



Friends of the Earth Brisbane

An Introduction

Hannah Elvery and Daisy Barham



Overview

- National and International perspective
- Aims and objectives
- Structure and way of organising
- Campaigns
- Businesses
- Funding and support



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Our Vision

We are working towards the creation of an ecologically sustainable and socially just society through community action.



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Friends of the Earth International

Friends of the Earth is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 77 national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent. We have approximately 2 million members and supporters around the world campaigning on today's most urgent environmental and social issues



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Friends of the Earth Australia



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au

History

FoE Brisbane first formed in 1970 and has continued through most of these years in various guises. We have filled a niche in the South East Queensland environmental movement since initiation in recognition of the radical social change required to ensure ecological integrity and social justice prevail.



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Aims and Objectives

1. Stimulate a movement of social change towards a socially just and ecologically sustainable society
2. Halt the destruction of ecosystems and the corresponding loss of biological diversity and ecological processes
3. Restore and encourage the restoration of degraded ecosystems.
4. Encourage the ecologically sustainable and socially just use and distribution of the earth's resources



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au

Aims and Objectives

5. Encourage local community self reliance and autonomy
6. Encourage the development of a well informed and active community
7. Provide the organisational framework and infrastructure to support the social change, community development and ecological restoration/conservation aspirations of members.



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au

Consensus Decision Making

All members active within the organisation have decision making powers. “Consensus” is the idea that ideally the group is best served if all members of a group agree to a given course action.

We meet twice a month to discuss organisational issues and make strategic decisions. We strive for 100% consensus when making decisions however recognise that this is not always possible and provide persons with the right to abstain or block a decision.



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au

Constructive and Oppositional Politics

FoE integrates reactive and proactive approaches to campaigning in recognition of the important role both methods play.

We believe this to be an effective way to ensure we are resisting inappropriate developments and ideas whilst promoting an alternative vision or solution to the issue at hand. Our constructive and oppositional politics are a defining feature of Friends of the Earth.



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Non-Violent Direct Action

NVDA is a fundamental pillar of our organisation as an historically effective way to nourish community change. We believe non-violent direct action is an enabling tool available to all Australians to influence political, social and economic situations.

We are currently using NVDA to highlight the inappropriateness of coal mining and exportation throughout Queensland. Non-violent direct action has been an effective strategy to initiate media dialogue.



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Our Campaigns

Climate Change and Energy

Many of our existing environmental and social problems are caused by energy production and resource use.

Coal mining and expansion

Uranium mining and waste dumping

Biofuel production and use



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au

Our Campaigns cont.

Climate Justice

Recognition of the industrialised world's historical carbon debt and the need to live within the earth's carrying capacity.

Climate Refugees
Affected peoples solidarity



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au

Our Vision Realised

Reverse Garbage

We believe that waste is something we do - not something that is. We collect high quality industrial discards, diverting them from landfill to sell them at low cost to the general public.

Reverse Garbage is a worker's cooperative established in 1998 to support FoE Brisbane financially, promote our organisation, realise our vision of halting ecosystem destruction, and encourage local community self reliance.

www.reversegarbage.com.au



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Our Vision Realised cont.

Bicycle Revolution

Repairing and restoring bicycles for almost 10 years. We see bicycles as symbolic of the societal change which is needed to move towards a sustainable society – an autonomous mode of transport without a combustion engine

Bicycle Revolution is a well known FoE business which receives customers from all over Brisbane to purchase a recycled bike, service their wheels, and chat all things bikes!

www.bicyclerevolution.org.au



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Funding and Supporters

We do not receive funding from major corporations, rather we rely on community members to support our work. At FoE we believe it to be inappropriate to gain our funding from businesses which contradict our vision.

The greatest support we receive comes from voluntary workers who form the vast majority of our workforce. FoE Brisbane has always been a proud volunteer based organisation which strives to enhance our membership throughout the communities in which we work.



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Getting Involved

FoE has many diverse opportunities for involvement. Introduction nights are a useful first port of call.

- Communications and Marketing
 - Information Technology
 - Graphic Design
- Community Campaigning and Outreach
 - Administration
 - Event Management
- Policy Analysis and Development



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au



Thank You

Questions & Comments

Please come and talk with us after the presentation for more information



**Friends of
the Earth
Brisbane**

(07) 3846 5793

www.foe.org.au

