



Environmental Law Community Advisory Service (SA) Inc.

Advisory Service:	Bowden Brompton Community Centre 19 Green Street, Brompton Phone: 346 9394 Fax: 346 9477	Chairperson: John Scanlon 414 3333 Deputy Chair: Rob Fowler 228 5582 Secretary: Paul Leadbeter 211 7188 Treasurer: Elisa de Wit 212 4903 Co-ordinator: Penny Wright 346 2445
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ELCAS

Newsletter No. 1, January, 1993

A lot has happened since ELCAS was officially launched by the Attorney-General on World Environment Day eve, 4th June 1992. As a result the Management Committee has decided to produce a regular newsletter, to be distributed three or four times each year, to keep members and supporters of ELCAS informed about what is happening.

This is an extremely important year for ELCAS. The Management Committee considers that it is vital that ELCAS develop a strong membership base and advertise its existence as broadly as possible in order to capitalise on all of the good work that has been done to date.

The Advisory Service - An Update

The Advisory Service, provided on each Thursday night from the Bowden Brompton Community Legal Centre, has been quite active. The enquiries that have been made of the Advisory Service to date have been varied, and have included:-

- Advice on a development proposal placed before a Local Council;
- Advice on involvement in the rezoning process known as the preparation of a Supplementary Development Plan;
- Advice on the loss of inner urban open space and community gardens through redevelopment for housing;
- Advice on the keeping of old cars on land;
- Advice on contamination and hazardous waste;
- Advice on land tenure regarding an inner urban farm project;
- Advice on the objects and rules of an incorporated conservation association;
- Advice on air pollution and noise pollution coming from a factory;

Advice on the movement of an existing educational establishment from one campus to another.

The Advisory Service will continue to be provided on each Thursday night from the Bowden Brompton Community Legal Centre, commencing on February 4th, 1993. We are fortunate to have a panel of 28 lawyers who have agreed to volunteer their time to provide free advice. The roster for the first eight months of this year has been distributed to each member of the Panel.

Pro Bono Scheme Launched

A Pro Bono Scheme has been launched by ELCAS which has been made possible through the support of several legal firms and barristers. One of the objects of ELCAS is:-

"To promote and procure the provision of legal services for disadvantaged persons and for classes of persons for whose needs the services of lawyers in private practice are inadequate without fee or on a fee reduced basis, in relation to environmental problems."

In furtherance of that objective ELCAS has established the Scheme which consists of a voluntary panel of firms and barristers who have agreed to consider taking on matters of public importance on a without fee or fee reduced basis. It has been agreed that there will be no more than one referral to any one firm or individual in any calendar year. A number of firms have been written to and, as at the date of preparing this newsletter, Mellor Olsson, Norman Waterhouse and Ward & Partners and barrister, Brian Hayes QC have all agreed to participate in the Scheme. A voluntary panel of expert witnesses is also being put together.

The Management Committee of ELCAS decides whether or not a matter requiring more than preliminary advice should be referred to a member of the Panel. Given the limited resources available, the Management Committee has adopted fairly strict guidelines regarding when it will refer a matter on. One of the guidelines is that the matter must be of public importance.

The Management Committee does not engage the firm. It makes contact with the firm and, with its consent, refers the individual or organisation to it. The Management Committee when referring a matter also makes a recommendation as to whether it considers the matter should be taken on without fee or on a fee reduced basis. However the final contract for the provision of legal services is left to be negotiated between the client and the lawyer.

Essentially the Management Committee sees ELCAS as providing an important link between the community and the legal profession, and in particular between the community and those members of the legal profession who are prepared to consider taking on matters of public importance on a without fee or a fee reduced basis.

If you would like to participate in the Scheme please contact any member of the Management Committee.

Membership and Management Committee

ELCAS currently has 27 members. If you would like to become a member, or know of others who may like to become a member, you can contact Penny Wright, our Advisory Service Co-ordinator, on 346 2445 and she can arrange for membership brochures to be supplied to you. Membership is only \$5.00.

There are eight people on the Management Committee and they are:-

John Scanlon
Chairperson
Phone 414 3333

Penny Wright
Advisory Service Co-ordinator
Phone: 346 2445

Rob Fowler
Deputy Chairperson
Phone 2885063
or 288 5582 (direct)

James Blindell
Deputy Advisory Service Co-ordinator
Phone 238 2635 (Monday-Wednesday)
333 2670 (Thursday, Friday)

Paul Leadbeter
Secretary

Phone 211 7188

David Cole
Committee Member/Advertising Co-ordinator
Phone: 232 3556

Elisa de Wit
Treasurer
Phone: 212 4903

Mark Parnell
Committee Member
Phone: 232 2566

Last year we had a representative from the University of Adelaide, Felicity Tepper attend Management Committee meetings.

Advertising

Articles about ELCAS have been published in the Law Society Bulletin, Environment South Australia and IMPACT (a publication of the NSW Environmental Defenders Office) and articles have been prepared to be published in the Local Government magazine known as Council and Community and the Royal Australian Planning Institute Newsletter. Articles giving an update of the activities of ELCAS have been prepared for the Law Society Bulletin and IMPACT.

David Cole has been working extremely hard to put together a revised brochure and a poster for ELCAS. Damien Storer, an Environmental Studies student and member of ELCAS, designed the new logo and the poster. We are most grateful to David and

Damien for their hard work. A copy of the revised brochure is enclosed with this newsletter.

Funding

The initial funding for ELCAS came from the South Australian Division of the National Environmental Law Association and the Environmental Law and Policy Unit at the University of Adelaide (now the Australian Centre for Environmental Law - Adelaide). Those funds are rapidly depleting. Applications for funding are being made to various places, including a revised application being made to the Law Foundation. If you are aware of any sources of funding would you please contact Penny Wright or James Blindell.

Given the limited funds available to ELCAS it has had to rely upon the generosity and goodwill of many individuals and firms. The Management Committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank the following: the Australian Centre for Environmental law - Adelaide for printing the original brochures; the Bowden Brompton Community Legal Centre for providing its facilities free of charge; David Cole (and Cole and Associates), Norman Waterhouse, and Ward & Partners for absorbing a lot of out of pocket expenses; Fisher Jeffries for making its conference room available to the Management Committee and the Minister of Urban Development for providing free up-dates of the Development Plan.

Drinks: Bernardis 5.30 p.m. 28th January 1993

A memo has already been distributed advising you that the Management Committee has arranged for members and supporters of ELCAS to meet at Bernardis at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday 28th January 1993. It will be an informal get together. There will be no speeches, and unfortunately you will have to buy your own drinks. It will, however, give us all an opportunity to meet socially and the Management Committee hopes that you will attend.

Future Newsletters

If you would like to have any information included within future newsletters or if you have any comments to make on the format of the newsletter please contact either Penny Wright or John Scanlon.

John Scanlon and Penny Wright
for the Management Committee, January 1993.