

Impact Report

2025

Groundswell

A movement in motion

Across the climate movement, 2025 was a year of expansion – new strategies, new coalitions and new momentum. Your collective giving played a key part in that, helping organisations seize critical opportunities and supporting communities to step up and shape what comes next.

Together, we directed \$340,000 across our community grants – from an election-year rapid response to our biggest grant round yet, with more than 130 expressions of interest demonstrating just how alive and ambitious the movement is. Every contribution and every vote supported some of the most strategic and grounded climate work happening in the country right now.

This model of giving is powerful because it does more than fund good ideas. It strengthens the movement's backbone – the local leadership, coordination and resilience that make bigger wins possible.

That same principle now guides Groundswell's evolution. As the climate decade accelerates, we're expanding our work to meet it: scaling solutions through the Major Giving Circle, grounding our work in lessons learnt from our Caring for Country program, supporting emerging climate leaders, and launching Culture Shapers to shift the stories Australians hear every day.

All of this work connects. The grants you help deliver strengthen the ecosystem emerging leaders step into. Those leaders shape the stories Culture Shapers amplifies. And the solutions backed by major donors help create the conditions that make community-led action even more powerful. Each program reinforces the others – different strands of the same effort, shifting systems at the scale this moment demands.

You've shown what's possible when people pool their power, and this spirit now underpins all of Groundswell's work. Everything we're building grows from the foundations you've helped lay – your votes, feedback emails and survey responses shape how we learn, adapt and strengthen this work for 2026 and beyond. Thank you for your belief, your action and your generosity.

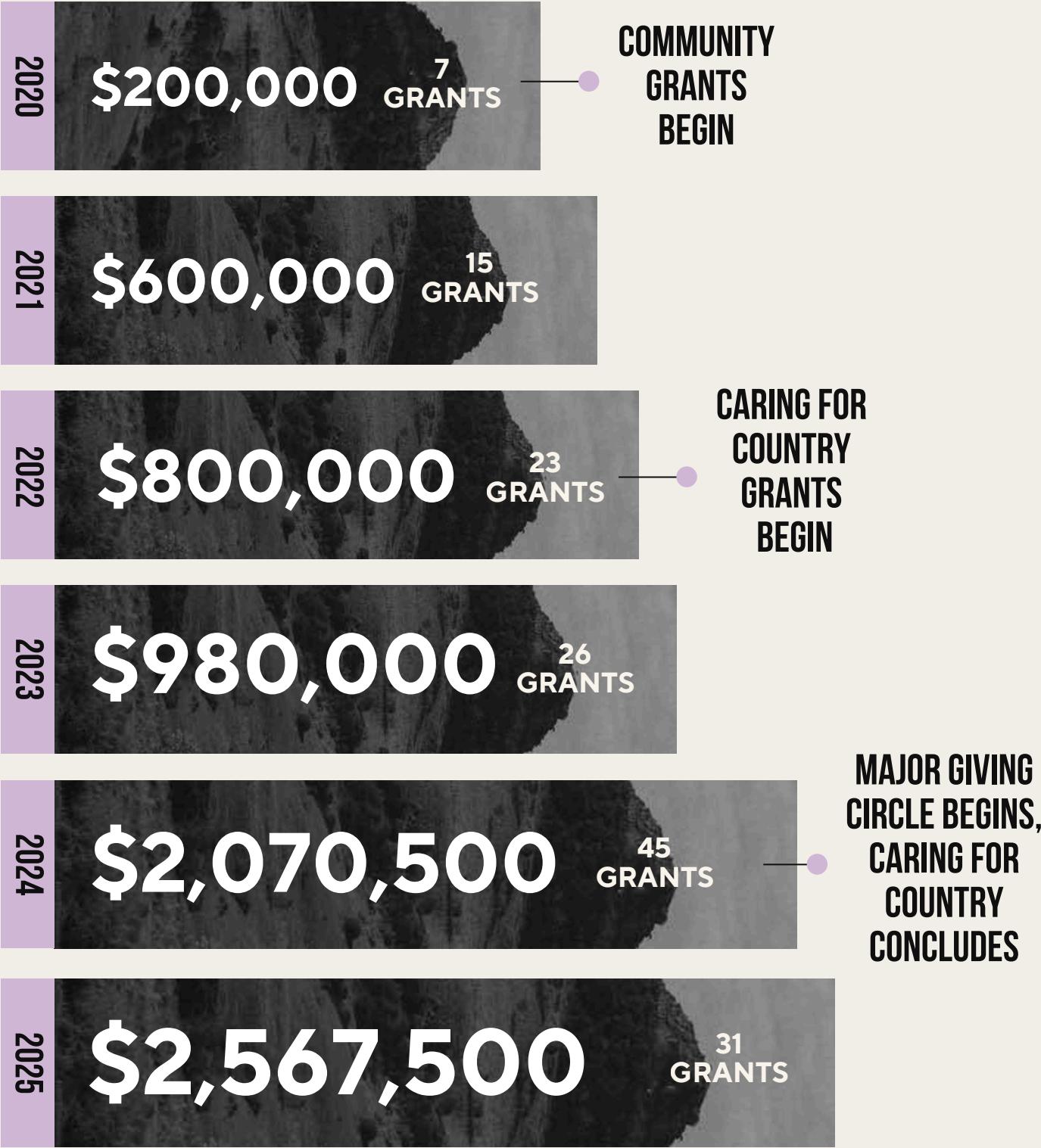
With gratitude and hope,

Arielle Gamble

Co-Founder & CEO, Groundswell

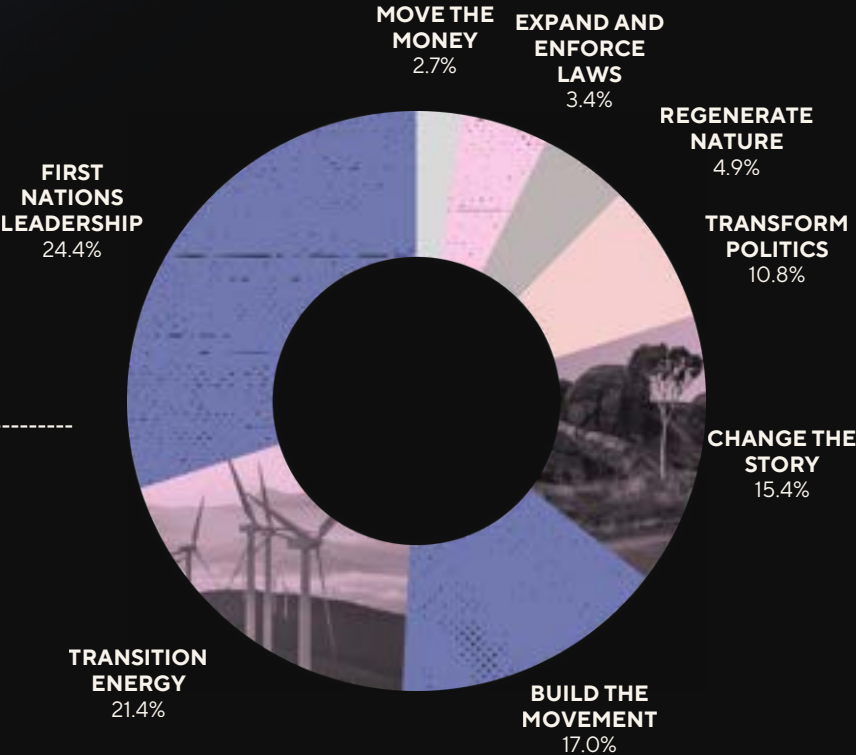
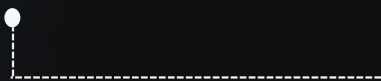


Funding the movement, year by year

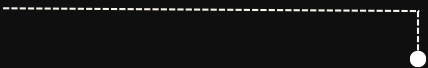


Mapping our impact

GRANTS BY CHANGE LEVER



GRANTS BY GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD



Community Grants 2025

The beating heart of Groundswell: fast, flexible funding

This year showed the power of shared action. Together, we **raised \$340,000** and **backed 10 organisations** delivering timely, strategic climate work across the country.

Membership now stands at **348 regular givers**, alongside **62 First Nations gratis members** and **67 lifetime members**. In 2025, **53 people joined** and **63 people stepped back** – a rhythm that reflects changing circumstances and reinforces why contributions need to be flexible and accessible. Listening to member feedback about rising cost-of-living pressures, we opened up our model so supporters can give at whatever level works for them.

This year we adapted our grantmaking to the moment. In February, we moved quickly, identifying **active election-year campaigns** and taking them straight to a vote – an experiment you generously backed. These organisations went on to help secure major outcomes at the election. By October, we saw **more EOIs than ever before**, a clear sign of a movement ready to act at scale.

We also took steps to make our processes more clear and collaborative. Our first **voting webinar** offered a transparent look at the shortlist and strategy behind the recommendations, and your **survey feedback** provided further guidance on what you value about Groundswell and where we can evolve. These insights will guide how we improve in 2026, including a more streamlined application process that reduces pressure on climate organisations.



Who we supported:

PICSA & Veilomani – \$40,000

Strengthening Pacific climate leadership and regional advocacy.

Gudanji for Country – \$40,000

Backing Gudanji Traditional Owners protecting Country from fossil fuel threats.

Climate Defenders Australia – \$40,000

Supporting communities resisting fossil fuel expansion and pushing for climate action.

Environs Kimberley – \$40,000

Protecting the Kimberley by challenging destructive fossil fuel projects.

Climate Collective Zenadth Kes – \$40,000

Elevating Torres Strait Islander leadership on climate and cultural survival.

Sweltering Cities – \$40,000

Advocating for cooler, healthier cities for people facing extreme heat.

Parents for Climate – \$30,000

Mobilising parents to champion a safe, clean energy future.

Farmers for Climate Action – \$30,000

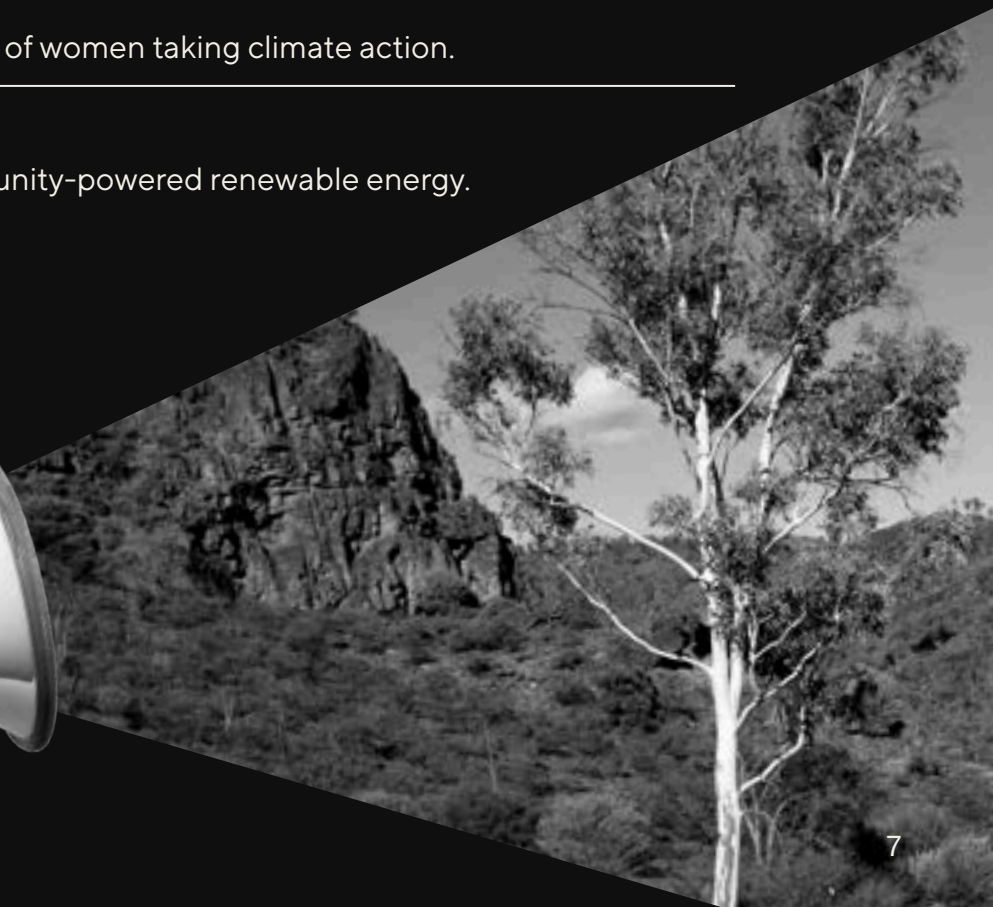
Supporting farmers to lead and advocate for climate solutions.

1 Million Women – \$30,000

Activating a nationwide community of women taking climate action.

Solar Citizens – \$10,000

Campaigning for affordable, community-powered renewable energy.



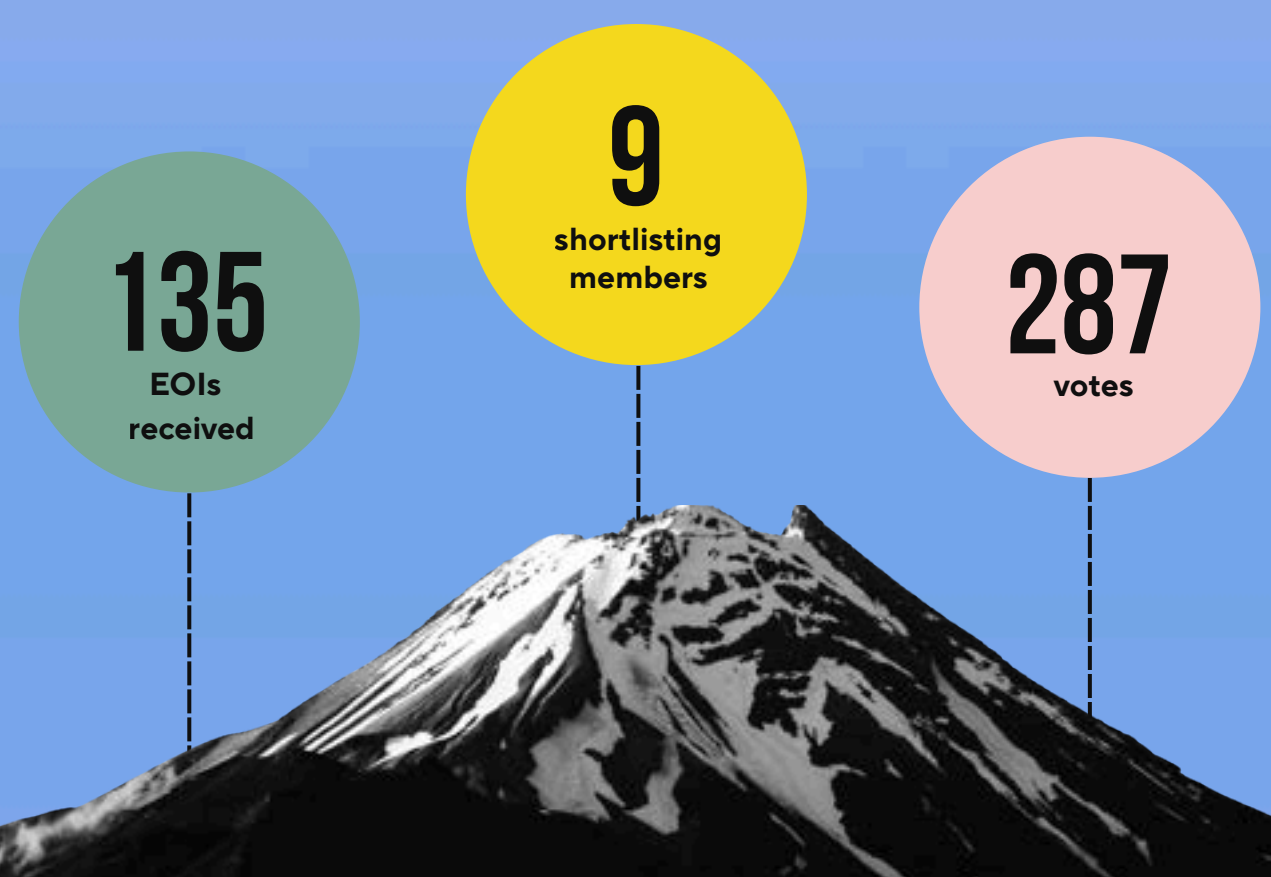
Collective decision-making in action

How collective wisdom shaped this year's grants

Looking across both rounds, a deeper story about how this community understands impact emerges. When presented with different pathways for change, donors consistently backed work that strengthens collective capacity, builds long-term readiness, and positions the movement to act when political and social conditions shift.

This instinct matters. It shows a community not only supporting urgent interventions, but investing in the conditions that allow major breakthroughs to happen – trusted relationships, strong leadership pipelines, coordinated action, and the resilience to hold steady over time.

These patterns point to something powerful: a donor community that isn't just funding outcomes, but helping shape how the movement evolves. It's the quiet influence of collective giving and proof we can achieve far more together than any of us could on our own.



135
EOIs
received

9
shortlisting
members

287
votes

Shortlisting committee 2025



Rachael Cavanagh

Cultural Fire Keeper and
Indigenous knowledge holder
in land and climate care



Jane Thomas

Philanthropy leader
supporting climate action and
community resilience



Dr Melina Ey

Cultural geographer researching
community-led care responses
to climate change



Mijica Lus

Advocate and changemaker
strengthening Pasifika-led
community and climate initiatives



Michaela Healey

Corporate and for-purpose
leader supporting people to
take meaningful climate action



Phillip Cornwell AM

Environmental advocate and
legal expert dedicated to
conservation and public service



Sally Coggiola

Community engagement
leader advancing people-
powered climate solutions
across Australia



Linh Do

Advocate and educator
advancing climate leadership,
justice and community
engagement



Ben Abbatangelo

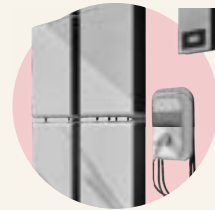
A writer/strategist working
across Indigenous rights,
planetary health and new
economic paradigms

Wins that shaped 2025

Some wins spark headlines, others work quietly in the background. The breakthroughs we're celebrating this year often began years ago, shaped by patient groundwork and steady momentum. As we recognise these achievements, we're also acknowledging the unseen ripples and hard-won lessons that continue to move this work forward – even when campaigns don't unfold as planned.

1

Delivered a 30% home battery rebate, triggering 1,000+ daily installs and paving the way to 1 million by 2030 (Solar Citizens, Climate Council, Parents for Climate, Farmers for Climate, 1 Million Women)



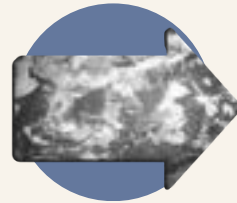
2

Exposed a decades-long methane leak cover up at Santos' Darwin LNG, forcing national scrutiny of Middle Arm and lifting the political cost of NT gas expansion (Environment Centre NT)



3

Backed AAP's Climate Desk, producing more than 350 impartial stories in the past 12 months, helping to course-correct the national conversation and offset biased or inaccurate information (Australian Associated Press)



4

Forced EnergyAustralia to apologise to 400,000 customers and settle greenwashing claims, setting a new benchmark for corporate accountability (Parents for Climate)



5

Won \$77m federal funding for sea walls and resilience infrastructure across five Torres Strait islands (Our Islands Our Home)



6

Reached 9 million Australians with election communications, reframing renewables as common sense for the bush (Farmers for Climate Action)

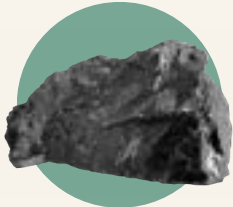


- 7 Delivered Australia's largest climate vote in banking history – 35% shareholder revolt at Macquarie AGM demanding Paris-aligned fossil finance (Market Forces)



- 8 Mobilised the youth vote at scale: 10,000 climate scorecards across 27 electorates, 30+ MP meetings and ongoing parliamentary engagement post-election (Australian Youth Climate Coalition)

- 9 Unlocked \$100m in NSW to establish the Future Jobs & Investment Authority for coal region transition, with a stronger mandate aligned to the Net Zero Economy Agency (Hunter Jobs Alliance)



- 10 Won precedent-setting legal outcomes including overturning approval for NSW's largest coal expansion at Mount Pleasant, forcing full climate impact considerations (Lock the Gate)

- 11 Helped trigger Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment, giving communities and decision-makers a clearer roadmap for preparing for escalating climate impacts (Emergency Leaders for Climate Action)



- 12 Secured a landmark policy commitment to phase out gas hot-water systems in Victoria – a shift that will cut household emissions, lower bills and accelerate the state's transition away from gas (Environment Victoria)

- 13 Normalised climate in culture at scale: 1,000+ artists mobilised, 10m+ social impressions and major festival activations under 'No Music on a Dead Planet' (Green Music Australia)



- 14 Following sustained community pressure, WA Labor members voted for a statewide fracking ban, signalling strong momentum for protecting the Martuwarra Fitzroy River catchment (Environs Kimberley)

In their own words

Reflections from changemakers



"With critical Groundswell support, Solar Citizens launched our time-sensitive Defend and Extend campaign to win a federal home battery rebate and counter rising nuclear spin. We mobilised rooftop solar households, educated key audiences, and reignited media and political momentum. The result: a historic win – the \$2.3 billion Cheaper Home Batteries Program."

Heidi Lee Douglas, CEO, Solar Citizens



"Groundswell funds have arrived at a critical moment, with the WA Government on the precipice of approving Black Mountain Energy's 20 test fracking well project in the pristine Martuwarra Fitzroy River catchment. Approvals for fossil fuel giant Woodside's plans to drill for gas beside the globally significant Scott Reef are also looming. We have much work to do, but we are determined to secure protections for these incredible places. Your tremendous funding gives us both the means and the inspiration to achieve this"

Martin Pritchard, Executive Director, Environs Kimberley



"Groundswell's support is enabling us at Sweltering Cities to work directly with communities in Australia's hottest suburbs to prepare for the first National Community Heat Summit. The funding has also lifted our visibility across new networks, leading to an additional pledge of support. We can now start identifying delegates, planning the event and doing the grassroots consultation needed to make this event a turning point for climate action. Next year, we'll bring hundreds of people together to share stories and make commitments for action across every community impacted by rising temperatures."

Emma Bacon, Executive Director, Sweltering Cities



Together we can

This year has shown what's possible when the climate movement has the resources, coordination and confidence to act quickly. None of this momentum happens on its own – it's powered by people like you.

Your ongoing support helps us back the campaigns, communities and cultural shifts pushing Australia towards a safer, fairer climate future. And because a group of philanthropists fund Groundswell's core operations, every dollar you give goes directly to climate impact.

As we look to 2026, your ideas continue to shape where we go next. If you have thoughts on how we can grow this community, strengthen our grantmaking or expand the pool of funding on offer, we'd love to hear from you. This is a collective project – and we're grateful to be building it with you!

