

**ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE (QLD) INC.
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE OF NORTHERN QUEENSLAND INC.**

BULLETIN

October 2002

Community Environmental Law Workshops

Interested in how you can use the law to protect your local environment? If so, you are urged not to miss out on attending one of the series of community environmental law workshops EDO Qld is holding throughout October and November. Recent attendees have commented that they thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and gained a great deal of information from attending. Contact the EDO Qld office on 07 3210 0275 or edoqld@edo.org.au for further details on when and where the workshops will be held.

EDO-NQ Opens New Premises

EDO-NQ are grateful to members of the Gimuy Wallabarra Yidindji people for welcoming them to their new offices at 130 Grafton Street, Cairns, on the evening of 23 September 2002. The night was also marked by an inspiring talk by Peter Garrett, ACF President, who reminded guests of the significant achievements of environmentalists in northern Queensland and the need to ensure that the development mistakes of southern Australia were not repeated in the north. EDO-NQ's phone and fax details remain the same, despite their new office location.

Call for Submissions on Proposed Changes to QLD Wildlife Regulations

The Queensland Government is undertaking public consultation on planned amendments to Wildlife Regulations made under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Members of the public are invited to comment on policy changes proposed in a discussion paper on wildlife management by making submissions to the Environmental Protection Agency before 22 November 2002. Some of the proposed policy changes include:

- Relaxation of licensing laws for recreational keeping of common wildlife;
- Reduced fees for certain licence types and the removal of mandatory annual licence renewals;
- New opportunities for trade in prescribed wildlife enabling accredited pet shops to sell a range of captive bred reptiles;
- Streamlined compliance and investigation procedures including new penalty infringement notices for minor offences;
- Tougher commercial harvesting regimes to prevent illegal trapping and poaching;
- Greater self-regulation for authorising and recording the movement of wildlife;
- 116 species to be added to the "domestic animals" Schedule to allow the keeping of a range of bird species;
- Provisions enabling independent wildlife carers to be accredited or join an accredited wildlife group to increase protection of animals requiring rescue or rehabilitation.

The discussion paper is available at www.epa.qld.gov.au and written submissions are due by 22 November 2002

."I can see clearly now" Conference Papers Now Available

Conference proceedings from the National Environmental Defenders Office Network conference on land clearing and law reform held in July 2002 are now available. The conference papers include:

- EDO Network law reform proposals
- Speaker and panellist presentations
- Workshop notes
- Summary of the two day conference.

To order or for more information contact Michelle Seaton at EDO NSW on 02 9262 6989 or michelle.seaton@edo.org.au . Price: \$25 + \$5 p&h (content 92 pages).

Submissions on Draft Water Resource Plans

EDO Qld is assisting several environment groups to make submissions on the draft Water Resource Plans (WRPs) for the Moonie River, Border Rivers, and Warrego/Paroo/Bulloo/Nebine River. WRPs are designed to plan for the allocation and sustainable management of water in Queensland, to enable security of supply to human water users and to provide for environmental flows sufficient to protect the integrity of ecosystems. Contact EDO Qld on 07 3210 0275 or edoqld@edo.org.au for more information on water planning processes and your opportunities for involvement.

Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Protection Plan being Drafted

The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments are currently working together to produce a Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Protection Plan ('the Reef Plan'), which will aim to stabilise and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Reef. The Reef Plan will focus on diffuse sources of pollution from land use activities that contribute to the sediment, nutrients and chemicals entering the Reef. An Information Paper to inform stakeholders and facilitate consultation on the development of the Reef Plan was released for public comment in September 2002. A Draft Reef Plan is due for release in mid-November 2002, on which public and stakeholder comment will also be sought. If you are interested in influencing strategies to protect the Reef from land sourced diffuse pollution, watch www.ea.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/index.html for release of the Draft Reef Plan and get your submission on the Draft Plan in to Environment Australia or Queensland's Dept of Premier and Cabinet.

QELA Benefit Seminar on Landclearing a Huge Success

Thanks to the Queensland Environmental Law Association (QELA) for their generous donation of the proceeds of their seminar '*Landclearing – Deciphering the Salty Maze of Science and Law*' to EDO Qld. The seminar was held on 4 November and speakers included Jo Bragg of EDO Qld, Ian Gordon and Andrea Leverington of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, and Alan Barton from the Brisbane City Council. The seminar addressed the science relevant to landclearing, including the effect of vegetation loss on dryland salinity, and the legal framework of State and local government laws regulating landclearing and law reform proposals for Queensland's *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2000*. Contact QELA on 07 3832 4865 or info@qela.org.au for a copy of the seminar papers.

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