



**NFWA**  
**NUCLEAR-FREE**  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

# **Annual Report 2023-2024**

**Acknowledgement:**

Nuclear Free WA operates on Country that was never ceded. NFWA respects and honours the Traditional Owners of this land, Elders past and present.

We encourage all members to learn more about the history of the land they occupy, and the cultures that took care of this land for so long and continue to do so.

Always was, always will be.

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## Co-convenor statement

NFWA was set up in May 2023, the newest incarnation of over 50 years of anti-nuclear campaigning in Western Australia. The formation of a new group was initiated by changes in the hosting arrangements at the Conservation Council of WA, but also recognised the need for a stand-alone nuclear-free organisation to meet the challenges of a changeable and multi-issue nuclear environment.

To advance the protection of the environment from nuclear threats including threats arising from uranium mining and processing; management, storage and transport of uranium; nuclear waste; nuclear power; nuclear weapons; nuclear submarines and other military uses of nuclear energy.

Right now we are facing several serious nuclear threats, including proposals for nuclear reactors at Muja in Collie, nuclear waste storage from AUKUS at Meeandip (Garden Island), nuclear submarines in Derbal Nara (Cockburn sound), nuclear submarine maintenance at Henderson, and uranium mining plans advancing at Mulga Rock on Upurli Upurli Nguratja. It is critical that we expand our capacity.

***Nuclear Free WA is in need of both financial support and, most importantly, for dedicated people within our movement to get more involved. Our call for greater engagement by our supporters is both urgent and heartfelt.***

### **Committee members list 2023-34:**

Co-Convenors - Mia Pepper and KA Garlick

Treasurer - KA Garlick

Committee Members - June Lowe, Liam Lilly

## Remembrance

We would like to acknowledge the passing of two incredible First Nations leaders in the nuclear free movement in 2023-2024. We would like to extend our condolences to the families and communities.

Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, Arabunna man and founding member of the Australia Nuclear Free Alliance, was a true leader and mentor to many people in the nuclear free movement across the country. He spent much of his life defending Arabunna water and mound springs in the Lake Eyre region from the Olympic Dam uranium mine in South Australia. He was inspiring, creative and visionary in challenging the systems that have allowed such widespread environmental destruction and devastating displacements.

Uncle Kev came to Perth for the end of the Walk Against uranium mining in 2011 to coincide with the CHOGM meeting and protests and visited when BHP (owner of Olympic Dam) held its meetings in Perth. Our hearts are broken from losing him and forever grateful for the time and knowledge shared and bold and brave actions he took.

Uncle Richard Evans, Koara Elder, was a respected Elder, a staunch advocate for Aboriginal rights, sovereignty and protecting Country from uranium mining. Ever since he was a young man, Uncle Richard stood up for his community and Country to stop the uranium mine proposal at Yeelirrie. In 2008 he travelled to Brisbane to take his fight to the BHP shareholders meeting. In 2009 he attended his first Australia Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA) meeting in Quorn South Australia and became a founding member of the West Australia Nuclear Free Alliance (WANFA). In 2010, Uncle Richard helped organise and lead a 10-week walk from Wiluna to Perth in protest of uranium mining in WA. He opened his home and heart to campaigners in the lead up to and during the walk, and provided a base in Leonora for walkers and campaigners. He had a clear and important message: *“It’s not just about protecting this Country for us – but uranium threatens communities and Country from the cradle to the grave, at home and overseas. This is our responsibility and we take that responsibility seriously. We have to leave this poison where it is.”*

Uncle Richard was always welcoming and generous with his time and home, always ready for a cuppa, a yarn and a good laugh by the fire. He was a man of deep faith, and this shone through with his strength, love and laughter. We cherish the times we were privileged to be a part of his life; the lessons and strength. We will carry him in our hearts forever. We will always keep the fire burning.

# Activity Report

## NFWA Foundational Achievements

In May 2023 a group of dedicated anti-nuclear advocates convened a meeting at the Fremantle library and called on old and new allies with a pitch for the establishment of a new organisation to support the efforts of nuclear related campaigns. With advice and support of other alliances and groups we decided to set up all the organisational structures we would need to be able to expand and contract our focus on different issues as required. We thank our allies for their support as we wrote our constitution.

NFWA established a membership structure and within the first few meetings had elected a Committee: June Lowe, KA Garlick, Liam Lilly and Mia Pepper.

The Committee established a bank account with Australia Bank and developed a public trust within that account. Our Treasurer, KA Garlick, established a Public Fund Management Committee which is made up of KA Garlick, Phoebe Corke and Robert Guthrie. The Management Committee plays an important role in the allocation of funds that have been donated to NFWA and as a layer of accountability over the administration and use of that fund.

In June 2023, NFWA registered with ASIC and lodged our constitution. We successfully applied for charity status with the ACNC. Early on NFWA engaged pro bono accounting support from Carbon Group Accounting to help us set up our bookkeeping using Xero.

NFWA also set up our online profile - converting “Uranium Free” facebook, twitter and instagram to Nuclear Free WA. We established the Nuclear Free WA website, an online shop using Square, and our database to assist in online actions/ petitions, fundraising, events, and newsletters using Action Network which connects to our website. NFWA setup file management using Google Drive. Setting up these systems has taken a lot of work and requires ongoing effort to maintain. We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to Scott Ludlam for the design of our logo and to Allan Boyd for support to establish our new website.

NFWA was given foundational funding support from the Conservation Council of WA and became a CCWA member group. We have also been very fortunate to attract a few ongoing donors and have some irregular donations come through. We have been successful in receiving funding for the important work of Don't Nuke the Climate - which is a shared campaign across NFWA, the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), and Friends of the Earth Australia (FoE). Through this work we've been able to secure an \$8,000 for the development of two brief animation explainer videos on nuclear power. We received further funding for the redevelopment of the Don't Nuke the Climate website and to assist in organising support for the seven regions now impacted by Peter Dutton's nuclear reactors plan.

Another core part of our work over these twelve-months has been responding to the consultations relating to the developments at HMAS Stirling to facilitate nuclear powered submarines. We have maintained a watchful eye on uranium mining developments at Mulga Rock and continue to push for

the state government to use its powers to withdraw expired approvals and recall the Mulga Rock approval. We are very pleased that there are still no operating uranium mines in WA, but remain vigilant with the very real threat of the Mulga Rock mine emerging over coming years.

Despite the heavy administration load of NFWA's foundational year, we have sustained political impact as well as public outreach. Politically we have had several strategic conversations with MPs and other decision-makers as well as writing important submissions to governments. Our work in the community has included organising and supporting numerous actions and events (see below), and mobilising support through newsletters, petitions and social media platforms.

We are pleased that our online structures, including our on-line shop, play an important role supporting the on-the-ground-work of our membership. In the twelve-months ahead we aim to further streamline these structures to better support the dedicated volunteers who are working hard responding to the nuclear threats from submarines, reactors, mines and waste. Particularly, we would like to acknowledge the work of Stop AUKUS WA and Don't Nuke the Climate who have led incredible efforts and mobilisation in response to the AUKUS threats in WA and the national threat of nuclear power respectively.

We also acknowledge the ongoing struggles in First Nations communities at Mulga Rock where the Upurli Upurli community are seeking to protect their homelands from uranium threats; and also the Nyoongar community in Collie who have been at the forefront of the vocal opposition to plans for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors at Muja. This work and these efforts are invaluable and NFWA looks forward to continuing to support this critical work and response to nuclear threats.

## Key campaign updates

### Uranium Mining

In Western Australia we continue to face the threat of uranium mining with Deep Yellow's Mulga Rock proposal able to advance and we continue to offer support to the Upurli Upurli community and look for opportunities to protect Mulga Rock. NFWA continues to seek the withdrawal of flawed and expired environmental approvals for three uranium mines which were approved in the dying days of the Barnett Liberal government: Kintyre, Yeelirrie and Wiluna. We are conscious of the ever present threat of a Liberal government lifting the policy ban on uranium mining in WA and continue to advocate for a permanent legislated ban on uranium mining in WA in response to that threat.

### Nuclear Submarines

There are emerging threats to WA from the AUKUS pact and Force Posture Agreement which would see the increased presence of foreign nuclear powered submarines in Derbal Nara (Cockburn Sound). The nuclear-powered submarine plans for WA have escalated over the year to include a "Controlled Industrial Facility" to store low level nuclear waste at Meeandip (Garden Island) and plans for dry dock at Henderson, where nuclear powered submarines would be brought onshore for maintenance. This is a huge escalation in the risks of nuclear submarines in WA. Stop AUKUS WA, councillors and community members in the Fremantle, Cockburn, Rockingham area have led the response to these

threats with stalls, actions, motions and petitions to councils and community mobilisation. NFWA has supported these efforts where possible and contributed to numerous submissions.

## Nuclear Power

Nationally, the Liberal Coalition announced that if elected they would develop nuclear power at seven sites in Australia, including Small Modular Nuclear Reactors at Muja the retiring coal plant near Collie. This proposal has been opposed by all political parties in WA, some on ideological grounds, others on economic grounds and the incompatibility with the WA grid.

There is no prohibition on nuclear power in WA and the attitude of the Federal Liberal Coalition indicates that they would seek to impose reactors with or without state legislation. This proposal threatens to derail, distract and delay the renewable energy transition we desperately need to address the climate crisis we face.

NFWA began visiting the community in Collie in 2024, to provide background information, resources, and some support and will continue to prioritise any assistance we can offer to the Collie community as they are confronted with the threat of nuclear reactors.

With the establishment of NFWA, we have been pleased to be able to accept funding to support the national Don't Nuke the Climate campaign which provides a central source of information on nuclear issues and tracks media and actions. With this funding we have been able to support two part-time workers nationally to run the website, coordinate events and training for communities and organisations nationally and engage with the international Don't Nuke the Climate alliance who are active through the international COP forums.

## Nuclear waste

Nuclear waste remains front of mind with the new plans to store nuclear waste at Meeandip (Garden Island) from the maintenance of US and UK nuclear-powered submarines. We are increasingly aware of the Sandy Ridge intractable waste facility which is licensed to take low-level nuclear waste operating in Southern Cross next to the government facility Mt Walton. We are increasingly considering the prospect of the Federal government seeking to store national low level nuclear waste in WA at these sites. Perhaps of greater concern is the production of radioactive mine wastes in Kalgoorlie from the Lynas Rare Earths cracking and leaching plant and the management of radioactive wastes from the Eneabba Rare Earths Plant near Geraldton.

NFWA continues to track nuclear waste issues in WA, engage in consultations and raise concerns and seek information in discussions with members of parliament.

## Actions and events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Notes</b>
July 2023	Political meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WA Environment Minister Chief of Staff re removal of uranium mining approvals under s47a</li></ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alannah Clohessy - introduction to NFWA</li> <li>● Josh Wilson re changes to EPBC and Uranium assessments</li> </ul>
August 2023	Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration	To commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - NFWA, MAPW, Stop AUKUS WA and IPAN held a vigil at Wesley Corner.
August 2023	Breakfast with the PM	NFWA joined others to welcome the Prime Minister at a Breakfast with the PM with visible signs calling for the end of AUKUS.
Sept 2023	International Day of Peace Vigil	NFWA joined with Stop AUKUS WA and IPAN to hold a vigil at Wesley Church.
Sept 2023	Conservation Council of WA Conference	Mia Pepper addressed the conference.
October 2023	Peace Walk - Rockingham to HMAS Stirling	Front page of Fremantle Herald.
November 2023	WA Labor state conference	A strong motion was passed calling for the withdrawal of expired uranium approvals. With support from the Labor Environment Action Network we were able to get materials into the conference. There was also a strong presence outside the conference on nuclear issues.
November 2023	Presence outside Deep Yellow AGM	Deep Yellow is the company behind Mulga Rock uranium mine. Opposing this mine, and supporting the Upurli Upurli Traditional Owners is a campaign priority for NFWA.
Dec 2023	Launch and end of year celebration 2023	To launch the formation of Nuclear Free WA we hosted an event that was opened with a great welcome from Daniel Garlett. We talked through the four major campaign areas - uranium, waste, reactors, weapons and submarines. It was great to come together and reconnect and to have some new people join. Member for Fremantle Josh Wilson also joined with strong encouragement for the organisation.
Dec 2023	Future of Defence forum	NFWA joined Stop AUKUS and others at the Future of Defence forum, highlighting the risks of nuclear submarines and weapons.

Feb 2024	Strategy Meeting	Held at Earthwise - talked through potential areas of future work and events and overall position on some long-standing nuclear issues.
Feb 2024	Nukes 101	NFWA held a workshop on nuclear issues, with an update on nuclear issues facing WA including waste, submarines, reactors and uranium mining.
March 2024	WA defence forum - Rockingham	Stop AUKUS WA led a rally at the front of the WA Defence forum raising concerns about the risks of nuclear submarines in Cockburn Sound
March 2024	Peter Garrett concert - stall	NFWA was invited to hold a stall at the Peter Garrett Concert in Subiaco, which was a great opportunity to connect and amplify important nuclear issues.
March 2024	Australia Nuclear Free Alliance - annual conference - Woolongong	KA representing NFWA attended the 2024 ANFA conference and travelled with Tjiwarl and Upurli Upurli women from the Goldfields who are fighting against the threat of uranium mines.
April 2024	Resisting Militarism in the AUKUS Era	With Stop AUKUS, MAPW, Doctors for Environment, NFWA.
May 2024	Cockburn Petition - led by Nuke Free Cockburn Sound	Stop AUKUS WA and Nuclear Free Cockburn sound petitioned the Cockburn Council, Nuclear Free WA was able to host the petition on our Action Network site.
May 2024	May Day - BBQ (annual fundraiser)	NFWA has taken on the tradition of cooking the May Day BBQ for Unions WA. This has been a great way to show solidarity and stay in touch with some of key allies in the union movement.
June 2024	AUKUS - Waste storage submission workshops - Dumbartung x 2	At the request of a Nyoongar Elder we hosted a submission writing working on the plans for radioactive waste storage at HMAS Stirling. This was extended to a second session.
July 2024	Dont Nuke The Climate Forum	Mia Pepper was a speaker at this Forum, entitled 'How to Stop Dutton's Nuclear Power Reactors.
July 2024	Indian Ocean Defense and Security conference	Billed as 'AUKUS meets the Quad', heads of military from UK, US, NZ and Australia gathered to discuss AUKUS. NFWA joined a protest presence outside the (well-guarded) venue.

## Submissions

<b>Date</b>	<b>Submission</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
May 2023	Defence Legislation Amendment (Naval Nuclear Propulsion) Bill 2023 [Provisions]	Concerns about the potential impact of nuclear submarines docked at HMAS Stirling.
August 2023	Defence Capability Assurance and Oversight Bill 2023	Security and financial risk of AUKUS and nuclear powered submarines.
	Briefing Senate submission Defence Capability and Assurances Bill	
Dec 2023	HIFAR Decommissioning Phase A licence application	Submission on the decommissioning plans for the HIFAR reactor at Lucas Heights.
	Battery and Critical Mineral strategy	Submission outlining why uranium should not be considered a “critical mineral.”
January 2024	Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023 [Provisions] and Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023 [Provisions]	Address concerns, suggest amendments and areas requiring further clarity alongside comments of some foundational issues with AUKUS.
June 2024	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency on the licence application from the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) for the siting of a Controlled Industrial Facility (CIF).	Oppose application from the ASA which would facilitate the storage of Low Level Nuclear Waste from visiting US and UK nuclear powered submarines.

# Membership and Engagement

Between May 2023 and July 2024 Nuclear Free WA gained 98 members.

NFWA has sent out 33 supporter communications, including monthly newsletters, member updates, meeting notices and event reminders.

The NFWA monthly newsletter provides a comprehensive global round-up of all things nuclear – uranium mining, waste disposal, nuclear power generation and weapons, mishaps and misdeeds. The newsletter provides background and talking points on a wide range of nuclear news, empowering our members to have well-informed conversations and take action where possible.

A sample of topics covered includes: tracking the Coalition’s embrace of Nuclear power; Japan’s discharges of water from Fukushima; buried nuclear waste endangered by climate change; nuclear implications of NATO deployments in Ukraine; and of course, the folly of AUKUS. We also report on the occasional good news stories, with campaign wins such as the axing of Jabiluka’s uranium mine lease. For people concerned about nuclear issues, the NFWA newsletter is an invaluable resource.

## Media

Nuclear Free WA has engaged in media discussions through talk back radio, provided briefings and released media statements in response to emerging nuclear issues throughout the year.

July 2023	Radio National.
Oct 2023	Media Release: Peace Walk.
October 2023	Peace Walk - Front page of Fremantle Herald.
March 2024	Media Release opposing and responding to the Federal Coalition’s nuclear energy announcement.
March 2024	Joint media release - NFWA/ CCWA/ AMWU - opposing the Liberal party’s promise to lift the ban on uranium mining.
March 2024	Live Debate on Radio 720 with Nadia on uranium mining.
June 2024	Cockburn Herald - Front page “Protest as Cockburn backs AUKUS.”

## Political Engagement

<b>Date</b>	<b>Engagement</b>
June 2023	Letter to Roger Cook and Environment Minister Reece Whitby, outlining NFWA agenda.
June 2023	Meeting with Environment Ministers CoS on the withdrawal of uranium approval under s47a of the EP Act.
July 2023	Met with Alana Clohesy to introduce NFWA.
August 2023	NFWA reported on uranium and critical minerals radioactive mine wastes to the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics.
Sept 2023	Meeting with former Minister for Mining, Bill Johnston.
November 2023	Labor State Conference – NFWA materials on LEAN stall (focusing on s47A withdrawals of uranium proposals).
May 2024	Met with Josh Wilson on nuclear issues.
Jan 2024	Meeting with Minister for Mining, David Michael – uranium and Mulga Rock, also AUKUS.

## Finance Report

NFWA is pleased to report that it is in a sound financial position.

Thanks to two significant unexpected donations received in mid-June this year we have been able to report a significant surplus at the end of June 24.

Due to the generosity of these donations NFWA has been able to provide support and assistance to two dedicated part-time national Don't Nuke the Climate Australia campaigners.

General donations continue to provide NFWA a modest but reliable source of income to support its operations, while the capital will be preserved for critical needs while adding a level of financial security into the future.

NFWA's Consolidated Surplus for the financial year that ended on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was \$123,242.95, largely due to the two donations received during the financial year.

Expenditure for the year was \$20,014.25, largely spent on the production of two animation videos, marketing and events to build our membership, stall stock with t-shirts, hoodies and promotional material to reach and engage community, social media and subscriptions for our operations. Other expenditures include our contributions to First Nation’s Welcome to Country at nuclear-free events, as well as supporting other groups.

Statement of Profit and Loss

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>INCOME</b>		
Fundraising	37,168.60	11,425.00
Merchandise	838.70	0.00
Public Fund	105,000.00	0.00
Other Income	249.90	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>143,257.20</b>	<b>11,425.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Operations	2260.24	0.00
Campaigns	15,506.77	0.00
Other expenditure	2,247.24	57.27
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>20,014.25</b>	<b>57.27</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>123,242.95</b>	<b>11,367.73</b>

NFWA is fortunate to have The Carbon Group as one of our supporters. Dominic Papaluca has completed a full financial report at no charge to our group. This is a saving of well over \$1,000 and we thank Dominic for his support and guidance over this last year.

The NFWA Committee would like to express our appreciation to all our generous donors and supporters, including The Carbon Group and the in-kind support that we receive during the year to sustain NFWA. We are grateful for the generosity of every individual donor, and we rely upon this support more than ever. If you know of anyone that would be interested in supporting NFWA with its important work, please contact us.

Nuclear Free WA continues to invest in fundraising efforts and building strong relationships with the dividends from this investment delivering increased resources to support the group’s advocacy work. Through these efforts, NFWA operating costs were entirely covered this year without reliance on government funding, placing NFWA in a strong, independent position.