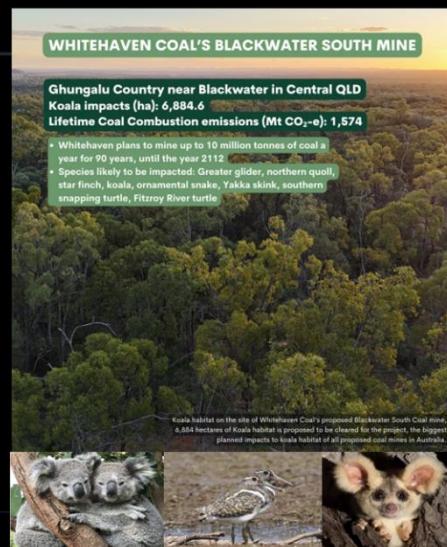
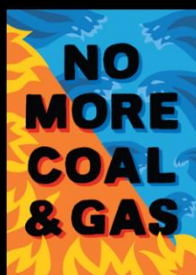


Koalas not Coal events

## ★ No New Coal and Gas ★

Most of this work is making submissions on new and expanding coal and gas.

Writing letters to government, organising petitions and getting our concerns raised in media are other important actions



## No New Coal and Gas

16 submissions in the last year

All available on our webpage at [www.envacq.org](http://www.envacq.org)



- Nature Positive (Environment Protection Australia) Bill 2024 and related bills – Senate Standing committee
- Coppabella Mine Humbug Gully Project – EPBC referral
- Lake Vermont Meadowbrook Extension – group letter to Ministers Plibersek and Bowen in response to the Queensland Government's EIS assessment report
- Comet Ridge Mahalo North Coal Seam Gas Project – EA application
- Saraji Mine Grevillea Pit Continuation Project – EPBC referral
- Barada Barna Road Upgrade – Olive Downs Coal Mine – EPBC referral
- Kestrel West Coal Mine Extension – EPBC referral
- Baralaba South – Environmental Impact Statement submission
- Comment on the proposed new Nature Positive laws
- Blackwater North Coal Mine extension – EPBC referral
- Vulcan South Coal Mine – EPBC referral
- Rolleston Coal Spring Creek North Continuation Project – EA amendment
- Sonoma coal mine extension – amended environmental authority and mining lease
- Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 – Transport and Resources Committee
- Climate Change Amendment Bill – Senate Standing Committee
- Caval Ridge Horse Pit Extension – EPBC referral

## ★ Keep Blue out of CQ ★

EnvA's legal challenge against the Queensland government's approval of this coal seam gas project continues!

So much has happened since we commenced the legal action a year ago.

We have been constrained in what we can communicate with members because it is with the courts.



## ★ Keep Blue out of CQ ★

What we can say...

### Blue Energy have changed their project

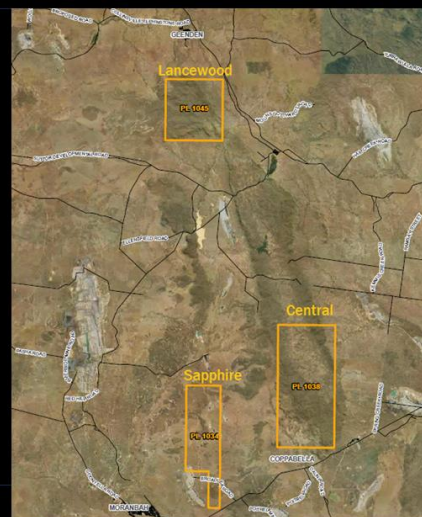
Blue Energy has withdrawn their application for Lancewood and Central and are only focused on the Sapphire lease ☺

### EnvA's ongoing case

We are still raising serious concerns about Blue Energy's proposal, including significant impacts to groundwater and biodiversity.

Blue Energy's initial application did not contain an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions, so we are asking for improved assessment of the project to ensure that the GHG emissions are properly calculated, and the contribution of Blue Energy's proposal to climate change is properly assessed.

EnvA is also raising concerns in relation to misinformation put forward by the petroleum and gas industry about the need for any new gas projects in the transition to net zero.





## ★ Keep Blue out of CQ ★

### What are the next steps?

The parties have now nominated their experts who will provide evidence in the proceedings.

There will be some out of court meetings for the experts to pin down the areas that the parties can agree to, and areas where the court will need to hear the evidence and decide the merit of the project approval.

The 'real' court hearing probably won't happen until at least March next year.



Find out more about our Blue Energy campaign at:  
<https://envacq.org/blue-energy/>

## ★ Fixing legislation and policy ★

Some of Qld's legislation and policy is flawed and is resulting in poor outcomes for the environment. 🤔

Our campaign started with obvious issues with how DESI was using the guideline to determine whether an EIS was required.

Coal companies were splitting their projects into small pieces to avoid triggering the coal volume trigger.

As we continue to review projects for submissions, we keep finding even more issues that need fixing.



## ★ Fixing legislation and policy ★

### What we have been doing in this campaign?

- Lots of letters to government!
- Including our concerns in relevant submissions
- Requests for assessment reports (CAC reports)
- Lots of meetings and conversations with DESI

### The standard response

"We always do a thorough assessment of every project regardless of whether and EIS is required or not"

### We do think we are making a difference!

We haven't managed to change the guideline, but we have made them more attentive to using the whole guideline and not just the coal volume trigger.

Proponents are now being asked for further information and having to include GHG emission calculations and decarbonisation plans.

THERE IS STILL MORE TO DO ON THIS CAMPAIGN!

## Growing EnvA:

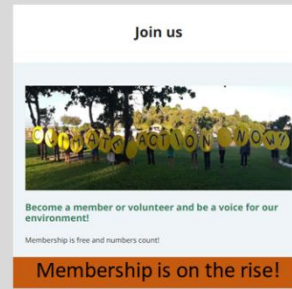
“The little noticed achievements”

Maintaining a webpage

Hosting a Facebook page

Growing our membership

Engaging media



# Thank you!

EnvA wouldn't be here without your support!.

Members

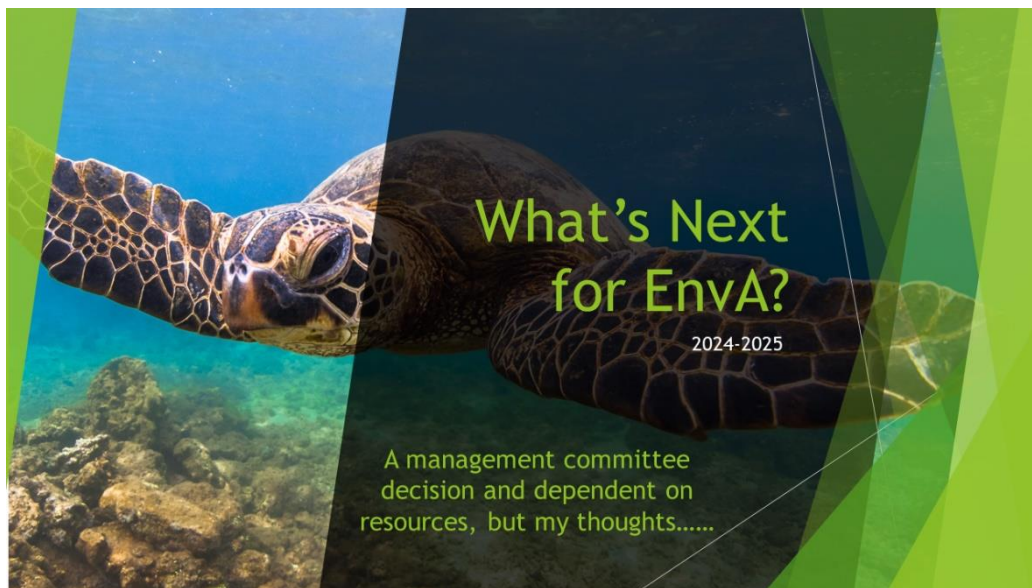
Donors



Volunteers

Supporters

## Attachment 3 – EnvA's future plans



### Keep Blue Energy out of CQ



- ▶ Continue our legal challenge
- ▶ The Land Court process is expected to be finalised by May 2025.
- ▶ Hopeful the Land Court rules in our favor, but if not, we will need to review the decision and decide whether to take the challenge to the Supreme Court.
- ▶ Where we can, we will also make submissions and comment on other coal seam gas projects in our region.

### Koalas not Coal

- ▶ Koko to take a lead role at events and in social media.
- ▶ At least one event based on 'koalas not coal' - maybe a float at Pinefest.
- ▶ Social and general media where koalas will be significantly impacted by coal mines.
- ▶ Continue involvement in the National Koala Recovery Action Plan.





## No new coal or gas

- ▶ Continue to make submissions on as many proposed coal and gas projects as possible.
- ▶ Maintain our role in regular:
  - ❖ CQ Coal catchups,
  - ❖ Meetings with DESI on CQ coal mines,
  - ❖ Meetings with the Queensland Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner, and
  - ❖ Consultation with the Reef Water Quality Improvement taskforce.
- ▶ And maybe take on another legal challenge against a coal project!



## Fixing legislation and policy

- ▶ Contribute to the EPBC review and make it easy for everyone to have input.
- ▶ Continue to write to decision-makers when the processes aren't protecting the environment.
- ▶ Write to welcome the next Qld Environment Minister and make sure they are aware of our issues with Queensland's legislation and policy.
- ▶ Contribute submissions to any amendments to legislation, policy and guidelines related to EnvA's campaigns. (i.e. the Mining lease objections review).



Thank you again to everyone who has supported EnvA in our journey to change "what is" to "what should be."

We look forward to your support as we continue to grow and become an even louder voice for our environment.

