
**Treasurer's report to the Annual General Meeting
National Environmental Law Association Ltd ABN 62 008 657 761
21 October 2020**

The National Environmental Law Association Limited (NELA) was established 38 years ago in 1982 and was incorporated in 1989. After a period of introspection, the end of this financial year has marked a relaunch for NELA, including that NELA's new and improved website went live and a membership drive occurred by way of a sale recognising the financial hardship caused by COVID-19. Membership fees have been permanently reduced so that NELA's rates are more competitive.

In the 2018–9 financial year NELA's board of directors resolved to transition away from The Association Specialists' (TAS) secretariat services because the cost of those services was disproportionate to NELA's level of activity. The transition was complex. For example, updating the access and online approvals for NELA's Westpac bank account took a lot of time and so the transition wasn't finalised until around March 2020, and NELA continued to engage TAS on a month-to-month basis. NELA has now engaged the services of Malisa Clarence of Mbooks Bookkeeping Services for accounting and bookkeeping support. NELA thanks TAS for their ongoing assistance in the 2019–20 financial year. NELA is also grateful for the professionalism and resourcefulness of Mbooks for reducing NELA's costs going forward.

NELA's annual financial statements, as independently reviewed by Johnstone Haines Pty, shows a significant drop in net income for the 2019–20 financial year. Income from all sources was \$20,120 as compared with \$58,042 in the 2018–19 financial year, and net profit after taxation was down by \$438 in the sum of (-\$2,149) in the 2019–20 financial year as compared with \$1,711 in the 2018–19 financial year. Income from conferences, functions and seminars fell significantly by around \$27,500. The drop in event income is in large part due to the fact that face-to-face events have had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was no annual conference held this financial year. Accordingly, conference expenses (which were NELA's second largest expense in the 2018–19 financial year) were significantly down by approximately \$12,000 in the 2019–20 financial year. NELA's membership income also fell, from \$23,072 in the 2018–19 financial year to \$15,476 in the 2019–20 financial year.

The Board resolved to refresh NELA's website during the COVID-19 downtime. This significant project, largely managed by NELA's immediate past President Jess Hamdorf, is reflected in the financial statements as an asset valued at \$9,600. NELA's other most significant expenses in the 2018–19 financial year, being secretariat, accounting and bookkeeping fees, significantly reduced from \$32,242 in the 2018–19 financial year to \$12,402 in the 2019–20 financial year. NELA expects these fees to drop even more in the next year financial year because NELA has now finalised its transition away from TAS.

NELA's equity and net assets have remained stable, only slightly reducing by \$2,150 to \$80,568 in the 2019-20 financial year as compared to \$82,718 in the 2018-19 financial year, which is due to NELA's minor loss in net profit.

Overall, NELA was slightly less successful in the 2019–20 financial year, but improvement is expected in the second half of 2019–20 now that NELA's new cost cutting measures are fully implemented and as NELA and its members adapt to the new 'COVID normal' environment.

I commend our **attached** financial statements for your acceptance.



Nadja Zimmermann
Treasurer

11/10/2020