

# FLOW

In the context of the Climate Emergency, and timed with the end of the financial year, **FLOW** is an exhibition examining what a better future looks like. As a medium of exchange, the word currency is derived from the word current, the origin of which was curraunt meaning flowing (c. 1300).

Like thriving ecosystems, healthy economies depend on healthy flows of life-sustaining resources. **FLOW** poses critical questions about financial flows, reminds us of the vital interconnections and interdependencies between all of life, and shows the profound possibilities of economic systems based on respect and reciprocity. The artworks explore the nexus between money, politics, information and power.

**FLOW** considers the ongoing devastating consequences of colonial violence, late-stage capitalism/wealth-hoarding through complex tax avoidance schemes and other forms of financial abuse as well as business models that aggressively and unfairly limit access to life's basics (i.e., shelter, food, energy, knowledge, verifiable public interest information) to maximise private wealth and power. At best these modes of practice ignore the horrific impacts felt by countless other people—indigenous communities in particular—and the vital ecosystems all life depends on.

**FLOW** also invites us to reflect on the power of art to inform, engage and mobilise decent fair-minded people to organise against the culture of selfishness and greed that is responsible for the Climate Emergency. Since the fossil fuel industry has known about the grave dangers associated with extracting and exploiting its products since the 1970s, what does achieving Climate Justice by holding them to account look like? Are 'monster fossil fuel industry profits'— including legacy public subsidies (i.e., in 2022 alone, amounting to more than US \$1 trillion on top of more than US\$500 billion in extra spending to reduce energy bills)— 'ill-begotten gains' under the law? If not, why not?

What do fair and reasonable climate and environment reparations look like from fossil fuel industry enablers? Those companies that have made massive profits from servicing the fossil fuel industry, including by spreading climate denial and other forms of disinformation to hold back our inevitable transition to zero emissions?

Considering the damage from resource conflict and the harm associated with legacy greenhouse gas emissions, what do reasonable climate and environment reparations look like? Given the massive wealth generated from extracting and burning Australia's fossil fuel reserves, what do climate reparations for our nation's contribution to the Climate Emergency look like?

Mimicking nature's harmonious flows, how quickly and effectively can the Climate Emergency be addressed when climate reparations flow into the restoration of the Earth's natural systems while establishing socially and ecologically sustainable solutions to realise Climate Justice?

What will it take?

Deborah Hart, Creative Producer