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16mm ALIGNMENT GRID

35mm CLEAR LEADER

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY

National Film and Sound Archive 2024 - 2026



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The National Film and Sound Archive of Australia acknowledges Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live and gives respect to their Elders both past and present.

IMAGE CREDIT
Genevieve Grieves, Garuwa. (2021). “Reflections – The Work of Warwick Thornton.”

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CONNECTING TO COUNTRY

As an Australian cultural institution, the NFSA looks to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge for guidance and inspiration.

The First Nations principle of custodianship of Country guides our approach to environmental sustainability. Custodianship centres care, interconnectedness, and shared communal responsibility within our program of strategic and practical approaches to climate action.

Custodianship links our commitment to conserving the earth and its natural resources to our mission as an audio-visual archive to collect and preserve Australian culture, stories and memories, and to our responsibility to care for the physical locations in which we work that include both land and heritage buildings.

Custodianship commits us to a holistic approach, understanding our work and its impacts on our communities, non-human kin, and the land as a living entity within the system of Country.

With Country as our teacher, we take a long-term view with the knowledge that health and healing will come given the right conditions of care.

CONNECTION AND CUSTODIANSHIP

The impacts of climate change are with us.

Australia, with its unique environmental landscape, faces heightened vulnerability to such changes. Increasing frequency and severity of bushfires, heatwaves, rising sea levels, and disruptions to ecosystems underscore the critical need to act on climate. This strategy commits the NFSA to delivering our purpose to tell the national story by collecting, preserving and sharing audiovisual material in a manner that minimises negative environmental impact.

The strategy is guided by custodianship, a holistic commitment to care for the NFSA's collections, stories, buildings and the natural environment. There is a pressing need to adapt our work with practices that move towards regeneration and restoration of our natural ecosystems - and towards a society that equally values the well-being of all living creatures and the natural environment we share and rely on.

There are many ways we can achieve this: from measurable reductions in waste, consumption, and emissions; collaboration with our peers to discover new forms of working; making the collection available to researchers, content producers, and the general public as a resource within the climate change debate; and action on sustainability.

Our publishing and programming will celebrate the role of curators, artists and programmers to connect, educate and inspire a regenerative future with experiences that allow us to feel safe in uncertainty, acknowledge the multiplicity of perspectives, and find ways to come together around a common purpose.

As an Australian Government agency, we align with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. We will measure and report on the impact of our greenhouse gas emissions across our operations and programming.

Within this context, the NFSA has developed three key strategies to pave the way for a more sustainable, regenerative future: we will question everything, touch the earth lightly, and make it count.

Question Everything

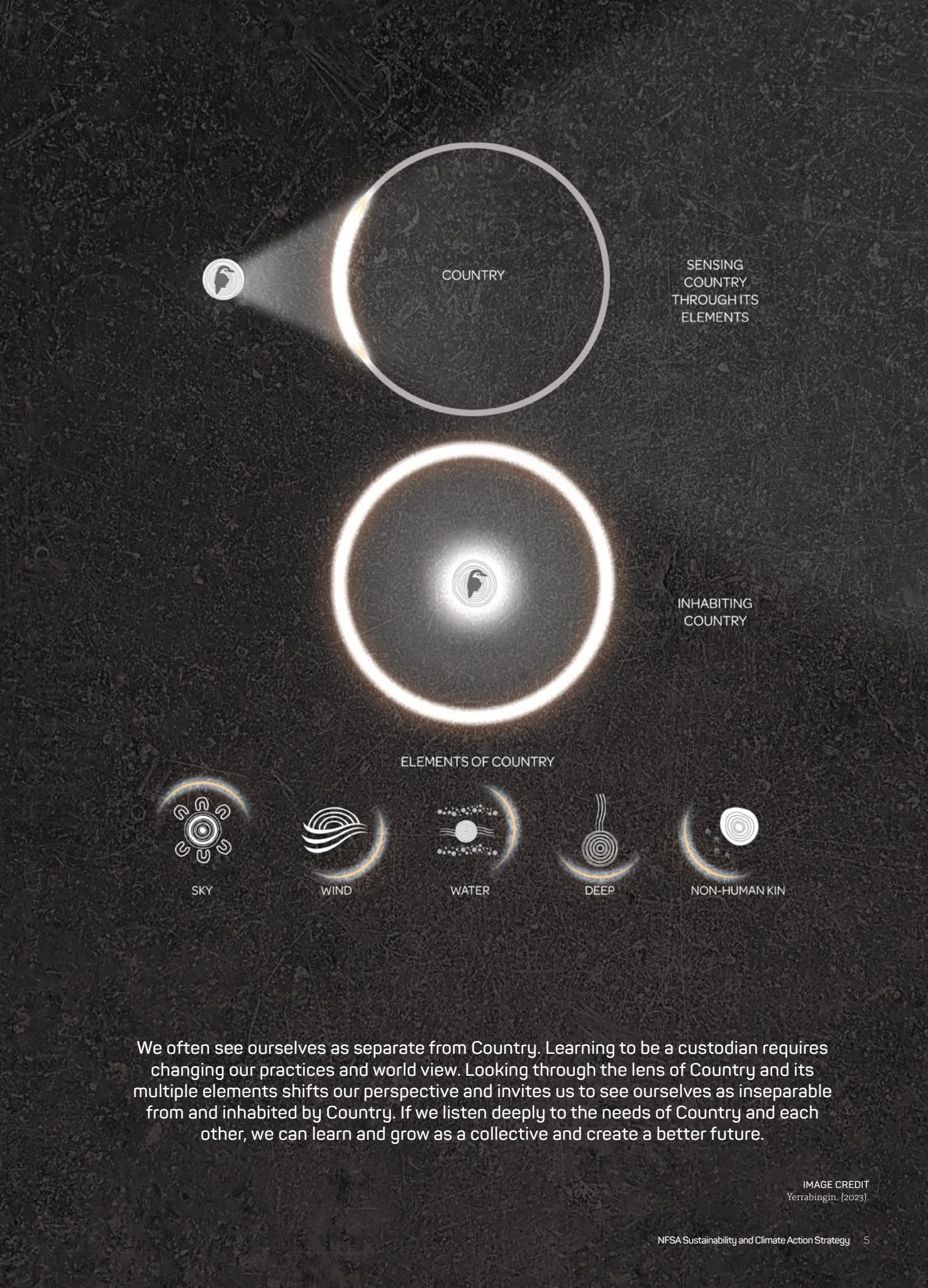
In everything we do we keep the question of sustainability alive.

Touch the Earth Lightly

We implement and evolve sustainable practices, processes, and tools.

Make it Count

We measure and report our progress and achievements, and exchange knowledge and inspiration, including the use of the collection.



We often see ourselves as separate from Country. Learning to be a custodian requires changing our practices and world view. Looking through the lens of Country and its multiple elements shifts our perspective and invites us to see ourselves as inseparable from and inhabited by Country. If we listen deeply to the needs of Country and each other, we can learn and grow as a collective and create a better future.



QUESTION EVERYTHING

In everything we do, we keep the question of sustainability alive.

We continuously review, challenge, and scrutinise existing practices and invest in research to develop procedures, processes and policies to minimise environmental impact.

As custodians of the collection, our buildings and the environment, we are mindful of the constant imperative to pursue our mission within evolving environmental, social and economic parameters. We are responsive, forward thinking and ready to change and adapt.

Sustainability is a standing item on all leadership and management agendas.

ACTION 1. REVIEW POLICIES, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

- Develop a material and resource strategy.
- Research and develop sustainable collection management practices with a core focus on waste reduction, energy efficiency and pest control.
- Review and update our procurement framework to incorporate [Australian Government sustainable procurement guidance](#) and develop procurement policies targeted towards sustainable materials and waste minimisation.
- Provide training to staff to support research, development and delivery of sustainability actions.
- Collaborate with peer institutions to develop sustainable curatorial, collection management and public program systems and practices.

ACTION 2. UNDERSTAND LIFE CYCLE COSTS

- Assess the social, environmental and economic impact of a project throughout its entire life cycle.
- Invest in building infrastructure that increases energy efficiency, extends lifecycle, and reduces waste.
- Assess the social, environmental, and economic impact of public programs through the lens of delivery and visitation.
- Revitalise Acton's headquarters to improve biodiversity.

IMAGE CREDIT
Burk, Harry. (2023). "Made of Australia." NFSA.

TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY

A core principle of our strategy is to reduce consumption, emissions and waste.

Our mission creates a specific set of challenges to be addressed. NFSA waste streams incorporate a diverse range of materials, from film reels and magnetic tapes to exhibition materials and food waste that require a bespoke, coordinated approach to waste reduction. We drive energy use and emissions from digitisation and collection management, movements of our corporate fleet, staff and visitors. We must mitigate our impact through measures such as electrification and the promotion of public transportation, cycling and walking.

As we increase digital access to and discoverability of the national audiovisual collection, our digital footprint will increase. We will invest in research to understand and quantify the social, economic, and environmental impact of this expanding footprint and identify measures to improve energy efficiencies, and create resilient, sustainable ICT infrastructure.

We have a responsibility to comply with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy which sets the Australian Government's target of achieving net zero emissions from government operations by 2030. The NFSA is committed to comprehensively quantifying emissions across Scopes 1, 2, and 3 and align with the governments ambition to reach net zero emissions by 2030.

ACTION 3. EMISSIONS REDUCTION

- Conduct an annual Carbon Auditing Exercise.
- Develop tracking system for voluntary scope 3 emissions.
- Identify opportunities for carbon neutral certified public programs and events.

ACTION 4. ENERGY REDUCTION

- Develop an energy efficiency and building electrification strategy.
- Monitor our energy usage and identify efficiencies.
- Invest in data storage powered by renewable energy.
- Commit to no future natural gas connections.

ACTION 5. WASTE REDUCTION

- Develop a waste management strategy.
- Review existing waste contracts.
- Conduct global research into archival waste reuse and circularity.
- Pilot and implement curatorial, exhibition and collection management vinyl, nitrile and latex and polystyrene recycling.

ACTION 6. TRANSPORTATION REDUCTION

- Investigate electric vehicle procurement opportunities.
- Investigate initiatives to promote public transport for public program visitors and audiences.
- Promote richer experiences through digital streams to maximise engagement with the collection that reduces travel demands.

MAKE IT COUNT

Climate action is a shared responsibility.

Many of the challenges of audiovisual archiving in the 21st century are shared by archives, libraries, universities and museums in Australia and around the world. We look forward to learning from peers, sharing our own lessons and collaborating to produce networked change.

We aim to play a leadership role in bringing together peers and networks to collaborate on new approaches and solutions and ensure our sector plays its part.

The national audiovisual collection records the story of climate debate and action in Australia. The collection is an information resource available for re-use, education and research. We tell the national story through our own programming, content and publications and this includes highlighting important issues, promoting reflection, conversation and action.

We will create safe spaces for conversation on climate within our programs and Acton headquarters.

Accountability is key, which is why we recently published our net zero emissions reporting in the annual report.

ACTION 7. PEER TO PEER COLLABORATION

- Publish our research in conference papers and publications.
- Produce and disseminate case studies and other resources.
- Actively research and monitor sustainable and environmental initiatives within the GLAM sector and refine for the NFSA and Canberra conditions.

ACTION 8. SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND STORIES

- Surface collection items that reflect the nation's response to climate change and convey the urgency and significance of climate action to the public for use by producers, researchers and educators.
- Curate content and programs to develop climate awareness in audiences and to inspire action.
- Develop strategic partnerships with institutions and communities to develop practices and programs that respond to the impact of climate change.

ACTION 9. MEASURE AND REPORT

- Develop a reporting framework that centralises performance data across the institution.
- Measure and report performance against Sustainability Strategy KPIs.



IMAGE CREDIT
NFSA (2024).