



# 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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## Newsletter No. 2, May, 1993

The Management Committee distributed its first newsletter in January of this year. We hope to be able to distribute three or four newsletters in each calendar year in order to keep you, as a member or supporter of ELCAS, informed about what it is doing.

### First Anniversary Dinner - Friday 4th June 1993

ELCAS was officially launched by the Attorney General on the 4th June 1992 (World Environment Day eve). We have decided to celebrate our first anniversary by holding a dinner at *Cafe Boltz*, which you will find at the eastern end of Rundle Street, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 4th June 1993. Unfortunately our funds are such that you will have to pay for everything yourself, but it will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to get together. Partners are most welcome.

Would you please let Helen Ward know by Friday 28th May 1993, at the very latest, whether you would like to join us. Her phone number is 414-3333.

### Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 15th June 1993

We will hold our Annual General Meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 15th June 1993 at Ward & Partners, 15th Level, Standard Chartered Centre, 26 Flinders Street, Adelaide. We have enclosed for you:

- the Notice of Annual General Meeting
- the Agenda for the meeting
- a Nomination Form for election to the Management Committee
- a Proxy Form

If you are unable to attend the meeting would you please complete a proxy to ensure that we have a quorum for the meeting.

### **ETSA vegetation clearance challenge**

At the initiative of the Mayor of the City of Kensington & Norwood, her Worship Mayor Vincenzina Ciccarello, a group of over 20 Councils have come together to pursue the contentious issue of the vegetation clearance provisions for non-bushfire risk areas within the *Electricity Trust of South Australia Regulations, 1988*.

The collection of Councils has decided to call itself the Local Government ETSA Regulations (Vegetation Clearance) Review Committee and the number of Councils wishing to be represented by it is steadily increasing.

ELCAS has been providing free legal advice to the Review Committee. The Management Committee considered the issue to be one of genuine public importance and hence a greater level of advice is being provided to the Review Committee by ELCAS than would normally be the case.

On behalf of the Review Committee ELCAS has written an eight page letter to the Premier of South Australia, the Honourable Lynn Arnold, asking a series of questions regarding the vegetation clearance practices of ETSA in non-bushfire risk areas. We are awaiting a reply.

### **Banksia Environmental Foundation**

ELCAS has been nominated for the 1993 Banksia Environmental Awards in the award category group, *Metropolitan Community Groups*. The awards will be presented on June 5th, 1993.

### **Tax deductible status**

ELCAS is obtaining voluntary assistance from Katherine Wells, a member of the Management Committee of the Victorian EDO, on obtaining tax deductible status for donations that are made to ELCAS. We are most grateful to Katherine for her assistance.

### **Funding**

We have been actively pursuing sources of funding over the past six months. As you will recall ELCAS obtained its initial funding through donations from the SA Division of the National Environmental Law Association and the Australian Centre for Environmental Law - Adelaide (totalling \$1,000.00). That was enough to get us started but we now require access to a recurrent source of funding. In today's economic times that is not easy.

***Law Foundation of South Australia application***

A revised application for funding in the sum of \$3,000.00 was made to the Law Foundation. That amount of funding was sought in order to meet the immediate funding needs of ELCAS.

We are delighted to report that our application for funding was successful which means, whatever else happens, we have sufficient funds to meet our out of pocket expenses over the next 12 months.

We are extremely grateful to the Law Foundation for approving our application.

***Programme of grants to voluntary conservation organisations***

Maria Comino, a solicitor with the New South Wales EDO, co-ordinated an application for a particular purpose grant under the 1992-1993 programme of grants to voluntary conservation organisations to facilitate national networking between the EDO's of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia (ELCAS).

We are delighted that the Minister for Environment Sport and Territories, the Honourable Ros Kelly MP approved a grant for \$2,800.00 for that purpose.

We wish to thank Maria, and the New South Wales EDO for its efforts.

***Approach to Commonwealth Attorney General***

A tele-conference was held on 6th May 1993 between the National President of the National Environmental Law Association, John Haydon, and representatives of the EDO's of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland and South Australia (ELCAS).

The purpose of the tele-conference was to discuss making a joint approach to the Commonwealth Attorney General for funding to be made available to each of the EDO's. The initial approach will seek annual funding for each EDO in accordance with a report prepared for the Minister for the Arts Sports and the Environment and Territories, *Supporting Community Conservation Action in Australia*, which recommended that the Attorney General's Department provide funding to EDO's in each State of Australia.

Simon Molesworth, a member of the Management Committee of the Victorian EDO, will be approaching the Commonwealth Attorney General on behalf of all of us. We thank Simon and John Haydon for their efforts. Fingers crossed!

### **The Advisory Service - an update**

The Advisory Service, provided on each Thursday night from the Bowden Brompton Community Legal Centre has continued to be active. A wide range of enquiries have been made of the Advisory Service since our last newsletter and they have included enquiries in relation to contaminated land issues, planning law issues and issues relating to the objects and rules of an incorporated conservation association.

We wish to thank everybody who is a member of the Advisory Panel for their ongoing support.

### **NELA 12th National Conference**

As most of you will be aware the National Environmental Law Association is holding its 12th Annual National Conference in Canberra on July 4th - 6th 1993. A very exciting programme has been put together under the theme *The Politics of the Environment*. If you would like to know more about the conference please contact John Scanlon on 414-3333.

A number of people from EDO's around Australia, including ELCAS, will meet in Sydney after the Canberra conference. If you would like to meet with members of the New South Wales EDO in Sydney please contact John Scanlon for details.

### **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 this newsletter, please contact either John Scanlon or Felicity Tepper (on 204-0449).

**John Scanlon and Felicity Tepper  
for the Management Committee, May 1993**