



# EDO BULLETIN

February 2007

## *In this issue...*

- The latest on EDO Qld and EDO NQ court cases
- Details of Recent Law and Policy Changes affecting the Environment
- Opportunities for you to comment on government initiatives
- And more!

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## **ROUND ONE TO KING COAL**

### Decision in first Queensland climate change case: QCC vs Xstrata

Readers will recall EDO Qld is acting for Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) in the first climate change case to be heard in a Queensland court.

The case objects to Xstrata Coal Qld's mining lease expansion at an open cut coal mine west of Mackay, because the mining, transport and use of the coal from the mine would produce about 1% of Australia's national greenhouse gas emissions annually.

The case was heard before the Land and Resources Tribunal on 31 January – 1 February 2007. At the hearing, QCC argued Xstrata should be required to avoid, reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions from a coal mine expansion.

In a surprising move, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) appeared against QCC and supported the submissions of Xstrata coal. The EPA even went so far as to submit to the Tribunal that offsetting some 84 million tonnes of Co2 emissions would not have "*the slightest effect upon either global warming or climate change*".

The Tribunal's decision was handed down on 15 February 2007. Despite having a team of well respected scientists give evidence as to the science and effects of global warming, President Koppenol doubted the science of global warming and found in favour of Xstrata.

The decision is online at [www.lrt.qld.gov.au/LRT/PDF/Xstrata\\_a33.pdf](http://www.lrt.qld.gov.au/LRT/PDF/Xstrata_a33.pdf) and shows just how damaging the remaining few voices that doubt climate change can be to the climate change movement. The decision has excited wide attention, both in Australia and overseas.

QCC is considering seeking a review of the decision based on breach of natural justice and mistake of law. Please contact Anita O'Hart of EDO Qld if you would like to know more details about the appeal or would like to make a financial contribution towards the costs of the appeal.

EDO Qld extends special thanks to barristers Stephen Keim SC and Chris McGrath and our wonderful team of experts: Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe; Dr Hugh Saddler; John Norling; Ben Keogh; Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg and Dr Stephen Williams.



## UPDATE ON FALSE CAPE

### CAFNEC & Save Our Slopes v Reef Cove Resort Pty Ltd & Cairns City Council

The fight to Save False Cape intensifies in North Queensland.

On Sunday, 11 February 2007, representatives from CAFNEC, the Cape Crusaders and EDONQ met with various Queensland Ministers, including Local Government Minister Fraser at the Country Cabinet meeting in Atherton, outside of Cairns. While the State has conceded that it has the power to stop this misguided and outdated development proposal, the State is reluctant to do so, apparently in fear of large compensation claims by the developer.

Without any public consultation or input, the Cairns City Council (CCC) has astoundingly allowed the developer to depart from original approval conditions and clear the site during the wet



Before the current destruction - photo by Steven Nowakowski

season, use explosives to blast away otherwise immoveable granite boulders, and fail to transplant large numbers of precious cycads that are on-site (now simply being destroyed and buried on-site). Despite numerous requests by EDONQ, CCC has so far failed to provide adequate explanations for these allowances, or adequate responses to a large number of allegations of breaches of approval conditions by the developer. The EDONQ is arranging for the matter to be referred to Minister Fraser.

Public opposition to the development was again shown when a large number of both locals and tourists turned out at a public rally held in pouring rain on the Cairns Esplanade on Saturday 24 March 2007. The fight continues....



Some of the current destruction - photo by Nev Ridley

## HILLSLOPES DEVELOPMENT AT BRINSMEAD

### Save our Slopes Community Action Group Inc. (SOS) & Mark Butrose v Cairns City Council (CCC) & Charles O'Neill

EDO-NQ has been assisting local community organisation SOS to appeal a decision by CCC to once again depart from the planning scheme presently in force (the CairnsPlan) and allow the development of yet another visually prominent ridgeline in the green scenic rim behind Cairns. CCC has recognised in the CairnsPlan that the forested hillslopes that backdrop Cairns are representative and uniquely

characteristic of the City, and are natural features attractive to both residents and tourists which need to be protected. Despite this, CCC has ignored its own Hillslopes Code and has now once again forced the community to seek that developments comply with the restrictions and ideals in the CairnsPlan.

*For more information about EDO-NQ cases contact us on (07) 4031 4766 or [edonq@edo.org.au](mailto:edonq@edo.org.au).*

## CONGRATULATIONS DR BRYAN HACKER!



EDO Qld warmly congratulates member Dr Bryan Hacker for receiving the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Citizen of the Year Award in the 2007 Australia Day Awards. Bryan is a retired CSIRO scientist who founded and now chairs the Moggill Creek Catchment Group Inc., a community group with 350 members who actively labour in bush regeneration and encourage others to do so. Bryan, you are an inspiration to fellow conservationists and all those who love our waterways!

## KOALA HABITAT CASE UPDATE

### WPSQ Bayside v Redland Bayside v Redland Shire Council and Heritage Properties P/L

EDO Qld was representing Wildlife Preservation Society Bayside Branch in this appeal against residential development in key koala habitat in Redland Shire, which was to be heard from 12-20 February 2007 in the Planning and Environment Court. However, the parties reached an agreement on conditions to protect the site and settled the case without the Court hearing.

The environmental gains made by WPSQ for the site include reducing the proposal from 300 to 193 lots, reducing the approved area of Stage One to preserve vegetation, gaining koala friendly fences, excluding koala-killing cats and dogs from the site, and upgrading all Open Space land to Conservation zoning.

Approximately three quarters of

the site is now protected, with most of that land locked into dedicated Conservation zoning. EDO congratulates WPSQ Bayside on standing up for our precious wildlife and securing a good outcome, and thanks our dedicated experts Lyn Roberts and Peter Syson and barrister Steve Keliher for their hard work on the case.

*For more information about EDO-Qld cases contact us on 3211 4466 or [edoqld@edo.org.au](mailto:edoqld@edo.org.au).*

## OTHER CASES OF INTEREST....

### Japanese Whaling Case - HSI v Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha Ltd

The Humane Society International's case against illegal Japanese whaling in the Australian Whale Sanctuary in the Southern Ocean is finally proceeding, after almost three years of delays.

Because the headquarters of whaling company Kyodo Senpaku are in Japan, HSI needed the Court's permission to serve the legal documents, which sought an injunction to stop the killing of Antarctic minke whales in the Australian Whale Sanctuary in breach of the federal EPBC Act.

The Federal Court initially refused such permission, after submissions by the federal government that the case would dam-

age Australia's relations with Japan and that the issue of illegal whaling was better handled through diplomacy.

Almost two years later, the Full Federal Court overruled that decision. The Full Court said that political considerations of international relations were not legally relevant, and even if the injunction was going to be impossible for HSI to enforce (since that is the job of the federal government), it would still have an educative and deterrent effect.

However, the Japanese government then refused to carry out service of the legal documents on Kyodo. In early February 2007 HSI sought and was granted the Court's permission to serve the

documents using other means, and on 25 February 2007 the legal documents were finally served on the whaling company, allowing the case to proceed.

The next hearing will be in July 2007, and HSI are optimistic of a resolution before the next whaling season begins. HSI's able legal team consists of QC Stephen Gageler, Junior Counsel Chris McGrath and the Environmental Defender's Office of NSW. "The Federal Government was unwilling to prosecute the whalers for breaking Australian law, so HSI stepped in to do the Government's work" said HSI Director Michael Kennedy of the case.

*For more information about this case, please visit [www.hsi.org.au](http://www.hsi.org.au).*

## Tasmanian Forestry Case

### Loggers and government appeal and change law

Readers will recall Australian Greens Senator Bob Brown's landmark win in December 2006 in his case against Forestry Tasmania and the federal government about native forest logging in Wielangta, South Tasmania. His Honour Justice Marshall of the Victorian Supreme Court found that because the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) between

Tasmania and the Commonwealth wasn't being complied with, the logging was not exempt from the federal threatened species laws in the EPBC Act. This was relevant because Justice Marshall found the logging was having a significant impact on three endangered species, the swift parrot, wedgetailed eagle and stag beetle. His Honour also

held that the exemption from the EPBC Act for RFA forestry operations only applied if the RFA achieved an alternative means of promoting the recovery of a species, in accordance with the objects of the EPBC Act.

Forestry Tasmania and the Tasmanian and federal governments

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lodged appeals against that decision on the last day for an appeal, 9 February 2007. The directions hearing for the appeal is scheduled for 26 April 2007.

However, on 23 February 2007 the Tasmanian Premier and Prime Minister amended the Tasmanian RFA by an exchange of letters. Federal Forestry Minister Eric Abetz said that the amendments “restore the policy intent of the RFA” and “provide

certainty to the forest industry”, but Senator Brown said the amendment drops a pivotal clause which protects rare and endangered species and is an attempt to override the court’s decision. The impacts on the appeal from the RFA amendments are unclear at this point.

For more information about this case, please visit

[www.on-trial.info/](http://www.on-trial.info/) or  
[www.bobbrown.org.au/100\\_home.php](http://www.bobbrown.org.au/100_home.php)

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND EVENTS

### EDO Qld talks sustainable planning on the Sunshine Coast – 24 February 2007

EDO Qld’s Larissa Waters spoke at the Sunshine Coast Environment Council’s Sustainability Forum on Saturday 24 February 2007, to residents concerned about their Council’s Local Growth Management Strategies, which have to fit in the extra million people the SEQ Regional Plan allows in the next 20 years.

Larissa encouraged people to write to Councillors, the Premier, Regional Planning Minister Anna Bligh and Local Government Minister Andrew Fraser to ask for an amendment or replacement of the SEQ Regional Plan, with real consultation on options for the future. Residents felt they hadn’t been given any alternatives to the pro-growth SEQ Regional Plan and were concerned that the SEQ Plan ignored the ecological constraints of the region like water availability, dwindling bushland and loss of native wildlife.

Larissa also spoke briefly at SCEC’s evening event, outlining the recent Xstrata case result by way of introduction to Dr Matt Gray, one of Al Gore’s 85 trained speakers who then presented the Inconvenient Truth slideshow to a rapt audience.

EDO thanks SCEC for organising these important community forums.

### EDO-NQ pitches in for Clean Up Australia Day 4 March 2007

Clean Up Australia Day is a wonderful opportunity for the community to work together and clean up our beautiful environment.

On Sunday 4 March EDO-NQ joined forces with Conservation Volunteers Australia, The Wilderness Society Qld, Australian Conservation Foundation, and Cairns and Far North Environment Centre to clean-up sites across the Cairns region, focussing on Machans Beach and Crystal Cascades.

### Climate Change Presentation in Cairns 22 March 2007

Five members of the Cairns community have been selected by the Climate Project team and trained by Al Gore to deliver his slideshow presentation on climate change - Sue Hayes of ACF, John Rainbird of CAFNEC, Suzanne Jenkins of the Earthwatch Institute, Henrietta Marrie of the Christensen Fund and Col McKenzie of the Australian Marine Park Tourism Operators.

They will be giving a presentation on **Thursday 22 March 2007 6-7:30pm** at the Centre of Contemporary Arts, JUTE Theatre, 96 Abbott St Cairns. Entry by gold coin donation.

*For more information please contact Sue Hayes at ACF on 07 4031 5760*

## LAW REFORM NEWS

### Planning Law Reform

In February 2007, EDO Qld provided comments on draft procedural amendments to the *Integrated Planning Regulation*, necessary now that referral coordination has been removed from IPA. Earlier negotiations by EDO ensured that the longer public notification periods for development which previously triggered referral coordination were kept. Our recent comments noted some missing references in

relation to Wild Rivers and praised some expanded advice agency powers for the Environmental Protection Agency, but advocated for these to be increased to concurrence powers in environmentally sensitive areas.

*For more information, contact Anita O’Hart of EDO Qld on 3211 4466 or [aohart@edo.org.au](mailto:aohart@edo.org.au).*

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY - Recent Changes

### WILD RIVERS

The *Wild Rivers and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2007* was introduced on 6 February, passed on 22 February, and commenced on 28 February 2007. Queensland now has the **first six declared wild river areas** for the Staaten, Hinchinbrook, Settlement, Gregory, Morning Inlet and Fraser river systems and a Wild River Code to assess proposed development against in those areas! The aim of those declarations is to protect those wild river areas and ensure that any future development within those areas will preserve their unique natural values. The Amendment Act also includes a new process for amending or replacing the Wild River code, with discretion about whether to a moratorium while an amendment is being considered. The amendments also enable a wild river declaration to list and regulate the use of high risk plant species which could threaten the values of the wild river.

However, amendments made to the Bill after it was tabled allow wild river declarations and the Wild Rivers assessment Code to be bypassed, by enabling landholders to apply for approval of a 10 year property development plan which would permit activities prohibited by the declaration and Code. The Minister can approve such a property plan if the environmental benefits of the plan justify its approval, including considering any proposed beneficial 'enhancement activities' (which conservationists fear is a reference to offsets). The Explanatory Notes state that it is intended that the Minister will seek input from an independent science panel "as needed" to assess whether there is the necessary net environmental benefit.

EDO is concerned that there is no reference to this role of the scientific panel in the legislation, and the "as needed" undermines confidence that there will be rigorous

scientific assessment of every proposed property development plan. A further concern is that a wild river declaration may be amended to refer to an approved property development plan, but without listing the activities the plan permits – making it impossible for members of the public who see activities they think might be illegal in a wild river area, to know whether to report the activity or take enforcement action.

EDO is concerned at the trend to soften the Wild Rivers Act – first the 2006 amendments which created various exemptions from the Wild Rivers Act in a concession to the mining and local government sectors, and now the 2007 amendments which allow the Wild River Code and Declarations to be bypassed. However, this does not detract from the major conservation achievement of having six pristine rivers protected from dams, weirs and water guzzling irrigated agriculture.

In **other Wild River news**, a **water resource moratorium** has been introduced from 25 January 2007 on the **13 Cape York rivers** listed in the government's 2004 election commitment on Wild Rivers (the Jardine, Ducie, Wenlock, Watson, Archer, Holroyd, Coleman, Jacky Jacky, Olive, Pascoe, Lockhart, Stewart and Jeanie Rivers). The usual process under the *Wild Rivers Act* is for the government to declare its intention to nominate the wild river for declaration, which triggers a moratorium on tree clearing and mining as well as water resources. This has not occurred, and the government says it has not commenced work on draft wild river declaration proposals, wanting to consult with Cape communities first. EDO welcomes genuine community consultation with indigenous communities, but is concerned at the pace of declarations of wild rivers. The Premier's 2004 election commitment was to have 19 wild rivers declared by the end

of that term (ie September 2006). In February 2007, only the first six have been declared, with uncertainty about the fate of the remaining 13 rivers.

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

A new **State Planning Policy 1/07 for Housing and Residential Development** commenced on 29 January 2007. It will apply when large Councils are adopting or amending their planning schemes. The Housing SPP requires large Councils (currently 24 Councils including Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Ipswich, Redland, Noosa, Gold Coast, Cairns, Townsville, Maroochy and Mackay) to do a housing needs assessment and a planning scheme analysis to identify areas which could support an increased range of housing options and are well serviced with public transport and local services. Councils must then amend their planning scheme to remove barriers to and provide opportunities for housing options that meet those identified community needs.

New **'hurry up' powers in the State Development Act** (see January 2007 Bulletin) have now been used by government for the Tugun Desalination Plant, Southern Regional Water Pipeline and the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project. Those projects were declared on 23 January 2007 "prescribed projects" and "critical infrastructure projects", which enlivens new powers for the Coordinator-General to hurry along – or take over – the assessment process already being conducted by other departments. The decision cannot be challenged by members of the public. Deputy Premier Bligh said the reason for the declarations was to speed up access to existing power, gas and water easements or government reserves for laying the pipelines.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY - More Recent Changes

### MURRAY DARLING BASIN

On 25 January 2007, the Prime Minister announced a \$10 billion plan for national water management, including the Commonwealth assuming management of water resources in the **Murray-Darling Basin**. Constitutionally this would require the States referring their powers, and on 23 February 2007 all State governments bar Victoria agreed with the Federal Government on the new national management arrangements for the Basin. The Queensland state government successfully argued for:

- i. protection for water entitlements in draft water resource plans nearing finalisation, subject to CSIRO confirming it would not result in significant over-allocations;
- ii. an independent commission to manage the Basin, with all affected States nominating who will sit on the commission; and
- iii. a review of the new management system after seven years.

The Prime Minister also committed to examine Queensland's two proposals involving drawing water from rivers in northern and western Queensland and northern NSW to recharge the Murray Darling System but also enable agriculture and resource industries in the north. The first option is a revival of the Bradfield scheme, widely criticised by scientists and conservationists, to move water from the Tully-Herbert-Burdekin Rivers into the Flinders and Thomson Rivers to the headwaters of the Warrego.

### WATER RECYCLING

Following the Premier's announcement that the **water recycling referendum** would be cancelled, the Bill to enable a special plebiscite for SEQ on water recycling was withdrawn on 6 February 2007.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Liberal leader Dr Bruce Flegg introduced a **private members Bill** to Queensland Parliament on 21 February 2007 to establish a voluntary carbon credit trading exchange. Exchange members could buy and sell credits based on the amount of greenhouse gases they release or reduce, and voluntary carbon credits could be purchased by consumers from power companies and the transport department. The *Carbon Credit Trading Bill 2007* cannot be passed without government support.

In **international developments** on climate change, 47 countries including the UK and many European countries – but not Australia or the USA – are supporting the formation of a powerful new environmental body called the United Nations Environment Organisation (UNEO). It would have more resources, funding and clout than the current United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). UNEO's main purpose would be to slow the pace of global warming, so it would have the power to punish polluters. To make your views known on whether Australia should support the formation of the UNEO, sign the petition at <http://cooltheglobe.com/petitions>. That site also hosts a petition calling on Australia to ratify the Kyoto protocol. Sign them today!

### WATER RESOURCE PLANNING

The **Calliope Water Resource Plan (WRP)** has been finalised, and the moratorium in place while the Logan River WRP is being prepared has been amended to allow works to construct the Cedar Grove Weir: a project in the Premier's Water Grid which is being run through the State Development Department. As happened previously with the Mary River WRP for the Traveston Dam, water planning processes are being interfered with to enable the Premier's water infrastructure projects.

### FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

On 19 February 2007, almost all of the changes to the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* made by **last year's amendments** commenced operation.

The main amendments related to the assessment and approval process, threatened species and ecological community nominations, heritage place nominations and appeal provisions. The amendments were roundly criticised by conservation groups and were perceived as cutting red tape at the expense of environmental protection.

The **EPBC Regulations** have also been amended (commencing 19 February 2007) to reflect changes made by the 2006 amendments to the Act, discussed above.

The main amendments specify publication requirements for assessment documents and public notices; criteria for the Minister to decide on an assessment by referral information; matters which must be addressed by an EIS or Public Environment Report; requirements for nominations of threatened species, ecological communities or threatened processes for listing under the Act; and adoption of IUCN categories for Commonwealth reserves.

### ENERGY

The *Nuclear Facilities Prohibition Bill 2006* outlined in our January 2007 Bulletin was passed by Queensland Parliament on 20 February 2007. It bans nuclear reactors, uranium enrichment plants and radioactive waste dumps, and requires a referendum to be held if the federal government tries to build a nuclear facility in Queensland.

## Opportunities to Comment

The following Government initiatives are currently open for public comment

### **Marine Pollution Regulation Regulatory Impact Statement – comments due 9 March 2007**

The *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Regulation 1995* aims to protect Queensland's marine and coastal environment by minimising discharges of ship-sourced pollutants (including oil, noxious liquid substances, sewage and garbage) into coastal waters.

The Regulation is under review to ensure it remains relevant, efficient and provides an appropriate balance between regulatory obligations and the operational realities for industry and the community. As part of the Review, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared on which public comment is sought by 9 March 2007. See [www.msq.qld.gov.au/resources/file/eb992e06b0f2ccb/Pdf\\_ris\\_tompr\\_public\\_consult.pdf](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/resources/file/eb992e06b0f2ccb/Pdf_ris_tompr_public_consult.pdf) for a copy of the RIS and email your comments to [msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au) or fax to 3120 7440 Attention Remake of TOMP Regulation.

### **Amendment to the Burnett Basin Water Resource Plan – comments due by 9 March 2007**

A draft amendment to the Burnett Basin Water Resource Plan has been released for public comment by **5pm on Friday 9 March 2007**. The draft amendment includes provisions to address seawater intrusion in coastal aquifers, and allows for existing authorised groundwater uses in the Coastal Burnett Groundwater Management Area to be replaced with tradable water allocations. Details on the amendment and how to make a submission are available at [www.nrw.qld.gov.au/wrp/burnett](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/wrp/burnett) or by calling 1800 135 531.

### **North Bank Brisbane CBD development concept design – comments due 13 March 2007**

The State Government has invited comments on a proposal to “revitalise” riverfront land at North Bank in the Brisbane CBD, from the William Jolly Bridge to the Goodwill Bridge on the city side of the Brisbane River. Stage 1 of the project, the stretch from Victoria Bridge to Alice Street, includes a new covered pedestrian walk, public open spaces, public swimming pool, shops, restaurants, riverfront promenade, a new hotel and commercial and residential buildings.

A model and concept drawings are on public display in the foyer of the Executive Building (100 George St) or see [www.northbankbrisbane.com.au](http://www.northbankbrisbane.com.au). Public comments on the proposal are due by **13 March 2007**. A subsequent full public consultation process will be undertaken when the final design is being developed.

### **Townsville Port Access – EPBC controlled action – comments due 14 March 2007**

The Queensland Department of Main Roads is proposing to establish and operate a new road corridor and rail access to the Port of Townsville within a new transport corridor. The corridor will link the existing Bruce Highway to the Port of Townsville to allow the freight traffic bypass the residential areas of Townsville.

The proposed action was declared as a controlled action under the EPBC Act and requires assessment on preliminary documentation for its potential impacts on World Heritage, listed threatened species and listed migratory species. Public comment is sought on the preliminary documentation by **14 March 2007**, available from [www.mainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au). Comments should be sent to Mr Reg Conroy, Director Major Projects, Qld Department of Main Roads, PO Box 1089, Townsville 4810.

### **Senate Inquiry into additional water supplies for SEQ – Traveston Dam – comments due 4 April 2007**

On 26 February 2007, the Senate referred the following matter to the Rural and Regional Services and Transport Committee for inquiry:

The examination of all reasonable options, including increased dam capacity, for additional water supplies for South East Queensland, including:

- the merits of all options, including the Queensland Government's proposed Traveston Crossing Dam as well as raising the Borumba Dam; and
- the social, environmental, economic and engineering impacts of the various proposals.

Public comments are sought on this matter by **4 April 2007** by email to [rrat.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:rrat.sen@aph.gov.au). Following consideration of submissions, the Committee will hold public hearings. The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at the public hearings. Note that submissions become Committee documents and can only be made public after a decision by the Committee

For more information see [www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat\\_ctte/traveston\\_dam/info.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/traveston_dam/info.htm).

### **Great Barrier Reef Plans of Management for Cairns and Whitsundays – comments due 19 March 2007**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is seeking comments on proposed amendments to the Cairns and Whitsundays Plans of Management, which complement zoning by addressing issues specific to an area, species or community in greater detail than can be accomplished by the broader reef-wide zoning plans. Amending the plans of management will not alter the zoning. GBRMPA is also seeking comment on draft site plans for Setting 5 areas in the Whitsundays and permanent mooring of glass bottom boats at Upolu Cay, Offshore Cairns. For more information on the proposals see [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au) under “Latest News” or call (07) 4750 0700. Send your comments by **5pm 19 March**

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2007 to [planning@gbrmpa.gov.au](mailto:planning@gbrmpa.gov.au) or by post to Manager, Planning, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, GPO BOX 1379, Townsville 4810.

### **SEQ Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy Discussion Paper – comments due 30 March 2007**

The Queensland Government is developing the *SEQ Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy* to plan for outdoor recreation at a regional level, and has released a Discussion Paper for public comment as the first step in that process. Responses will help inform the development of the *Strategy* which will be finalised by late 2007. Many conservation groups have expressed concern that the current shortage of suitable areas for outdoor recreation will put natural areas like national parks and urban green space under threat of sacrifice for high impact outdoor activities. Have your say to ensure this does not happen!

The discussion paper is available at [www.oum.qld.gov.au/docs/pdf/SEQRORS\\_Discussion\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.oum.qld.gov.au/docs/pdf/SEQRORS_Discussion_Paper.pdf) and comments are due by **30 March 2007**. Public comments should be sent to [enquiries@oum.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@oum.qld.gov.au) or posted to Paid 15009, City East, Qld 4002. If you don't have time for a full submission, complete the questionnaire in the Information Paper online at [www.oum.qld.gov.au](http://www.oum.qld.gov.au).

### **Review of Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan – survey currently online**

The Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan is being reviewed as required before it expires on 1 September 2008. The first stage of the review process has now commenced, and EPA are seeking information on how people use and value the marine park, via a survey at [www.epa.qld.gov.au/mbmp/feedback.php](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/mbmp/feedback.php).

Any changes to the current zoning plan will only be proposed after environmental, economic, cultural and social data is collected and analysed. When the draft zoning plan is released in late 2007, it will be available for public comment for at least two months. The new zoning plan will then take effect on 1 September 2008. See [www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks\\_and\\_forests/marine\\_parks/moreton\\_bay\\_marine\\_park\\_zoning\\_plan\\_review/](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/marine_parks/moreton_bay_marine_park_zoning_plan_review/) for more information.

## **USEFUL TIPS**

### **Australian Government Envirofund - Round 9 now open**

The Australian Government Envirofund is the local action component of the Australian Government's \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust. It helps communities undertake local projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable resource use. Community groups and individuals can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 (GST inclusive) to carry out on-ground and other actions to target local problems. Applications for Round 9 close at **5pm on Friday 27 April 2007**. Copies of the [Guide and Application Form](#) are available at [www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/](http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/).

### **Water rebate factsheets**

The Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme is a state-wide initiative offering rebates of up to \$1000 for water tanks, \$200 for 4-star or better water-rated washing machines and \$150 for dual flush toilets. Facts sheets on the scheme and all the eligible products are available [www.nrw.qld.gov.au/water/saverscheme/](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/water/saverscheme/).

### **National Pollutant data 2005-2006 available**

Information on emissions to Australia's air, land and water during 2005-06 in the annual data for the National Pollutant Inventory is now available at [www.npi.gov.au](http://www.npi.gov.au). The NPI is a publicly accessible database containing information on emissions of 90 substances from more than 3800 facilities around the country. A total of 47 of the 90 NPI substances reported by industrial facilities decreased compared to the previous year.

### **ANU/University of Melbourne Conference: Climate Law in Australia, Canberra 12-13 April 2007**

"Climate Law in Australia" is the first Australian conference to focus exclusively on the emerging legal dimensions of global warming. While climate change presents great environmental, economic, social and technological challenges, it also presents novel legal problems. This two day conference will explore vital legal issues that Australia needs to confront. Carbon trading, nuclear decision-making, alternative energy technologies and legal challenges to the coal industry will be major themes of the conference. EDO lawyers, board members and some of the key barristers EDO uses feature heavily in the program, including EDO NSW Principal Solicitor Kirsty Ruddock and Queensland barrister Chris McGrath. For more information, including program and prices, see <http://law.anu.edu.au/ace/Events.asp> or call (02) 6125 3487

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#### **Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc.**

9th Floor, 193 North Quay (corner Herschel St), Brisbane 4000.

Ph: (07) 3211 4466, Fax: (07) 3211 4655, e: [edoqld@edo.org.au](mailto:edoqld@edo.org.au)

#### **Environmental Defender's Office of Northern Queensland Inc.**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 96-98 Lake St, Cairns 4870. Ph: (07) 4031 4766, Fax: (07) 4041 4535, e: [edonq@edo.org.au](mailto:edonq@edo.org.au)

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