



## President's Report 2022-23

### Meetings

Most meetings were held again by zoom during the year, thanks to Mel Grey for the use of her ACF zoom account. Meetings were held on 6th February (including AGM), 1st May, 7<sup>th</sup> August (all by zoom) and 6<sup>th</sup> November (face to face). All were very well attended. The idea of zoom meetings works very well (less travel time etc.) with occasional face to face meetings as a bonus.

There were no public meetings this year.

### Activities

27 April: CWEC organised a rally at Paul Toole's office in Bathurst with BCCAN calling for an end to coal & gas expansion and climate action. The rally was attended by NCC CEO and Lock the Gate NSW Campaigner receiving good regional media coverage.

16 October: CWEC members groups organised Picnics for Nature as part of an NCC community capacity building project in Dubbo, Lithgow and Mudgee.

### Submissions and letters

CWEC has made several submissions and objections to inappropriate developments such as mines and new dams and has made comments on various inquiries, plans and legislation as shown below.

- 18/2/2022 Orange Destination Management Plan 2022
- 18/2/2022 Central West and Orange Regional Plan 2041
- 24/2/2022 Exploration for coal at Wilpinjong
- 9/3/2022 Letter re Mount Canobolas bike track
- 13/4/2022 Amendment to EIS for Bowdens Silver Project
- 20/4/22 Regional Strengths and Infrastructure Gap
- 30/5/2022 Letter to Paul Toole re coal and climate action
- 7/7/2022 Barwon Darling Floodplain Harvesting
- 25/7/2022 Sub Angus Place West EPBC referral

- 22/8/2022 Letters to Premier, Environment Minister and Water Minister on floodplain harvesting
- 23/8/2022 Letter to Federal Minister for Environment & Water on Wyangala Dam
- 12/12/2022 Objection to Moolarben Coal Mine Opencut 3 expansion
- 14/12/2022 Objection to Ulan Coal Mine Modification 6

### **Links to the other groups**

Although I still technically represented CWEC on various groups during the year (Canobolas Conservation Alliance, the Wyangala Counterpoint group and the Murray-Darling Regional Community Forum (Central West), I had to scale down my involvement with these groups (as with CWEC) due to time I needed to spend on my research.

I did speak on the values of woodland proposed to be inundated at the *Listen to the Lachlan* conference 20-21 June at Forbes and also sang two of the songs I wrote (*Platypus* and *Rivers of Australia*) at the conference dinner.

I also represent the NCC on the Canobolas Zone Bushfire Management Committee. This has been quite time-consuming as the RFS is developing a completely new Risk Management Plan template.

### **Social media**

The website is fine and I try and keep it regularly updated. The Facebook page is doing very well and is, of course, more interactive than the website. Membership has increased from 175 to 209. Dubbo Environment Group is particularly active on this page and so far we have had no problems with trolls.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Nearly all our member groups turned up for a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch on 6<sup>th</sup> November at the Waratahs Club in north Orange. Music was provided by my good self playing in the Orange Conservatorium Classical Guitar Ensemble and our quintet Autumn Leaves (with Nick King on flute!). It was a lovely day and good chance to celebrate some of our wins over the years.

### **Goodbye for a while**

As the retiring president after too many years to remember, I'd like to thank everyone for their support, help with submissions and campaigns, good behaviour on social media and understanding when I cut short their talks at meetings (!).

CWEC is an excellent organisation, providing the opportunity for groups to network, share ideas and support each other, and I wish it well. Perhaps when I

finally get my peregrine data published, I shall return. I'm currently doing revisions to the first draft of the first of three papers (one on breeding biology, one on male v female behaviour and one on diet)...so a bit of work ahead of me yet!



Adult female, Diamond, leaving the box, but leaving the lights on!

Cilla Kinross, President, CWEC, 24/01/2023