

Overview

Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle's twin goals are to share information with local residents about all aspects of the changing climate, and to engage with our political representatives and leaders to urge strong action to reduce emissions. We continue to participate in national or state-based **campaigns** such as **Stop Adani** and **Time2Choose**; we have researched and distributed information about candidates' climate policies at elections at all levels of government; and we have developed our local presence through our regular **Climate in the Pub** discussion meetings, and activity at local events and markets. As well, we have a strong **social media** profile on Facebook, Twitter, our website and email newsletters.

People

Our name

With membership spreading beyond the Balmain and Rozelle postcodes, and our relationship with a council that now extends as far as Ashfield, we questioned whether the group's name was still accurate.

A committee meeting considered this question very thoroughly, and concluded that

- our name was well established and recognised within the wider climate movement;
- our main strength was as a very local grassroots group and we should be identified as such;
- our banners, tee-shirts, social media and website would all need changing, for little apparent benefit;

so we decided to leave the name and logo unaltered, as **Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle**.

Membership

Paid membership remains steady at around 25. Membership fees are much more than doubled by additional donations from members, for which we are very grateful.

We have produced more CCBR tee-shirts, (in the same design). A small number are still available for purchase.

Newsletters and email

Our **e-Newsletter** subscriber base has grown mainly due to sign-ups at our public campaigning events, and now hovers at around 1,000, with no more than 3-4 'unsubscribes' after each mail-out. Readership of (nearly) monthly e-Newsletters and reminders is around 29% - slightly higher than the community sector as a whole.

The 28-strong **ccbr-core** email group is used to share information about events and general discussion. However, a more integrated listing of members, supporters, helpers etc would be useful.

Social Media

Our **Facebook Page** has 348 followers, while the Facebook **Group** (open to all members to post) has 301 members. Facebook Pages favour paid promotions, so posting to the Group seems to reach more people.

Our **Twitter** account remains steady but it's not a major outlet for us.

Our **website** suffers from an outdated and unreliable html editor and CMS which makes updating it more time-consuming than it should be. The site, although rich in information, is ready for overhauling.

A small subcommittee meets regularly to review our social media processes, and improvements are being made: however, a lot more could be done with the support of one or two experienced web designers or users.

Campaigns and Activities

Stop Adani

In September, 10 members of CCBR took part in a full day **Stop Adani Summit** at Paddington Town Hall. Subsequently we played a major role in publicising the huge human "**Stop Adani**" sign at Camperdown Park in October. A number of CCBR members also took part in the sign on Bondi beach the same morning.

Stop Adani Sydney is an active group, and our role has moved to supporting, rather than organising events.

Footprints Eco-festival

CCBR participated in this annual council-organised event in Whites Creek Park again in 2017. We conducted our StopAdani survey, and also distributed our candidate comparison flyers for the local council election.

Council elections

For the first **Inner West Council elections** we asked all candidates in **Balmain** and **Leichhardt** wards for their policies on climate action at council level. We printed their answers in **flyers (about 1,000)**, which we handed

out in the lead-up to the election. Voters – and candidates - welcomed this information as we are not aligned to any party. Greens and Labor councillors then worked together to push a wide-ranging motion on renewable energy through in the first month of the new council, with CCBR members speaking at the council meeting. The resolution included Council joining the **Cities Power Partnership** program designed by The Climate Council.

Bennelong by-election

We produced a candidate comparison flyer to assist the **Ryde-Gladesville Climate Action Group** in the Bennelong by-election, fitting brief responses to three questions (or policy summaries if no response) from all 12 candidates on a single flyer. Additionally, we joined with the Ryde-Gladesville group at Eastwood Plaza making a constantly moving human sign spelling out various anagrams of STOP ADANI while handing out the flyers.

Time2Choose

We promoted the **Time2Choose** campaign for a clear choice in NSW of clean renewable energy over dirty fossil fuels, resulting in a strong and visible presence at the rally outside NSW Parliament House in March.

Get on to Gladys / Let Luke Know

Pursuing the **Time2Choose** campaign, we drafted letters to Premier **Gladys Berejiklian** and Opposition Leader **Luke Foley**, asking them for clear climate and energy policies for the 2019 state election. In one week, 150 people signed each, and they were mailed to the politicians individually or in small batches. We shared the letters with other climate groups in NSW (we know of one group that took them up). This campaign continues, with a slow but steady stream of these letters reaching the two leaders.

Submissions

Thanks largely to Derek, over the year we have made detailed submissions to:-

- ATO review of Deductible Grant Recipient rules
- Energy Security Board's review of the NEG (National Energy Guarantee)
- Dept of Environment and Energy, on Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme

as well as letters to:-

- NAIF and EFIC regarding proposed financing of the Adani rail project
- CMEC (China Machinery Engineering Corporation regarding proposed contracts with Adani
- Anthony Albanese – a follow up to earlier correspondence about Labor's position on Adani.

Several letters from CCBR members about topical climate issues have been published in the Sydney papers.

Climate in the Pub

Our bi-monthly meetings at the Three Weeds in Rozelle have been very successful in attracting highly experienced speakers and a growing audience for a wide range of climate-related issues. The program has made our activities (actually, the name "Climate in the Pub") much more familiar in the area.

An **Environmental Grant** from Inner West Council for the calendar year 2018 has allowed us to provide more regularly for screen presentations and we have added a PA system to the mix. Attendances have been climbing steadily, reaching **as many as 60** at the *Can We Sue?* event in June. Over the year we have covered:

- August 2017: **Batteries or better? New ways of managing energy**, with Nigel Morris (Solar Analytics) and Chris Dunstan (UTS Institute of Sustainable Futures)
- October 2017: **Heaven and Earth: Religious responses to climate change**, with Thea Ormerod (ARRCC), Gillian Refell (Sydney Buddhist Centre), and Maria Tiimon Chi Fang (Pacific Calling Partnership)
- December 2017: **Progress since Paris: update from the climate conference**, with Prof. Lynne Madden (Assoc. Dean, School of Medicine, Notre Dame Uni) and Andrew Petersen (Sustainable Business Australia)
- February 2018: **The Fight against Fracking**, with Nic Clyde (Lock the Gate) and Glen Klatovsky (350.org)
- April 2018: **Farmer in the Pub**, with Rebecca Gorman (Farmers for Climate Action) and Alison Smith (formerly Qld Dept Environment)
- June 2018: **Can we sue? Climate change and the Law**, with Prof. Rosemary Lister and Prof. Tim Stephens both from Sydney University Law Dept.

The year ahead

It is clear that the fossil fuel lobby continues to hold sway both in Canberra and Macquarie Street, with government announcements becoming increasingly disconnected from the available data.

Both NSW and Federal governments face elections in the coming year. In each case climate is just one of a number of issues which could dominate the campaigns. Surveys repeatedly show that the majority of the population want stronger government action to reduce emissions: the challenge will be to ensure that this is moved up the list so that it becomes a vote changer.