

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO WINZERO INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27 JULY 2021

In preparing this report, I needed to review the full list of activities and events we have undertaken over the past twelve months and, I must admit, I felt extremely tired by the end of it. It is hard to believe what has taken place in our fledgling year under very trying COVID circumstances.

I won't do an exhaustive summary for this presentation as most of the key things have already been well summarised in our regular newsletters (thanks to Gaye White). I intend to focus on what I see as the highlights with due recognition of the efforts put in by a range of individuals along the way.

With apologies for my engineering obsession with dot points, the following are what I see as WinZero's major achievements in 2020/21:

- Raised the profile of WinZero and make it more attractive for major donors to support our activities, we applied for and achieved Charity status. This was followed by an application for Registered Environmental Organisation with DGR1 status which is still in the Federal Government pipeline. My thanks to Richard Krohn for soliciting the support of the Southern Highlands Foundation to obtain the *pro bono* engagement of Herbert Smith Freehills for this initiative.
- Following the receipt of 40+ suggestions from the various working groups on activities that WinZero might undertake, conducted a very well attended Strategic Planning workshop in November 2020 to whittle this down to a manageable task. As a result, a plan of attack for WinZero was developed which proposed we concentrate on a few manageable-sized projects for the next 12 months or so to raise our profile, increase our membership and raise funds to strengthen our organisation. Particular thanks to our members, Nat Swainston and Reece Proudfoot, who took on this task for us free of charge.

- The main outcome of this session was that we should establish three main “pillars” for our ongoing organisational structure – Communication/Education, Project Planning & Development and Fundraising. One of the tasks for the incoming Board will be to identify and support individual leaders for each of these pillars.
- In the meantime, the focus has been mainly on education and advocacy while participating and supporting a number of significant grant applications, several of which had regenerative agriculture as a key focus. Unfortunately, none of these applications were successful. We were however able to obtain a Community Assistance grant from the WSC to enable us to offer governance training to both WinZero members and our affiliated organisations.
- WinZero has engaged with the Wingecarribee Shire Council on a number of occasions and at various levels of that organisation to look at areas that we could work together on to reduce carbon emissions and to enhance the environmental resilience of our Shire. Board members Clive West and Miles Lochhead were particularly helpful in this regard with additional support from Kirstine McKay along the way.
- A strong working relationship has been developed with the TrueGreen group of companies ahead of their proposed electric vehicle plant development at the Moss Vale Innovation Park. The objective is to partner with them in enhancing their relationship with the Southern Highlands community and participate with them in activities of mutual interest wherever we can add value.
- As a member of the Net Zero Emissions community, WinZero made proposals for projects under their One Million Jobs Plan. We also developed relationships with other community groups with similar objectives such as Zero Byron, Zero Emissions Sydney North, Community Voices of Hume in Goulburn and the Hepburn Shire community.

- Submissions were made on a variety of issues that aligned with WinZero's objectives, including:
 - WSC Housing Strategy
 - Zali Stegall's Climate Change Bill (including WZ member attendance at the Hearing)
 - Helen Haines's Local Power Agency Bill
 - Hume Coal Mine EIS and subsequent IPC Hearings
 - Tahmoor South Coal Mine Extension
 - WSC's Climate Change Strategy development
 - Austral Brickworks New Berrima Plant EIS

My thanks to Clive West, Greg Olsen and Geoff Wright for their help in these areas.

- A comprehensive website has been established along with an extensive social media presence, an on-line membership management system, a Trello-based organisational management system, a Zoom-based communication system and an electronic Xero-based accounting system. My thanks to Gaye White, Barry Scott and the local accounting firm (Oxley Partners) for their contribution to these administrative assets.
- A highly visible presence was achieved at the Earth Hour event at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens – including a comprehensive display of a range of electric vehicles and an advice centre on rooftop solar installations. Gaye White, Peter Bawden, Darryl Whiteside, Penny Piccione, Clive West, Richard Krohn and Lucy Nias were all instrumental in achieving this outcome.
- WinZero was instrumental in the formation of the Climate Change Advisory Panel which will act as a trusted adviser to the Environment & Sustainability Committee of the WSC. There are a number of our members on the Panel – Miles Lochhead, Peter Bawden, Geoff Byrne, Lyndal Breen, Greg Olsen and Nat Swainston.

- WinZero has been allocated 3 seats at the table on the Southern Highlands Key Stakeholders Group and these positions are currently filled by your Chair, Gaye White and Richard Krohn. We also have indirect representation on this influential Shire-wide round-table via Southern Highlands Low Carbon Living – with Miles Lochhead and Mike Meldrum representing this group.
- Input was provided to a variety of Articles in the local newspapers on matters that aligned with WinZero's environmental objectives.
- WinZero has been active in a number of locally-based campaigns regarding proposed developments in the Shire:
 - The proposed construction of a number of cabins by Frensham in their environmentally sensitive Lower Holt area adjacent to the school – thanks to Clive West, Gaye White and Roma Dix for their efforts
 - The proposal to build a plastics recycling plant in the Moss Vale Innovation Park in close proximity to local residents and on an important riparian zone – thanks Heidi Fagan for your campaign
 - The mooted “Waste to Energy” plant at Jerrara in support of the objections of the local residents.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the outgoing Board for their input and support throughout the year:

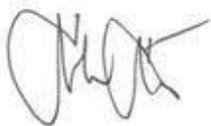
Deputy Chair – Clive West

Secretary – Miles Lochhead

Treasurer – Lou Flower

Board Members – Richard Krohn, Kirstine McKay, Gaye White, Barry Scott

and wish the incoming Board all the best in their endeavours in the year ahead.



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Derek White

Chair – WinZero Inc