

HOPE's national affiliations

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Boomerang Alliance - <https://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/>



Formed in 2003, the Boomerang Alliance is a not-for-profit group delivering zero waste outcomes. The group were born out of a campaign for a container deposit system across Australia. Although this campaign continues, since 2003, the group has grown to more than 50 allies across Australia, including the likes of Green Peace, the Australian Conservation Foundation, and Clean Up Australia.

The Boomerang Alliance are aiming to drive the systematic and behavioural changes necessary to achieve a zero-waste society. To achieve this, their two strategic objectives are:

- Promoting best practice waste management to enhance resource efficiency and recovery
- To have Australia's ocean plastic pollution reduced by 70% by the year 2020.

Whilst the Boomerang Alliance advocates for action at all levels, there is a particular emphasis on the manufacturer. The Boomerang Alliance supports the cradle-to-grave approach that extends producer responsibility; there should be a shift in responsibility by which producers remain responsible for the environmental impacts of their products post-retail and consumption.

To achieve these desired outcomes, the Boomerang Alliance engage in various activities. This includes advocacy campaigns, providing education and advocacy resources to allies, investigating wasteful activities, and lobbying MPs and major industries.

Major campaigns, projects, and activities

Cash for Containers: Since their launch, the Boomerang Alliance has been working towards making Australia the first continent to embrace [Cash for Containers](#). When a beverage is purchased, a small deposit will be made, and then refunded to the consumer if they return the beverage's packaging to a collection point where it will be recycled.

VIC Single Use Plastics Ban: The Boomerang Alliance has been communicating with their allies and the Victorian Government to support the [banning of single used plastics](#) in 2023. They are calling for the legislative ban to be extended, to include plastic lined party plates and to offer stronger incentives for behaviour change. They are also advocating for the reduction of plastic packaging on fruit and vegetables, and to increase the use of reusable alternatives.

Marine Plastic Treaty: The Boomerang Alliance has been consulting with the Federal Government to guide their support for a [global treaty on marine plastic pollution](#). They are calling on the government to become a leader in the treaty, with the intention of encouraging wider global support.

Plastic Free Places: This is a [community program](#) to reduce single-use plastic use. The Boomerang Alliance work with local food retailers, events, and markets to support the transition to reusable or compostable cutlery and items. It began as a pilot project in Noosa, and is now operating in Byron, Perth, Adelaide, Cairns, and Townsville.

Plastic Pollution in NSW: To help eliminate the harmful impacts of plastic pollution, the Boomerang Alliance recently ran a petition to ban the release of balloons in New South Wales. To compliment this, they also offer an [easy-to-use email template](#) to help constituents ask their MPs to legislate a ban on the release of balloons. Additionally, they are encouraging recently graduated learner and probationary drivers to post their [plastic "L" or "P" plates](#) to relevant MPs with a note asking for them to be on the

interior of the vehicle. They are aiming to raise awareness of, to mitigate and prevent, the environmental destruction that fallen exterior plates cause.

Resource Recovery: [Campaigns](#) have been run to encourage the recycling, or upcycling, or e-waste, mattresses, and toxic tyres. The aim of recovering these resources is to prevent them being discharged into the environment, alongside reducing the need to use more materials to produce more resources.

Achievements

Container Deposit Schemes: Across Australia, the Cash for Containers campaign has led to the formulation of such schemes in the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, and Western Australia. Whilst South Australia's scheme preceded the Boomerang Alliance's campaign efforts, Victoria and Tasmania are currently in the process of designing and introducing a Cash for Containers scheme.

Marine Plastic Treaty: The Federal Government has recently agreed to be party to the development of a global pollution treaty by 2024. This, in part, was due to the major contributions the Boomerang Alliance made in influencing Australia's position towards the treaty.

Plastic Free Places: As of 2020, this program has eliminated over 6 million single use plastics.

E-waste: Following their campaign for resource recycling, [a national scheme](#) was introduced to recycle 50% of TVs and computers. South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria have also banned e-waste being transported to landfill. However, the Boomerang Alliance is still campaigning to the proportion of resources that are recycled.

Recycling of toxic tyres: Although the industry remains largely unregulated across Australia, the Australian Government is in the process of [banning the export of used tyres](#). Moreover, tyre recycling expanded by almost 50% after the campaign's launch.

Resources: Resources to raise awareness for their activities, impacts and outcomes can be found on [their website](#).

Lock the Gate Alliance (LtGA) - <https://www.lockthegate.org.au/>



LtGA is a grassroots organisation seeking to protect the environment from harmful coal mining, coal seam gas and fracking activities. In 2010, meetings were held by concerned landholders, organisations and communities about new coal and gas developments. These meetings saw concerned participants 'locking their gates' to defend their land from the invasion of coal and gas industries. It was at this moment that LtGA was born.

LtGA is the representative voice for communities facing the adverse impacts of coal and gas mining. Their mission is to protect Australia's natural, cultural, and agricultural heritage and resources. The long-term goal is for communities to be empowered to protect their precious land and water resources

through fair and just democratic processes. They hope to empower communities to use their voices to power out coal and gas.

Currently, the alliance has over 120,000 supporters and over 260 local groups. The alliance is mobilised by people from all walks of life including First Nations peoples, farmers and pastoralists, tourism operators, and concerned civilians. Local supporter groups include the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance, Friends of the Earth, and our very own Householders' Option to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. A full list of supporter groups can be found [here](#).

Activities

Advocacy: Leveraging the most up to date robust scientific evidence, LtGA is putting pressure on industry and government to put environmental protection on the agenda. Through submissions, they are calling for more stringent environment and health impact assessments, the creation of 'no-go zones', comprehensive legal reforms, and a moratorium on gas mining and exploration until further research arises.

Community capacity building: LtGA works closely with their members to provide them with the necessary skills and resources to fight for systematic change. This includes hosting workshops for the public to attend to guide them on writing submissions to government calling for the end of unnecessary gas and coal mining. For example, LtGA have helped the public with [written and verbal submissions](#) to the IPC (Information and Privacy Commission) NSW to stop the expansion of the Narrabri Underground Coal Mine.

Education and awareness: LtGA collaborate with experts, including lawyers, engineers, and environmental scientists, to provide the most [up to date information](#). This includes publishing [fact sheets](#) and [reports](#) that detail the impacts of specific development projects. Additionally, they provide information on alternative energy sources and highlight opportunities for environmental protection.

They are currently conducting these activities to target the following projects:

- Narrabri Coal Seam Gas
- Fracking the Kimberley
- Origin Energy's plans to frack the Lake Eyre Basin, the Kimberly region, and the Roper Gulf region
- Renewables Not Gas
- Glencore's coal expansion operations
- Whitehaven Coal 's in the Leard State Forest
- Valeria Mine Proposal
- Narrabri Underground
- Winchester South Coal Project
- Hunter Valley Operations Coal Mining Project
- Glendell expansion
- Baralaba South Coal Mine
- Acland Coal Mine Expansion

Protect the Laws that Protect the Places You Love (PYL) - <http://www.placesyoulove.org/>



PYL is a network of environmental groups demanding stronger environmental laws. They are calling for a new set of laws to replace the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999. Although this legislation aims to provide for the protection of the environment, it has been ineffective at protecting ecological communities. Not only this, the EPBC Act has also approved destructive projects that disadvantage vulnerable communities. That is why PYL are calling for more stringent legislation with a focus on environmental justice. This seeks to dismantle the power structures that disadvantage vulnerable communities through society-nature interactions. Viewing the environment through this lens seeks to focus and centre environmental protection on community, and democracy; it seeks to achieve a healthy relationship between people and the planet.

PYL's work is largely informed by the Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law. This panel formulated a robust set of recommendations for a robust and integrated system of national environment laws.

[Advocacy and education](#) are the main avenues by which PYL is helping bring about 'a new generation of national environmental laws' As the EPBC Act is independently reviewed every 10 years, PYL has published a guide on how to write submissions to the inquiry committee. They have also published various case studies that highlight the current deficits of the EPBC Act. This includes a lack of waste reducing policies that have led excessive plastic pollution, and Queensland's land clearing laws that have destroyed over 80,000 hectares of koala habitat. The aim of these resources is to help communities realise the necessity of a new set of laws and to join the movement for law reform.

There are [5 key principles](#) central to PYL's campaign:

- National leadership
- Central role for community
- Independent and trusted institutions
- Delivering environmental outcomes
- Ensuring resilience under climate change

These principles ensure effective environmental actions through collaboration, transparency, and democracy. Doing so will establish resilient communities that are empowered to fight for environmental protection.

This campaign calls for [four reforms](#):

1. A stronger set of national environmental laws. This includes expanding environmental responsibility to land clearing, biodiversity and ecosystems, water resources, climate change, air pollution and protected areas.
2. A National Sustainability Commission responsible for environmental standards. Their role would also entail monitoring and enforcing compliance with these standards.
3. A National Environmental Protection Authority that conducts environmental assessments in line with a clear and transparent process.
4. A legal framework for genuine community participation in the environmental decision making process. This includes open-access information, citizen science, and a more transparent process.

GM Free Australia Alliance (GMFAA) - <https://www.gmfreeaustralia.org.au/>



GMFAA is a not-for-profit alliance of individuals, businesses and organisations calling for a genetic manipulation (GM) free future. Genetically engineering crops have become a popular practice to provide plants with unnatural traits. Whilst it is used as a tool to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change – e.g., providing crops with drought resistant traits – it is also believed that they cause genetic pollution and adverse human health impacts. GM crops are believed to cause indirect destruction of ecosystems through increased use of glyphosate. GMFAA is calling attention to these potential impacts, with the aim of securing a future of sustainable agriculture and healthy food. Moreover, GMFAA have a large focus on food sovereignty. They seek to advocate for the protection of small-scale farmers as patented GM crops allow a few multinational companies to monopolise the food chain.

The [purposes](#) of the alliance are:

- **Coordination:** To act as a national body that represents the interests of those concerned about the widespread use of GM foods. They seek to connect alliance members to strengthen their voice and magnify their impact.

- **Action:** To guide alliance members towards a GM-free lifestyle. This includes establishing events and hosting activities that support GM-free food and farms.
- **Leadership:** To continue to grow and support the network of alliance members. Leadership is the precursor to coordination and action; it enables opportunities to be sought and created, challenges to be overcome, and a community of trust and commitment to be established and maintained.

Major projects and activities:

- **Capacity building:** GMFAA provides its alliance members with a variety of resources to assist them in making a transition to a GM-free lifestyle. This includes a shopping list with a compilation of GM-free labelled products in Australian supermarkets. GMFAA also provide its members with access to annual conferences, skills building, outreach, and education.
- **Advocacy:** Through awareness raising and expert information, GMFAA seek to encourage systematic changes to Australia's use of GM foods. As part of their capacity building activities, they also provide members with the skills to lobby their councils for glyphosate-free weed control. Non-members can access some of these capacity building and advocacy resources [here](#).
- **GM-Freeze:** This is GMFAA's flagship campaign. It calls for a 'freeze' or a moratorium on GM products while their impacts are investigated. This includes pausing the approvals of GM crops, and the approval of GM foods by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and halting to expansion of GM cropping areas. While the moratorium is in place, they are calling for the food approvals process and criteria to be reassessed. They are campaigning for extensive consultations, investigations, and other formal mechanisms to be undertaken to understand the impacts of GM in their entirety. It is only after their impacts are understood that a decision should be made on their use. This campaign also calls for more publicly available data into the science of GM crops, including their capacity to impact yields and pesticide use.

Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) - <https://www.earthlaws.org.au/>



AELA is a not-for-profit alliance of civil society organisations, individuals and professionals seeking to align with Earth Jurisprudence. The theory and practice of Earth Jurisprudence is a social movement and governance philosophy that seeks to recentre the earth in systems of governance. It seeks to transform the legal, economics, education, ethics, and art institutions to support and nurture the Earth. In doing so, AELA's mission is to reconnect human society to the living and natural world; AELA hope to inspire and guide communities to live within the ecological limits of the Earth. They demonstrate that economic stability is not mutually exclusive with

sustainability. In fact, AELA aim to facilitate long-term prosperity through sustainable economies and ecocentrism.

To achieve this overarching mission, AELA centre their work around academic research, community-based projects, and advocacy.

AELA's work is centred around [5 core themes](#) and desired outcomes:

- **Transforming law and governance:** The central focus of AELA is to transform law and governance at all scales. The following themes are core to achieving this outcome.
- **Changing culture:** Central to AELA's work is shifting cultural beliefs and behaviours that have fostered the advanced anthropocentrism. A shift in perception is necessary in order to rebalance and realign human values with planetary outcomes.

- **Reconnecting with what matters:** AELA is committed to influencing decision-making processes to ensure the integration of previously neglected topics and entities. This means transitioning law and governance away from anthropocentrism and encouraging a shift to ecocentrism.
- **Building community:** Much of AELA's focus is on community support and development. This requires building the capacity of civil society to become resilient, sustainable, and healthy.
- **Building alternatives:** To transition away from anthropocentrism, it is essential to support society in how this can be done. AELA offers, and is continuing to develop, a variety of informative resources and projects that demonstrate more suitable alternative to anthropocentrism.

Major projects and activities:

- **Education:** AELA provide a variety of resources to members and the public to demonstrate that we can still live 'comfortably' without sacrificing the environment. For example, an [ecocentric toolkit](#) is being developed to provide people with advice and guidance on how to live within the regenerative capacity of the Earth. Alongside this, AELA hosts '[Earth-Centred Futures](#)' courses for practitioners, professionals and academics, guiding them on how to integrate ecocentrism into their work. [Workshops](#) aimed at the general community are also held to provide the basics on sustainability, environmental governances and ecological justice. To target youth, AELA also offer a range of teaching and training modules for [High schools](#) and [Primary schools](#).
- **Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature:** The AELA is one of the founding members of this [alliance](#) that was established in 2010. This seeks to connect organisations similar to the AELA all over the world with the common goal of Earth Jurisprudence and the Rights of Nature.
- **Australian Earth Laws Centre (AELC):** This is a [network](#) of researchers, practitioners, and community leaders working towards goals and developing solutions and action plans. They also have working groups to connect the network on particular topics. Currently, there is a working group on Ecocide Laws Australia and Local Councils and Rights of Nature. The AELC also host the biennial Earth Laws conference
- **UN Harmony with Nature:** AELA participates in the United Nations' [Harmony with Nature](#) Programme. As part of this, they contribute to a Nature Knowledge Network to collaborate with interdisciplinary scholars to advance Earth Jurisprudence.
- **GreenPrints:** This is an [initiative](#) that provides steps and guidelines to living in an ecological society. This is intended for everyone, from individuals and families to businesses and schools. It provides a [map](#) where you can find your bioregion and sub(bio)region to ensure the steps you take account for the context of the landscape including water management and past land use trends.
- **Earth Ethics Australia Journal:** This [journal](#) is the official publication of the AELA. It is a biennial, peer-reviewed journal that publishes research and commentaries on Earth Jurisprudence, aiming to spread awareness about ecocentric governance and the necessity of moving beyond anthropocentrism.

To become a member and access further resources, you can sign up [here](#).
