

VCAT PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT APPEALS

TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND ENVIRONMENT GROUPS

WORKSHOP PURPOSE

The Environment Defenders Office (Victoria) Ltd (EDO) provides legal advice and representation to individuals and community groups working to protect the environment.

The purpose of the EDO **VCAT Planning & Environment Appeals** workshops is to improve the capacity of individuals and community-based conservation groups to be able to represent themselves in matters before VCAT that relate to planning and environment law appeals.

Attendees will learn how to participate most effectively in a VCAT proceeding.

WORKSHOP FORMAT

The 2-hour program is presented by EDO lawyers.

The workshop includes a presentation with plenty of opportunity and encouragement for questions and participation in discussion by workshop attendees.

A group-hosted workshop focuses upon looking at the specific situation that faces your community group and the relevant laws and policies that apply. Group-hosted workshops can be delivered across Victoria.

A group of 15 to 20 participants is recommended.

WORKSHOP CONTENT

Attendees are given practical and legally-focused information about VCAT proceedings and hearings. The program is flexible and topics can be tailored to meet the needs and interests of workshop attendees.

Topics can include (but are not limited to):

- an overview of the Victorian Planning and Environment Law System, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and Victorian Planning Schemes.
- information about decision makers, third party rights, and appeals in the Victorian planning arena.
- a detailed look at the review body, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal ("VCAT").

HOW TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP

If you or your group is interested in attending or hosting a workshop in your region, please contact Emma Pepler at the EDO on (03) 8341 3100 or edovic@edo.org.au.

Alternatively you can register to attend workshops at the 60L Green Building in Carlton, by contacting Emma on the details above. October-December 2008 schedule:

- Thursday 16 October 2008, 5.30-7.30pm
- Tuesday 11 November 2008, 5.30-7.30pm
- Tuesday 9 December 2008, 5.30-7.30pm

Legal Services **BOARD**

This workshop is presented as part of the EDO's 'Improving community participation' project generously funded by the Legal Services Board of Victoria.