

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

BULLETIN

May 2002

Excellent News - Spectacled Flying Fox listed as vulnerable

The spectacled flying fox has now been listed as *vulnerable* under s189 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1991*. Former Federal Environment Minister Hill made the decision to list last August however the listing only took effect on 14 May 2002 when published in the Cth Gazette. Congratulations to Dr Carol Booth and all others who worked to achieve this important listing!

One implication of this listing is that any action likely to have a significant impact on this *species* is prohibited without Cth approval. This makes it easier to protect the spectacled flying fox as it is now not necessary to show impacts on world heritage values of a declared World Heritage property (as in Booth v Bosworth) to trigger the requirement for EPBC approval.

Farmer Bosworth's current application for Cth approval of the action of electrocuting of spectacled flying foxes to protect a lychee orchard is now not likely to obtain approval.

Draft Administrative Guidelines on the spectacled flying fox discussing listing and significance are now available for public comment (due 15 June 2002).

See *Environment Australia's website for more information on the listing and draft administrative guidelines* <http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/guidelines/spectacledflyingfox/index.html>

EDO Land Clearing Seminar – Sydney, July

There is increasing community concern in Australia that the laws and policies that affect land clearing, whether urban, coastal or rural, do not provide the management and regulatory tools needed to achieve ecologically sustainable communities.

The National EDO Network is holding a 1½ day conference entitled "I can see clearly now...". The conference will bring together the perspectives of farmers, government, ecologists, Aboriginal groups, lawyers and conservationists. Sessions will focus on effective policy and legislation to address land clearing and environmental degradation.

The conference will explore key areas of the national land-clearing debate, including:

- What are the barriers to effective change?
- Can legislation adequately address the social and economic impacts of changes to our land management regimes?
- Is it time for stronger national legislative control over broad scale land clearing?

Conference details:

Date: 9 am - 5.00pm Thursday 4 July 2002

9 am - 12.30 pm Friday 5 July 2002

Place: The Masonic Centre, 279 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

Cost: Government / Corporations: \$195

Not for profit Organisations: \$130

Unwaged: \$70

For further information or comment, please contact Lucy Sharman or Natalie Ross, Education Coordinators at the Environmental Defender's Office NSW. Ph: (02) 9262 6989 or email edonsw@edo.org.au.

Contact EDO-NQ for Environmental law seminar

EDO-NQ lawyers Joanna Cull and Matt Patterson have just finished preparing a community education seminar on the State and Federal environmental legal system. The seminar is quite general but provides a focus on biodiversity protection and environmental impact assessment. Any North Queensland community groups interested in having EDO-NQ travel to their area to present the seminar should contact Joanna Cull or Matt Patterson on 40314766 or contact EDO-NQ at edonq@edo.org.au.

Great Barrier Reef Public Participation Phase

The public participation phase of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Representative Areas Program has started and runs for three months until 7 August 2002. It provides opportunities for members of the general public to provide input into the re-zoning of the GBR to increase the area of marine sanctuaries. Zoning Plans will be created or amended under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, 1975* with a view to increasing the size and number of "no take" or Green Zone areas. A Green Zone permits non-extractive activities such as swimming, snorkelling and boating but recreational and commercial fishing are prohibited.

The Representative Areas Program seeks to protect the biodiversity within the GBR World Heritage Area by protecting areas of the Reef that 'represent' different habitats and communities. GBRMPA will run a community information program visiting 20 regional coastal communities from Urangan to Cooktown for two weeks from 20 May to 31 May.

People can get copies of the submission brochure, detailed maps and find out the dates and venues of GBRMPA visits by contacting 1800 990 177. Submissions can also be made via the GBRMPA website - www.gbrmpa.gov.au

WWF are conducting a campaign to create a network of marine sanctuaries in the GBR Marine Park. To lend your support visit their website at www.gbr.wwf.org.au

Legal Advice-Email

If you email either or the two EDO Qld office seeking legal advice, please begin the subject line with *Legal Advice Sought*, then add your particular subject matter. This will help us more quickly identify and process your email. We will assume that you are authorising us to provide advice by return email unless you have instructed us otherwise. Be aware however that there is a risk that computer hackers or others with access to your email may breach its confidentiality.

Please ensure that your name, address and phone number are included in the email so that we can contact you easily.

For more information contact EDO Qld or EDO NQ.

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To subscribe free to the EDO NSW Bulletin, (covering Cth and NSW issues) please send an email to edonsw@edo.org.au

Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc.

4th Floor, 243 Edward Street, Brisbane 4000. Ph: (07) 32100275, Fax: (07) 32100253, email: edogld@edo.org.au

Environmental Defender's Office of Northern Queensland Inc.

PO Box 854N NORTH CAIRNS 4870. Ph: (07) 4031 4766, Fax: (07) 4041 4535, email: edonq@edo.org.au

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