

BULLETIN

November-December 2006

EDO wishes *all* readers a happy and ecologically sustainable Christmas and New Year! Please give ethical gifts this year!

What's in this Bulletin?

It's been another busy couple of months for your hard working EDOs! This Bulletin contains exciting news about our recent Court cases including success in **Bat case 4** and a **landmark new climate change case** for Queensland, plus disappointing news on the **False Cape** appeal but good news for **Tasmanian forests**. We mention our ongoing **law reform work** on vegetation clearing, wild rivers and healthy waterways, and recent community workshops, including upcoming talks at **Woodford Folk Festival**. There's heaps of environmental policy and legal changes, including on federal environment laws, water, nature conservation and vegetation clearing, plus several opportunities to comment on **emissions trading, water resource planning, wild rivers** and the proposed **Mary River dam** EIS terms of reference. We include some **useful tips** on grants, cooler homes and state of the environment plus flag EDONSW's upcoming **conference**. And finally, we wish you a safe and environmentally responsible holiday!

COURT CASE NEWS - Case update from EDO-Qld

Successful interim and final orders in Bat Case 4 – Booth v Yardley



EDO Qld and barrister Chris McGrath represented Dr Carol Booth in the Planning and Environment Court in another case against a lychee farmer using electric grids to kill flying-foxes for crop protection.

Farmer Richard Yardley admitted on radio to killing over a thousand Spectacled Flying-foxes in the last few years using his grids, without a permit from the EPA. He claimed that the EPA had no power to regulate his land.

On 3 November 2006, we were successful in getting the first ever public interim enforcement order under the *Nature Conservation Act*. That interim order restrained the farmer from using the electric grids until a full court hearing could be held, about whether the grids should be permanently dismantled and a donation made to a bat hospital as compensation for the many bats killed.

On 21 November 2006 that full hearing was held before Judge Wilson SC and he delivered his judgement on 30 November 2006 – orders that the grids must not be used to electrocute bats and must be dismantled within 3 months! The farmer has now told the media he will not abide by the orders, clear contempt of court for which imprisonment can be imposed.

EDO has written to EPA Minister Lindy Nelson-Carr, asking that the EPA monitor the Yardley farm and prosecute the Yardleys if they continue to use their grids to kill flying-foxes, in breach of the court order. We also asked the Minister to require all remaining grids on the few remaining farms that still use them, both lethal and so called 'non-lethal' grids, to be dismantled as they are inhumane, illegal and ineffective. EDO members might like to write to the EPA Minister supporting our call for enforcement and grid dismantlement.

First climate change case in a Queensland court - QCC v Xstrata

EDO Qld and barristers Chris McGrath and Stephen Keim SC are acting for Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) in the first climate change case in a Queensland court. The case is an objection to an application for a mining lease by Xstrata Coal Queensland Pty Ltd for an expansion to an open cut coal mine 'Newlands', about 130kms west of Mackay. Xstrata is one of the largest mining companies in the world.

QCC lodged an objection to the mine expansion and elected to go to a full hearing because of the adverse environmental impacts from the greenhouse gas contributions that the mining, transport and use of the coal from the mine will have - unless conditions are imposed to avoid, reduce or offset those emissions. Over its 15 year lifetime, this mine will produce 28.5 million tonnes of coal, and the mining, transport and use of this coal will produce between 72 and 96 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent (MtCO2-e) emissions. The total emissions from the coal produced from the mine over 15 years is roughly equivalent to 15% of Australia's annual greenhouse emissions or a whopping 0.21% of annual global emissions.

The case aims to have the true costs of greenhouse emissions recognised in assessing new coal mines, and conditions imposed on the mines to avoid, reduce or offset (eg by planting carbon sinks) the emissions from the mining, transport and use of the coal.

QCC is seeking donations to pay for internationally respected expert witnesses to give evidence on the amount of emissions which will be generated, their contribution to climate change and the cost of measures to avoid, reduce or offset the emissions. QCC has a target of raising \$60,000 to pay experts and the legal team. To be part of this historic action, send your donation to QCC today – contact Jeff Poole at QCC on 3221 0188 to find out how.

The Land and Resources Tribunal in Brisbane will hear the case over 3 days between **January 31st and February 2nd 2007**, and will then make a recommendation to the Mines Minister about whether the mining lease expansion should be granted and on what conditions. Members of the public are welcome to attend this important hearing. Success in this case will set an important precedent and reduce the climate change impacts from Queensland's coal industry!

For more information about EDO-Qld cases contact us on 3211 4466 or edoqld@edo.org.au.

COURT CASE NEWS - Case update from EDO-North Qld

False Cape appeal refused – CAFNEC & Save our Slopes v Reef Cove Resort P/L & Cairns City Council

Readers will recall that both CAFNEC and SOS sought declarations from the Cairns Planning and Environment Court that approvals issued by Cairns City Council (CCC) for False Cape were invalid because CCC did not follow proper process and did not take relevant considerations into account. Judge White of the Planning and Environment Court ordered that a number of CAFNEC's and SOS's grounds of appeal be struck out. SOS appealed that decision to the Court of Appeal in Brisbane with the help of barristers Stephen Keim SC and Tracey Fantin. The appeal was heard on 16 November 2006 before Justices Keane, Holmes and Chesterman. Unfortunately, the Court of Appeal refused to grant SOS leave to appeal, and ordered that SOS pay the costs of the appeal. This means the previous decision of his Honour Judge White will stand and both CAFNEC and SOS will have to go to hearing in the P&E Court with substantially reduced grounds of appeal.

Whilst SOS, CAFNEC and EDO-NQ are extremely disappointed with this result, they will all continue to fight on in the Planning and Environment Court in Cairns with the remaining grounds of the initial proceedings, and remain hopeful of a favourable outcome. The fight for protection of the False Cape site is not confined to formal legal proceedings, with public rallies and lobbying of the Premier and Ministers to intervene to save False Cape. The fight continues....

Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4) v Cavanah

C4 appealed the decision of Johnstone Shire Council to grant a development approval to Cavanah for a material change of use (MCU) and a development permit for a reconfiguration of a lot (1 lot into 21 lots

plus balance) of land situated at Mission Beach. C4 argued that the MCU conflicted with the Rural Conservation Zoning of the land, compromised the desired environmental outcomes for the area and also conflicted with the State Planning Policy on Good Quality Agricultural Land.

On 25 September 2006, Judge White dismissed C4's appeal. This is a disappointing result which highlights the conflicts between the flexibility and discretions in the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* process and the conservation of endangered species. After Judge White's decision, the parties have negotiated additional conditions that will apply to the subdivision, including the construction and maintenance of a Cassowary fence and the inclusion of a large parcel of vegetated land in Clump Mountain National Park.

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

No Camel Rides on Magnetic Island – Jenny Terrey & Ors v Townsville City Council and Michael Vance

Twelve local residents of Magnetic Island recently successfully appealed the decision of the Townsville City Council (TCC) to approve a development application to allow camel rides on World Heritage listed Magnetic Island. The Appellants claimed that the developer did not comply with public notification requirements under the *Integrated Planning Act* and that the proposed camel rides were inconsistent with the Planning Scheme and would adversely impact on the environment. The Appellants were self-represented and ran the case using EDO's Community Litigants Handbook (*copies available from EDO-NQ or EDO Qld*) with some help from EDO-NQ.

On Friday 8 December 2006 the developer's legal representatives handed up consent orders allowing the appeal, and refusing the development permit. The Appellants' vigilance to ensure that the developer fully complied with all procedural requirements has seemingly won them the battle. This is a wonderful outcome for the local residents of Magnetic Island and the environment! EDO-NQ congratulates the Appellants, specifically their spokesperson Ms Jenny Terrey, for their courage and determination to fight TCC's decision as self-represented litigants in court.

COURT CASE NEWS - Other cases of interest

Landmark NSW climate change case

On Monday 27 November 2006, Justice Pain of the NSW Land and Environment Court delivered a landmark judgement in *Gray v The Minister for Planning and Ors* [2006] NSWLEC 720, about a proposal to build a huge coal mine known as the Anvil Hill Project.

Justice Pain found that the environmental assessment lodged by the miners was inadequate because it failed to consider the climate change impacts of burning the coal. She held that the NSW government was legally bound to consider the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions of burning coal by third parties (including those overseas) in environmental assessment of a new coal mine due to the principles of ecologically sustainable development. At paragraph 98 of the judgement Justice Pain said "The fact that there are many contributors globally does not mean the contribution from a single large source such as the Anvil Hill Project in the context of NSW should be ignored in the environmental assessment process."

EDO welcomes this sensible interpretation of environmental impact assessment laws which acknowledges that the full impacts of an action must be considered before it should be approved. EDO Qld will refer to this case in QCC's case against Xstrata in the Land and Resources Tribunal (see more above).

The link to the decision is: <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lecjudgments/2006nswlec.nsf/61f584670edbfba2ca2570d40081f438/dc4df619de3b3f02ca257228001de798?OpenDocument>.

Tasmanian Forestry Case – a win for Australian Greens Senator Bob Brown!

On 19 December 2006 Justice Marshall of the Federal Court gave his judgement in *Brown v Forestry Tasmania*, Bob Brown's case about Tasmanian native forest logging in Wielangta, south Tasmania.

His Honour Justice Marshall found that Forestry Tasmania's current and proposed forestry operations in the Wielangta area are likely to have a significant impact on three endangered species (the Tasmanian wedge-

tailed eagle, the broad-toothed stag beetle and the swift parrot), given their endangered status and other threats to them. The Court also found that because Forestry Tasmania's forestry operations were and will not be carried out in accordance with the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) between Tasmania and the Commonwealth, that the exemption for forestry activities (taken in accordance with an RFA) under the EPBC Act did not apply.

The case is particularly significant for the consideration of cumulative impacts, and the interpretation of the forestry exemption in the EPBC Act. His Honour Justice Marshall found that even if impacts on threatened species were alone relatively insignificant, they must be looked at in the context of other factors causing loss to habitat, which could make them significant (thus triggering the EPBC Act). The Court also found that it was still necessary for an RFA to comply with the objects of the EPBC Act, and 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. This is big news for forestry where threatened species will be impacted!

Bob Brown's website reports that on 20 December 2006 the Court made orders that Forestry Tasmania cease commercial activities in the area, though it may still carry out work to protect people and property from bushfires. The Court also ordered the company to pay the estimated \$500,000 in costs incurred by Senator Bob Brown in fighting the case. Forestry Tasmania has until 9 February 2007 to appeal. EDO extends huge congratulations to Bob Brown for fighting to protect Tasmania's native forests and endangered species!

The decision is at www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/federal_ct/2006/1729.html, or see www.bobbrown.org.au/.

LAW REFORM NEWS

Vegetation Law Reform

After submitting detailed comments on the vegetation clearing codes in August 2006 on behalf of QCC, The Wilderness Society and WWF Australia, EDO Qld attended the final December meeting of the DNRW Business Advisory Committee on Vegetation. This stakeholder body was formed to receive comments on the drafts of the clearing codes, which have now been released in final form. EDO will closely examine the released codes and policies (including the controversial offsets policy) early in the new year to determine whether any conservation sector recommendations for amendments were adopted, and will continue our advocacy to plug the legislative gaps in protection for urban vegetation, regrowth and areas of high nature conservation value.

Wild Rivers Law Reform

Following amendments to the *Wild Rivers Act 2005*, which reflect the agreement reached between stakeholders in July 2006 (see EDO's July 2006 Bulletin), new drafts of the Wild River Code and six Wild River Declarations were released for public comment by February 2007. Shortly thereafter, State Cabinet agreed to further amend the *Wild Rivers Act 2005* when Parliament resumes in February 2007 to simply declare the six nominated rivers, rather than re-consult on them, and legislate to overcome a legal challenge by a landholder in the proposed Staaten wild river area based on a technical flaw in a notice under the Act. EDO looks forward to the declaration of the first six rivers and a speedier process for declaring future wild rivers. EDO will continue to advise TWS and QCC on the wild river campaign including on the draft Wild River Code released for public consultation (see Opportunities to Comment below).

Healthy Waterways Project

During December, EDO Qld produced Part 1 of a legal and institutional review of the Moreton Bay Healthy Waterways project, a project which will identify areas for law reform to better protect water quality in South East Qld. The report builds on EDO Qld's expertise in things watery, developed during our Wetlands Law Reform Project for WWF Australia released in July 2006.

Our January 2007 Bulletin will contain more information about our other law reform activities.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & EVENTS

During November and December 2006 EDO Qld organised or spoke at the following community events:

- to 100 people at The Hut Environment Forum about state and federal biodiversity laws and their interaction with planning;
- to 50 people at the Logan and Albert Conservation Association vegetation clearing information night about the strengths and weaknesses of state and local vegetation clearing laws;
- to 20 community litigants at a Planning Appeal Information Session held at EDO's office in Brisbane City. Similar information sessions will be held from 12-1pm on 23 January and 27 February 2007;
- to a gathering at the QUT non-profit school on funding and the environment sector; and
- to attendees on a Batty Boat Cruise fundraiser on the laws protecting bats and EDO's latest court win.

At the **Woodford Folk Festival** in the last week of December 2006 EDO lawyers will be making a number of presentations in the Greenhouse. Come along and hear about:

1. Suing the White Shoe Brigade - Larissa Waters and Anita O'Hart of EDO, 11-12 Wednesday 27th;
2. Ducking Defamation and Slipping SLAPP Suits – Jo Bragg of EDO with journalist Wayne Sanderson, 11-12 Thursday 28th;
3. Damn Those New Dams – Jo Bragg and Larissa Waters of EDO with Scott Alderson of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, 11-12 Sunday 31st.

NEWS OF RECENT ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY CHANGES

In the last weeks of Parliament several Bills covering environmental issues were tabled, including the *Nuclear Facilities Prohibition Bill 2006* and *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2006*. Those Bills are expected to be passed in February and EDO will report on them in the next Bulletin.

Federal environmental laws

- On 7 December 2006 the Senate passed amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, which will commence in 2007. Conservation groups have roundly criticised the amendments. EDO's submission to the Senate Committee investigating the Bill, which notes our many concerns with the amendments, is available from www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/policy.php.

Climate change

- Bills to address climate change were introduced to federal Parliament on 30 November 2006 by the Australian Greens (the *Climate Change Action Bill 2006*) and the Australian Labor Party on 29 November 2006 (*Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol Ratification) Bill 2006*) but will not pass given the federal government's majority in both Houses of Parliament. EDO praises those parties for taking the lead on federal legislative amendments to properly respond to climate change.

Water

- **Water efficiency management plans** for businesses are now required under the *Water Act* following passage of the *Wild Rivers and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2006*. The Qld Water Commission (in SEQ) and the DNRW chief executive (outside SEQ) can now require large water using Qld businesses to prepare, implement and report on new Water Efficiency Management Plans (WEMPs) which show how businesses plan to reduce the amount of water they use. Previously WEMPs were only voluntarily, so this is the first time that non-domestic water users have been required to achieve water savings.
- Amendments to the building laws by the *Wild Rivers and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2006* and the *Building and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation No.2 of 2006* require local governments to mandate **rainwater tanks** for new housing after 1 January 2007 (previously Councils only had a discretion to require tanks). The Qld Development Code now contains mandatory requirements for new housing to achieve water saving targets in SEQ by 1 January 2007 and state wide by 1 July 2007.

These amendments complement the rebates available for houses which retrofit water saving devices into existing houses, and the government's \$3 million commitment to install water saving devices into major government buildings including new public housing.

- The South-east Queensland **Water Recycling** Plebiscite Bill 2006, tabled on 30 November 2006 but not yet passed, legislates for a SEQ plebiscite (referendum) on 17 March 2007 about introducing recycled water into existing water supplies for drinking. The plebiscite will take in 19 shires in SEQ from the Tweed River up to Cooloola Shire including Toowoomba in the west, with the option of adding extra local government areas, and will be determined by 50% +1 of votes. The Bill is expected to be passed at the first sitting of Parliament in February 2007.
- Other amendments to the *Water Act* by the *Wild Rivers and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2006* facilitate the implementation of resource operations plan for the **Great Artesian Basin** and provide greater flexibility in the **transfer of water licences**, primarily in the Great Artesian Basin but also envisioned for a number of Water Resource Plan areas.
- **Water Resource Plans** (WRPs) for Calliope and the Gold Coast catchments came into effect on 15 December 2006. WRPs plan for the allocation and sustainable management of water to meet Qld's future water requirements. EDO has not yet examined these WRPs to see if they do achieve that....
- The **Central Qld Regional Water Supply Strategy** was released on 16 December 2006 and is available from http://www.cgwaterstrategy.qld.gov.au/documentation/cgrwss_report.html. This is a non-statutory strategy developed by the state and local governments to plan for long term water supply in that region. Interestingly, the Strategy relies heavily on **Nathan Dam** being built – remember EDO's court case for QCC and WWF against this dam on the basis of its adverse impacts on the Great Barrier Reef? In 2004 the Full Federal Court sent the Nathan Dam proposal back for a broader environmental impact assessment of the GBR impacts from chemicals likely to be used by farmers using water from the dam, and the process has stalled since then... EDO will watch for developments on Nathan Dam – and several other dams espoused in the Strategy - and keep you informed.
- **Wild Rivers** amendments in the *Wild Rivers and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2006* were passed on 30 November and commenced on 7 December 2006. The amendments reflect what was agreed by stakeholders in July 2006, which EDO criticised in our July Bulletin for favouring miners and developers and undermining the ability of the *Wild Rivers Act 2005* to protect the values of wild rivers.

Vegetation clearing

- New regional vegetation management codes, a revised State Policy and policies for vegetation Offsets, Material Change of Use (MCU) and Reconfiguring a Lot (RaL) came into effect on 20 November 2006. The clearing codes contain the detail of the parameters which an application to clear must meet in order to be approved. Instead of 24 regional vegetation management codes, there are now 4 which cover the Coastal Bioregions, Western Bioregions, SEQ Bioregion and the Brigalow and New England Tablelands Bioregions. A number of other changes have been made to the codes relating to fodder harvesting, small-scale clearing, salinity and essential habitat mapping. The Department is preparing guides to all of these instruments which will be available on the DNRW website www.nrw.qld.gov.au/vegetation/index.html. In the new year EDO Qld will closely examine the changes to the codes and policies, particularly the controversial offsets policy, and form a view on whether the final drafts of these instruments properly protect native vegetation. Watch this space!

Nature conservation

- A permanent **ban on recreational duck and quail hunting** in Queensland commenced on 10 November 2006 with the *Nature Conservation Amendment Act 2006*. Previously, recreational duck and quail hunting was permitted in Queensland under the *Nature Conservation (Duck and Quail) Conservation Plan 1995*. That Conservation Plan provided for hunting seasons that could be officially declared by the chief executive on an annual basis. In August 2005, the Premier announced that the duck and quail conservation plan would not be remade but the new amendments ensure a permanent ban on recreational duck and quail hunting by prohibiting a regulation, conservation plan or any other legislative mechanisms from authorising such activity. Macropods (kangaroos, wallaroos and whiptailed wallabies) did not fare so well with the new harvesting plan allowing between 1% (wallabies) and 18.6% (red kangaroo) of the populations to be culled in certain areas during 2007.

- On 9 November 2006, the **Orange Roughy** fish species was added to the federal threatened species list, the first commercially harvested fish to be listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). However, it was listed as only 'conservation dependant', which gives the lowest level of protection available for a threatened species under that Act, despite advice to the federal Environment Minister from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee to list the fish as endangered since only 7% of its unfished biomass remains.



Orange roughy (Photo: NORFANZ, courtesy of DEH)

- October amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations* set new rules which prohibit fishing in conservation park zones using more than 1 hand-held rod or handline and 1 hook attached to the line. The amendments also state new offences about dories (vessels used in association with a primary commercial fishing vessel) when in non-fishing, buffer and conservation park zones.
- An international agreement between Australia and the Republic of Korea to protect **migratory birds** was announced by the federal Environment Minister on 7 December 2006. The Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement is Australia's third bilateral agreement for migratory bird protection in the Asia Pacific region, joining agreements with China (CAMBA) and Japan (JAMBA).

Planning and development

- The *State Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2006* was passed on 28 November 2006 and commenced on 7 December 2006. Amongst other things, this Act gives greater powers to the Coordinator General to take over approval processes where other Departments have not made decisions in 20 business days. EDO will examine these amendments closely in the new year.

OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT...

The following discussion government initiatives are currently open for public comment:

National Emissions Trading Scheme discussion paper open for comment until 22 December 2006

State and Territory Governments in Australia are currently investigating the possibility of a national emissions trading scheme. This scheme may provide a mechanism for the Australian economy to transition more smoothly to a carbon constrained future, and potentially link Australia to international carbon markets. Australian State and Territory Governments established the National Emissions Trading Taskforce to develop a multi-jurisdictional emissions trading scheme for consideration by State and Territory Governments.

A discussion paper on ways to design a national emissions trading scheme has now been released for public comment by **22 December 2006**. The discussion paper and information on how to make a submission is available at www.emissionstrading.net.au.

Draft Mitchell and Gulf Water Resource Plans open for comment until 31 January 2007

Draft Water Resource Plans (WRPs) to plan for the allocation and sustainable management of water in the Gulf and Mitchell catchments have been released for public comment by **31 January 2007**. Submission forms are available on the department's website or through the department's offices in Mareeba and Cloncurry. For more information see www.nrw.qld.gov.au/wrp/gulf and www.nrw.qld.gov.au/wrp/mitchell.

Western Corridor Recycled Water draft ESIA open for comment until 9 February 2007

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure Anna Bligh has released a 2500 page draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Stage 1 of the Western Corridor Recycled Water project for public comment by **9 February 2007**. The draft ESIA details the impacts of Stage 1, which comprises the Bundamba Advances Waste Water Treatment Plant and a pipeline from Oxley to Caboonbah to supply recycled water to the power stations. The draft ESIA is available from www.westerncorridor.qld.gov.au.

Traveston Dam Stage 1 draft EIS terms of reference open for comment until 19 February 2007

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure Anna Bligh has released the draft terms of reference for the environmental impact statement (EIS) for Stage 1 of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam on the Mary River for public comment by **19 February 2007**. Terms of reference guide an EIS, which is meant to ensure that all potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the project are identified, assessed and steps are outlined about how to mitigate against any adverse impacts. Submissions on the draft terms of reference must be taken into account in setting the final terms of reference.

The draft terms of reference cover issues including impacts on the endangered Mary River Cod and Tortoise and the vulnerable lungfish, water quality and habitat impacts in Ramsar listed Great Sandy Strait and World Heritage listed Fraser Island, and the potential for weed growth, algae blooms and potential transfer of pathogen organisms between river basins. Minister Bligh has stated that the EIS will consider alternatives to the project as well as other dam locations and will outline the reasons for selecting preferred options.

The draft terms of reference are available at www.coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au/eis. EDO will help Save the Mary Coordinating Group with their submission, and you too should have your say against the dam and advocate for sustainable water supply options like demand management, stormwater capture and re-use and water recycling for drinking!

Wild Rivers Code open for comment until 28 February 2007

A revised draft Wild Rivers Code has been released for public comment by 5pm **28 February 2007**. The Code sets out the requirements for development to be approved in wild river areas, and is used in conjunction with the wild river declaration for the particular river (yet to be made). Comments must be sent to the Chief Executive, Dept Natural Resources and Water, Attention: Wild Rivers Officer, PO Box 937 Cairns 4870 or faxed to 07 4039 8145.

Draft Whitsunday & Mackay Islands Visitor Management Strategy open for comment until 2 March 07

Public submissions on future visitor management in the Mackay-Whitsundays' World-Heritage listed islands set out in the draft Whitsunday and Mackay Islands Visitor Management Strategy are due by **2 March 2007**. The draft Strategy includes a blueprint for managing popular visitor sites on the islands, and lays the foundation for introducing the Tourism in Protected Areas program into the Whitsundays (see August-October 2006 Bulletin). The draft Strategy is available from www.epa.qld.gov.au and comments must be sent to Qld Parks & Wildlife Service, PO Box 3130, Rockhampton Shopping Fair, North Rockhampton QLD 4071.

USEFUL TIPS

The Australia Green Grants Guide 2007

The Australian Green Grants Guide is now available to order from Molino Stewart, an Australian sustainability consultancy. This guide lists over 250 Australian environmental and heritage grants, with specific information on each grant and indexes for easy reference. Grants are arranged into 7 categories: Water, Biodiversity, Energy, Greenhouse, Heritage Sites, Land and Waste. For more information, please visit <http://www.molinostewart.com.au/>

Want to know how to reduce your household's greenhouse gas emissions?

The Australia Greenhouse Office has released a publication "Global Warming Cool It", a home guide to reducing energy costs and greenhouse gases. Download it at www.greenhouse.gov.au/gwci/pubs/gwci.pdf.

Australian State of the Environment Report 2006 now available

The third Australia-wide State of the Environment Report is now available for download from <http://www.deh.gov.au/soe/2006/index.html>. A printed copy of the summary with a CD of the full report and supporting documents can be ordered from <http://hermes.erin.gov.au/ciurf/soe/index.shtml> or 1800 803 772.

EDO NEWS

EDO NSW Annual conference 16-17 February 2007 – *Beyond Environmental Law: Intersections Between Legal Disciplines and the Environment*

EDO NSW in conjunction with the Australian Centre for Environmental Law Sydney, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney, will co-host this highly innovative two-day conference. Experts across a broad range of legal disciplines will reflect on how their areas of law impact on the environment. The Keynote Speaker will be Professor Kevin Gray from Trinity College, University of Cambridge, who will speak on “Can environmental regulation amount to a taking of common law property rights”.

The Conference will be held at The Portside Centre, 207 Kent Street, Sydney. Cost of attendance: Corporate Rate (\$550); NGO rate (\$300); Academic/Individual Rate \$200; Student/Concession Rate \$100. A full copy of the brochure including program and registration form can be downloaded from: http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/CLE/docs_pdfs/2007/Environmental16022007.pdf. For more information, please contact Ms Val Carey, Sydney Law School, Telephone (02) 9351 0238 or email: cle@law.usyd.edu.au.

To subscribe free to the monthly joint EDO-Qld and EDO-NQ Bulletin, email edoqld@edo.org.au or edong@edo.org.au

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.

9th Floor, 193 North Quay (corner Herschel St), Brisbane 4000. Ph: (07) 3211 4466, Fax: (07) 3211 4655, e: edoqld@edo.org.au

Environmental Defender's Office of Northern Queensland Inc.

1st Floor, 96-98 Lake St, Cairns 4870. Ph: (07) 4031 4766, Fax: (07) 4041 4535, e: edong@edo.org.au

If you no longer wish to receive our Bulletin by email, please email EDO-Qld and EDO-NQ with “unsubscribe Bulletin” in the subject line. Your email address will be removed from our database and we will not send you our email Bulletins.