



President's Report 2021-22

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 7th February (including AGM) (face-to-face, Orange), 2nd May, 1st August and 7th November (all by zoom). We have rarely achieved four meetings in one year recently and the attendance at each meeting has also gone up considerably, assisted by the remote connection.

There were no public meetings this year.

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.

- 15/2/2021 Letter to Minister re Mt. Canobolas AOBV status
- 10/6/21 Letter to Cowra Council re Wyangala Dam
- 17/6/21 Letter to ABC re 4 Corners 'Fired Up'
- 16/8/21 Coal exploration around Rylstone
- 16/8/21 Objection to amendment Lue silver/lead mine
- 12/9/21 East Orange Wetlands Harvesting Scheme
- 26/1/22 NPWS Cycling Strategy and Policy comments

Submission guides on various issues were provided to member groups eg submission guide on the NPWS Cycling Strategy and Policy.

Constitution

A new constitution was drafted to replace the original document dated 1992. This is now compliant with new model rules and provides a simpler, more straightforward description of our objects, rules and modus operandi. Thanks to the group that worked so hard on this, particularly Cathy Merchant, Rosemary Stapleton and Cyril Smith.

Links to the other groups

I represented CWEC on various groups during the year including the Canobolas Conservation Alliance, fighting the huge mountain bike infrastructure proposal; the

Wyangala Counterpoint group, opposing the raising of the Wyangala Dam; and the Nature Conservation Council whose AGM I attended on 6th November

In January Rosemary Stapleton, Denis Marsh and myself visited the areas that would be permanently flooded if the wall is raised, including Ecologically Endangered Communities (box woodland) and some wonderful red river gum gallery forest, not to mention large areas of highly productive farmland. Our guides were local farmers David and Sue Webster.



Wyangala Dam, near Reid's Flat, *Eucalyptus melliodora* woodland to be inundated

This is the topic of my talk to be given at the *Listen to the Lachlan* conference that has again been postponed (until June 2022).

I also represent the NCC on the Canobolas Zone Bushfire Management Committee.

Social media

The website has worked well and is up to date. All submissions are loaded straight after being sent. Usage is quite low, but has doubled in the past year. Payment is due this year, so we need to decide whether it is worthwhile keeping the paid version.

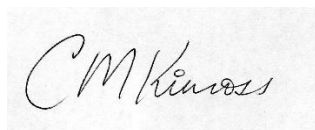
The Facebook is going much better. Many other members are contributing notices and there has been some healthy discussion. It has been kept as a public group and now has 175 members (over 100 more than last year). Most posts are getting well

aired as well. We should consider whether posts should only be allowed by paid up members, but it has not been a major issue to date.

I also use Twitter to air CWEC notices and issues. I'm not confident that I am using media savvy strategies, however, as my posts don't receive much attention. I probably don't use it enough.

Many thanks to the 2021-22 committee for all their hard work this year, especially getting the finances and membership under control and revision of the constitution. Membership has gone up as a consequence of better governance.

I would really like to focus on my peregrine falcon research this year, so am stepping down as president, but will be happy to lend a hand where necessary eg with the social media.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cilla Kinross".

Cilla Kinross, President, CWEC, 25/1/22