

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEFENDER'S OFFICE  
(NSW)

SCIENTIFIC  
ADVISORY Service

## 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](http://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](http://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.

To donate, please visit:  
**[www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/supportus.php](http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/supportus.php)**  
or contact our office on:

**02 9262 6989**  
**1-800-6262-239** or  
**[edonsw@edo.org.au](mailto:edonsw@edo.org.au)**



[www.nsw.edo.org.au](http://www.nsw.edo.org.au)

## EDO'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

The EDO aims to encourage participation in environmental decision making by providing not only legal advice, but also expert scientific advice to the public. Our in-house scientific advisor also contributes to our education and policy programs and maintains a register of experts willing to assist with public interest environmental matters.

## THE SCIENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The environmental assessment and planning process relies heavily on reports prepared by professional consultants. Documents such as environmental impact statements (EISs) can be hundreds of pages long and are filled with technical and scientific jargon. The EDO's scientific advisory service can help you identify and understand the important issues and implications of a proposal or plan.

Scientific advice is also important for community members contemplating legal challenges to development decisions or enforcement of environmental laws. The courts are rarely interested in legal issues alone. Community groups need to demonstrate adverse environmental outcomes or impacts to get the results they want.

## WHEN DO I NEED SCIENTIFIC ADVICE?

The EDO's casework history has shown that scientific information is especially needed when:

- Preparing a submission in response to a development assessment or a publicly exhibited environmental plan. A submission containing scientific evidence or arguments will be more successful than one containing only unsupported assertions;
- Reviewing a report prepared by a professional consultant. You may need scientific information to understand the report, and to find any errors, omissions or short-comings; and
- Considering court proceedings for environmental cases. Scientific evidence can often play an important part in such cases.

## GETTING SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

The scientific advisor works with the EDO solicitors to provide advice to members of the public and community groups. The scientific advisor also maintains a register of experts from a diverse range of backgrounds who can assist with more specialised matters.

Please note that extensive scientific assistance will only be available for matters that satisfy the EDO's casework guidelines.

Contact the duty solicitor on the environmental law advice line to find out if the scientific advisor can assist you.

## 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.