

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Getting HELP
from the EDO

YOU AND THE EDO

1 CALL our free environmental law advice line
9262 6989 (Sydney)
1-800-626-239 (NSW)
Tuesdays-Thursdays 2.30-5.30pm

2 VISIT OUR WEBSITE at
www.nsw.edo.org.au
for Environmental Law Fact Sheets,
policy submissions and more...

3 SUBSCRIBE to our free weekly
email bulletin www.nsw.edo.org.au

If you require the assistance of an interpreter
please call TIS National on 131 450 and ask
to speak with the Environmental Defender's
Office on 9262 6989.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

By becoming a Friend of the EDO you can
help us help communities across the state
to protect the environment.

Donations, bequests, in kind support
and voluntary services are all welcome.

Please download the form at
www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/supportus.php
or contact our office on:

02 9262 6989 or
edonsw@edo.org.au



www.nsw.edo.org.au

We are extremely grateful for all the work you and the whole EDO have put into this case over the years.

Richard Major
President, Coalcliff Community Association

In 1999 the EDO acted for the Association to stop the dumping of coal waste and seek remediation on a site on the Illawarra Escarpment. The court ruled that the dumping of coal waste by Kembla Coal and Coke was illegal. The parties subsequently reached an agreement that provided for the remediation of the site by the new owner.

Read other EDO success stories at www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/casework.php

REPRESENTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) is an independent community legal centre that helps individuals and community groups working to protect the built and natural environment.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENDER'S OFFICE
CAN HELP YOU TOO

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE

LEGAL ADVICE AND CASE WORK

The EDO's case work programme involves activities such as providing detailed written legal advice on your particular issue, writing letters on your behalf and, in some cases, going to court.

We can provide expert advice to residents and campaigners on a wide range of urban and rural environmental, development and related issues.

The EDO has expertise in environmental, planning and local government law, including native vegetation and land clearing, water quality and usage, pollution, forestry, mining, contaminated land, wildlife protection, freedom of information and activist rights.

The EDO receives a large number of inquiries for legal assistance each year. Free initial legal advice is available to everyone via our Environmental Law Advice Line.

To determine which matters the EDO can act as your solicitors for, we have developed guidelines for written advice work and casework.

WHEN WE WILL ACT

The EDO will consider assisting you if:

- The matter involves a public interest environmental issue (including test cases where litigation is contemplated);
- The matter involves a real threat to the environment;
- The EDO has the resources to properly advise you;
- The matter has reasonable prospects of success (for litigation matters).

The EDO may act for you even if you have a private interest in the matter. You will need to satisfy the EDO that the matter will have strong public interest and environmental ramifications and will assist the protection of the environment.

GETTING LEGAL ADVICE ...FAST

It's best to get advice as soon as an issue arises, even if you are not clear on the legal implications.

The EDO believes the earlier parties engage in a matter, the better the advice and expertise we can provide, and the better the outcome for the environment.

TAKING LEGAL ACTION

It's important to remember that there may be time limits to taking action. Challenges to development consents given by local councils under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* must be started within three months of the date the consent is advertised.

If you object to a designated development, you have only 28 days from the date council notifies you of its decision to go to the Land and Environment Court.

If you delay getting advice, you may lose your rights to appeal. Your lawyer may also not be able to provide the advice needed in a short time frame.