

ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENDERS OFFICE
(TASMANIA) INC

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

*Tasmania's
environment
is worth
fighting for*



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environment
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the period covered by this report, EDO Tasmania reached 20 years of age.

Our EDO, as part of a national EDO Network, was established in 1995 following a report to the Federal Government on access to justice. That report recognised the importance of funding the less well off in the community so as to enable people to have access to the nation's court and tribunal system. It also recognised that access to justice was critical not just for the protection of social services, but for the protection of environments on which communities rely for health, recreation, sustenance and well-being.

Although funding across the Network has been cut, the need for access to justice remains. In fact, the demands for access to justice are likely to be greater than ever as the political system is increasingly strangled by corporate interests such as big coal, big water, big farming, big mining etc. It is now only the court system that remains free from the insidious influence of lobbyists, money and other corrupting and inappropriate influences.

It has been a great honour to be the President of the EDO as we have reached our twentieth year. Her Excellency, the Governor of Tasmania, Kate Warner, held a reception for the EDO in honour of our 20th anniversary and it indeed was special to have that recognition bestowed upon us.

EDO Tasmania has achieved much over its lifetime, and 2015-2016 was no different. This year, we have held government to account by securing a Supreme Court judgment confirming that groups like the Tarkine National Coalition are entitled to know the Minister's reasons for resource management decisions. We have successfully challenged the decision to allow four-wheel drive access on Tasmania's west coast that would do significant damage to irreplaceable Aboriginal cultural heritage. We have urged stronger legal protection for endangered species, and published a range of practical resources to assist the community to understand their legal obligations. We have continued to advocate for community rights to participate in resource management decisions that affect them, and places that they love.

For much of the EDO's infancy and teenage years, life was dominated by achieving benchmarks, performance criteria and other targets imposed by our various funding agreements. That position changed dramatically at the end of 2013 when the Abbott government, in an act of spite, severed funding for all EDOs in Australia. Fundraising became – albeit slowly – an integral part of our existence. It is a testament to our success, and the community support that we continue to enjoy, that we are still here – contrary to the wishes of our adversaries – and that we continue to do what we do best: we run environmental litigation, contribute to the many public debates about the environment and spread the word on the benefits and importance of environmental law (and its reform).

We just won't go away!

It is an extremely challenging time for a small community legal centre. But the EDO Tasmania Management Committee has risen to the challenge and I want to express my gratitude to the hard work and dedication of all members of the committee.

The last year has seen some change in the committee. Alison Hetherington joined us, as did a former employee, Sarah Wilson. They have both been active and thoughtful and brimming with ideas. That has been welcome as the committee has had much to think about.

Professor Ben Richardson leaves us this year owing to greater responsibilities at the University of Tasmania. It has been a pleasure working with him and he has brought much to the committee, including an astute mind and great institutional experience.

What I have enjoyed about the EDO, and what makes me so proud to be part of it, is that it involves extraordinary people doing extraordinary things for very little return. That is particularly so for our staff, but I would also like to thank those barristers who have taken on cases for the EDO in 2015-2016: Brian Walters QC, Jim Delany QC, Juliette Forsyth, Tiphannie Acreman and Aneita Browning. I hope that the EDO can continue a successful working relationship with those and other barristers.

As in every year, our ongoing success relies on our staff. Under the leadership of Jess Feehely, who deserves the endless gratitude, not only of the committee, but of our clients and the broader CLC and EDO communities, the office has thrived amidst challenging and changing circumstances.

In 2015-2016, we were sad to lose Adam Beeson, who left the EDO to gain broader experience. Adam had run virtually all the in-house litigation over the last couple of years and been particularly successful, including in the Supreme Court decisions of *Tarkine National Coalition Inc v Schaap* [2014] TASC 66 and *Tarkine National Coalition Inc v Minister Administering the Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* [2016] TASSC 11, and the landmark Federal Court decision in *Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre v Secretary, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment* [2016] FCA 168. The Federal Court appeal of that decision is yet to be finally resolved, but is likely to provide clearer guidance regarding the recognition of aboriginal heritage values under the EPBC Act.

We have been lucky to have Claire Bookless join us from Queensland to take on the litigation lawyer role. Claire has big shoes to fill, but we have no doubt she'll continue the recent tradition of EDO Tasmania's litigation success!

EDO Tasmania was also sad to lose our wonderful fundraiser, Margie Jenkin. Margie brought amazing commitment to her role and undertook the unenviable task of guiding the committee as we evolved from a government-funding based organisation into a fundraising organisation with dedication and good humour. We have a long way to go, but with Margie's gentle persistence we have started the evolutionary process. One of her most memorable achievements has been pulling off a real coup by engaging First Dog on the Moon to perform at a benefit for us at the Theatre Royal in November 2015. First Dog, along with cartoonist Jon Kudelka and The Alpine Quartet, put on a show that was entertaining, thoughtful, provocative and, above all, a lot of fun.

In 2016-2017, Vicki Campbell and Sappho Brothers will join us to provide fundraising and administrative support and we warmly welcome them to our organisation.

This will be my last report as President of EDO Tasmania. I leave the role at a time when there is a warm steady light at the end of the tunnel. I wish the EDO well and again want to thank the current and past committee and staff members for their encouragement, support and friendship over twenty years. Thank you to the newer members, Kellie Jay, Alison Hetherington, Sarah Wilson and Michael Swanton, and thanks in particular to the longer term committee members Michael Lynch, Lindi Wall, Leslie Frost and Tom Baxter and our Principal Lawyer, Jess Feehely. It has been a wonderful journey.

Roland Browne
President

September 2016



PRINCIPAL LAWYER'S REPORT

What a year! After 20 years of operation, not only has EDO Tasmania not slowed down, we've ramped up our efforts to prevent inappropriate developments, to strengthen legal protections and to hold government to account.

In 2015-2016, we secured a victory for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre in the face of the government's proposal to allow off-road vehicles to damage the significant Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Heritage landscape. This case, the first to consider indigenous heritage values under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, is likely to have consequences for the protection and management of heritage values across Australia.

We also obtained orders from the Supreme Court (which were upheld on appeal) confirming that the Tarkine National Coalition was entitled to a statement of reasons for decisions by the Minister for Resources to grant two mining leases in the Tarkine. The decisions highlighted the importance of judicial review as a mechanism for government oversight, and recognised the stake that active environment groups have in ensuring resource management decisions are lawfully made.

We have continued to work with a wide range of groups to advocate for appropriate management plans for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and other reserves, and assisted numerous groups to navigate the confusing maze of changes proposed by the Tasmanian Planning Reforms.

In what has felt at times like an unrelenting tide of (often regressive) reform proposals, we have made detailed submissions regarding proposed changes to standing under the EPBC Act, the introduction of a one-stop civil Tribunal, managing coastal hazards, Tasmania's Climate Action Plans, the proposed Statewide Planning Provisions and the regulation of marine plastics, agriculture, unconventional gas mining and aquaculture. In collaboration with the Bob Brown Foundation, we also released a report setting out practical recommendations to improve the protections afforded to critically endangered species.

We continued to help Tasmanians to understand their options, their rights and their obligations. In particular, we launched our "Have Your Say" website offering practical advice for those wanting to participate in resource management decisions, delivered a series of workshops to assist farmers to understand the law, and published *Working Near Waterways*.

We've had some significant staff changes in 2015-2016. Our litigation lawyer, Adam Beeson left to take a position in private practice. Adam's expertise, dedication, and formidable win:loss ratio proved to be significant assets for EDO Tasmania and our clients, and he will be missed. We have been very lucky to have Claire Bookless step into the litigation lawyer role, bringing invaluable experience, enthusiasm and fresh perspectives on environmental enforcement.

We also farewelled our first fundraising officer, Margie Jenkin, after nearly two years of tireless efforts that have helped to place EDO Tasmania on a road to more stable financial footing. We owe Margie a debt that gratitude alone can't repay, but she certainly has our deepest gratitude!

As in previous years, I am in awe of the unwavering commitment of our clients to conservation objectives, and humbled by the support we receive from many, many sectors of the community. We couldn't do what we do without you guys, and we wouldn't want to!

Jess Feehely
Principal Lawyer

Meet the team

In 2015-2016, the EDO team included:

- Jess Feehely, Principal Lawyer
- Adam Beeson, Litigation Lawyer (to November 2015)
- Claire Bookless, Litigation Lawyer (from February 2016)
- Margie Jenkin, Fundraising Officer (to June 2016)
- Louise Blaik, Bookkeeper



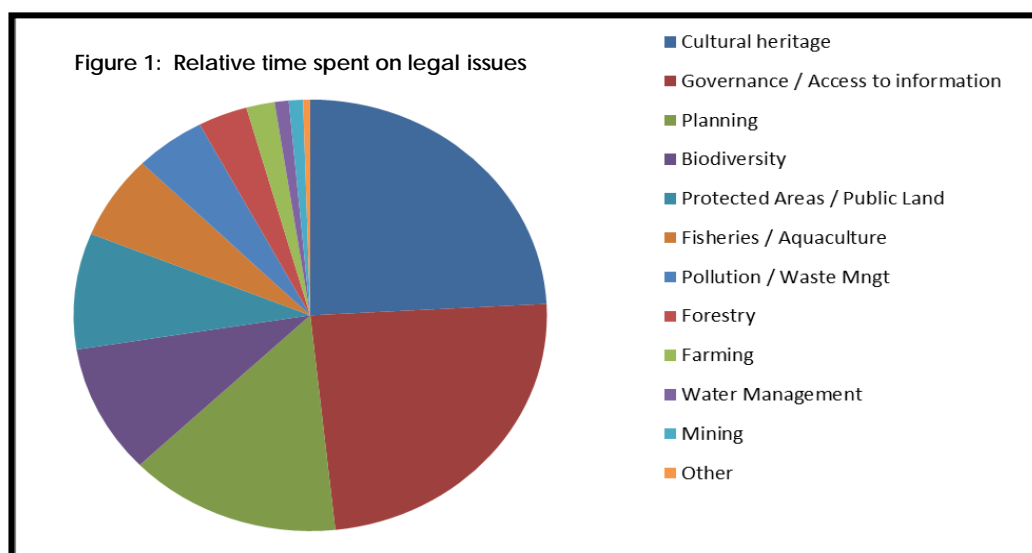
Summary of activities

Using the law	
New client matters	141
Continuing client matters	26
Complex casework (advice)	48
Cases involving litigation	6
Explaining the law	
Publications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major guides / reports • RMPAT Bulletin • EDO Bulletin • Articles published in journals 	3 10 editions 24 editions 2
Workshops and presentations	10
Public forums	2
Defending / Reforming the law	
Law reform submissions	13
Appearances at public inquiries	5
Media interviews	10
Consultation group involvement	2
Promoting the law	
Internships / placements	10
Volunteers registered	52
Funding	
Funding applications	8
Fundraising events / initiatives	7

Using the law

EDO Tasmania's key objective is to use the law to protect the environment. In pursuit of this objective, in 2015-2016 we have provided advice to individuals and groups throughout Tasmania on environmental and planning law matters.

In total, we estimate that staff spent nearly 2,000 hours providing advice and legal representation¹. Figure 1 shows the diversity of issues raised by clients, and the relative time spent addressing each resource management topic in 2015-2016. The significant amount of time spent on cultural heritage and governance issues reflect the resources dedicated to our two key litigation cases and the time-consuming nature of Freedom of Information / Right to Information requests. Ongoing planning reforms have resulted in more inquiries in relation to the application of planning rules, and protected area management inquiries remain high due to proposed changes to management plans for various national parks and reserves. Fisheries and aquaculture inquiries have also increased and we expect this area to continue to occupy our attention in the coming year.

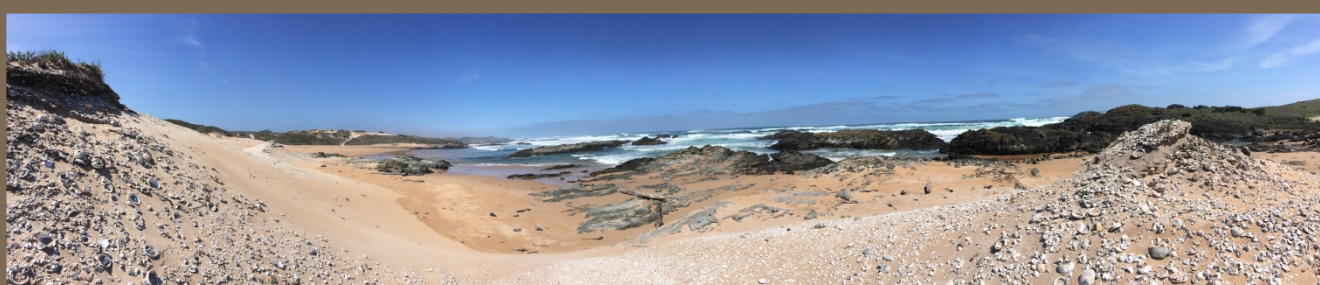
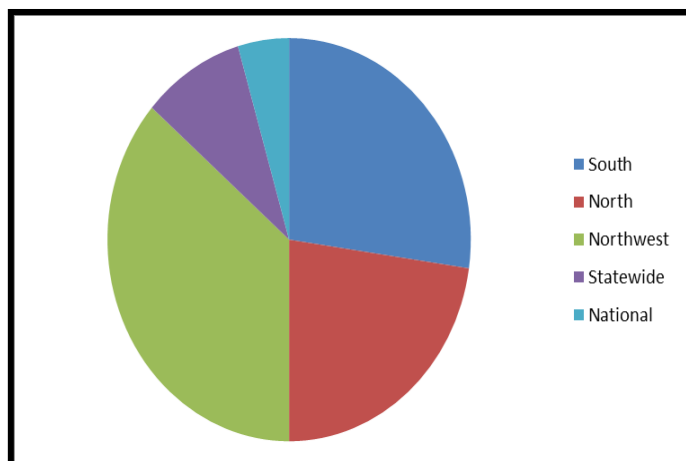


¹ This figure is slightly down on 2014/2015, reflecting the three month period in which we had only one lawyer on staff, following the resignation of our Litigation Lawyer.

While our office is based in Hobart, Figure 2 demonstrates the Statewide reach of our service, with roughly even representation of contact from across Tasmania.

While face-to-face advice is provided more regularly to clients in the South, we continue to offer phone advice and outreach sessions for clients in regional areas, and to promote awareness of the service through numerous channels.

Figure 2:
Location of subject
matter of advice



[T]he strong and enduring sense of connection and continuity that Tasmanian Aboriginal people have to a landscape in which their ancestors lived a particular and unique way of life will be adversely affected by the alteration of the landscape and the intrusion into it of things foreign to its natural condition, and the characteristics it possessed when, for thousands of years, Aboriginal people lived in and from that landscape. By this, the outstanding heritage value of the area to the Australian nation as a whole is also damaged.

Justice Debbie Mortimer, Federal Court of Australia

Using the law to protect cultural heritage

In December 2014, EDO Tasmania, on behalf of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc, secured an interim injunction to prevent the Tasmanian government from re-opening a number of off-road vehicle tracks on the Tarkine coast, on the basis that off-road vehicle use could have a significant impact on the indigenous heritage values of the nationally-listed Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape.

In October 2015, we argued the case before the Federal Court that re-opening the tracks or undertaking any preparatory works required assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. On 1 March 2016, Justice Debbie Mortimer held that the opening of the tracks was an “action” that required approval under that Act, and confirmed that the indigenous heritage values of the area attached to the entire landscape, rather than the isolated sites identified in the listing document.

The State Government appealed against this decision, and the Commonwealth Government joined the appeal as intervenor to raise issues regarding the broader implications of the decision. On 16 September 2016, the Full Federal Court held that works associated with opening and maintaining the track were ‘actions’. The Full Court found that Justice Mortimer’s approach to heritage values had been too broad, and that the values did not extend beyond the values described in the National Heritage List. However, the Full Court also noted that those values are open to “explanation or contextualisation by other material” and rejected the narrow interpretation of those values advocated by the State Government. EDO Tasmania will work with the other parties in the appeal to secure orders that reflect the decision, and will continue to advocate for the project to be referred to the Federal Minister for a comprehensive review of the likely impacts of re-opening the tracks on irreplaceable Aboriginal heritage values.

EDO Tasmania thanks Brian Walter QC and Tiphonie Acreman for their invaluable work on this case. EDO Tasmania also acknowledges the commitment of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, and the broader Tasmanian Aboriginal community, to protecting country, and to the Bob Brown Foundation for their support for the takayna campaign (www.takayna.org).

Information and advice provided by EDO Tasmania helps clients to understand evidentiary requirements and the risks associated with potential appeals, allowing them to make an informed decision about whether to proceed with litigation. In this way, we play an important role in discouraging appeals with limited prospects of success.

EDO Tasmania engages in litigation activity in limited circumstances. We consider litigation to be a last resort and will agree to represent clients only if we are satisfied other options have been exhausted and the legal action is in the public interest (as determined by our Casework Guidelines). However, there are clearly times when litigation is the most appropriate action in response to threatened or actual damage to natural and cultural values.



[To suggest that no one can have an interest in the decision to grant a mining lease] seems wrong due to the significance of the decision... [T]he fact that there are other procedural stages before the decision can be carried into effect does not deprive the decision of its inherent importance.... Clearly, the decisions authorising mining in the Tarkine adversely affect [TNC]'s interests.

Justice Helen Wood, Supreme Court of Tasmania

Using the law to hold government to account

Following the Minister for Resources granting mining leases for the Mt Lindsay and Livingstone mining projects in the northwest of Tasmania, the Tarkine National Coalition Inc (TNC) requested a statement of reasons for his decision. The request was refused on the basis that TNC was not a “person aggrieved” by the decision. The Minister argued that mining could not commence until a planning permit was also issued, so the decision to grant a mining lease had no impact on TNC’s interests.

EDO Tasmania, on behalf of TNC, applied to the Supreme Court for an order requiring the Minister to provide reasons. On 10 March 2016, Justice Wood granted the order, finding that the TNC had a clear interest in mining activity in the Tarkine and was entitled to know the basis for the Minister’s decision to authorise such activities. The Minister appealed against this decision, but the Full Court of the Supreme Court unanimously upheld Justice Wood’s finding that TNC was a “person aggrieved” by the mining lease decisions.

EDO Tasmania thanks Jim Delany QC, Juliet Forsyth and Adam Beeson for their work on this case.

Image by Dan Broun

Explaining the law

EDO Tasmania's community legal education programme is designed to assist members of the community to understand the laws and how to use them to secure better environmental outcomes.

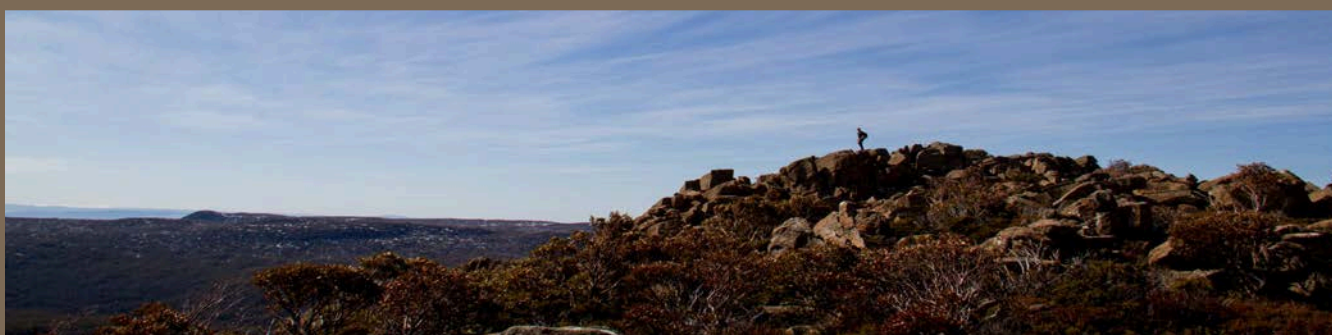
Key education achievements in 2015-2016 include:

- Launching our "[Have Your Say](#)" website – the site provides a range of practical materials to assist the community to understand how to have a say in resource management and planning decisions, including explanations of the law, current opportunities for comment, templates and example documents. We have delivered a number of workshops to promote this new resource.

This project was supported by grants from the Mullum Trust and the Law Foundation of Tasmania.

- Producing "*Working Near Waterways*", a guide to legal obligations associated with undertaking any activities near rivers, creeks and wetlands. The guide was produced with funding from NRM North, NRM South and Cradle Coast NRM, through the Australian Government's Landcare fund. EDO Tasmania thanks Julie Fielder and Dr Simon Perraton for their assistance in developing content for the Guide, and to all those who provided feedback on earlier drafts.
- Delivering a series of workshops on "Farming and the Law", supported by NRM North.
- Producing a range of resources to assist community members to understand, and respond to, the ongoing planning reforms.
- Hosting an information evening to explain the Federal Court decision in *Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc v Secretary, DPIPW* (the 4WD tracks case).
- Delivering training for local council members seeking to understand their role as a planning authority and their options to respond to environmental harm in their community.

We continue to maintain an informative website, subscription casenote service, and fortnightly EDO Bulletin keeping people up to date on changes to laws and opportunities to have a say in decisions affecting them and places that they love.



Helping communities to understand the planning reforms

Since their election in 2014, the Tasmanian Government has been working towards its objective of delivering a single, Statewide Planning Scheme. This represents a considerable change to the planning system in Tasmania and to the protections afforded to particular areas. The complexity of the changes has made it difficult for many members of the public to comprehend the likely impacts on their communities.

EDO Tasmania has undertaken a range of activities to help communities to understand the changes, and how to make their views heard. Activities have included:

- Publishing an overview of the new assessment processes introduced by changes to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*
- Producing submissions guides identifying key issues to be raised in community submissions to the draft State Planning Provisions, and assisting numerous groups with their submissions
- Using our social media resources and EDO Bulletin to notify people of upcoming opportunities to comment
- Speaking at numerous community meetings to answer questions about the planning system
- Various media interviews regarding the proposed changes

A number of groups and individuals formed the Tasmanian Planning Information Network to advocate for better planning outcomes. EDO Tasmania is providing some support, but all credit for their efforts to increase awareness of the changes in the broader community goes to the dedicated members of that group.

Image by Brendan Gogarty

Defending the law

It is often also necessary to defend current environmental laws against regressive reforms, and 2015-2016 has seen such reforms coming thick and fast. We continue to engage nationally, through the EDOs of Australia network, and locally to defend existing protections.

Activities in the past 12 months include:

- Submission opposing the repeal s.487 of the EPBC Act, reducing third party rights to seek review of decisions under that Act. We have also presented a session at the EIANZ Conference and published an article in the Australian Environment Review outlining our opposition to the change.
- Continuing our collaboration with stakeholder groups concerned that the draft *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan 2014* would fail to protect natural and cultural values or satisfy Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention. This collective advocacy included a detailed presentation to the UNESCO / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission and meetings with politicians and government officers.

In 2016, the World Heritage Commission urged that the recommendations in the Reactive Monitoring Mission report be adopted, and the Australian and Tasmanian Governments committed to implementing all recommendations – including prohibiting logging and mining, and undertaking detailed cultural heritage surveys. A huge thanks must go to The Wilderness Society for their leadership in securing this outcome.

A revised Management Plan is expected to be released in late 2016, and we will continue to explore options to ensure that the document protects the World Heritage values of the TWWHA.

- Various submissions in relation to planning reforms, and appearances at a number of Tasmanian Planning Commission hearings to advocate for stronger use and development standards.

All submissions are available on our website at www.edotas.org.au/resources/submissions/

Reforming the law

EDO Tasmania continues to draw on our legal expertise and the experience of our clients to identify legislative deficiencies and to advocate for reforms to improve the effectiveness of our environment and planning laws. Key law reform initiatives in 2015-2016 include:

- Publication of *Critically Endangered: Under-Protected*, outlining a series of practical reform options to improve the protections afforded to critically endangered species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The report was funded by the Bob Brown Foundation, and supports their current work to secure better protection for the Swift Parrot.

- Joining with a range of other interest groups to call on the Federal Government not to renew Regional Forest Agreements (the Tasmanian RFA is due to expire in 2017). Our concerns regarding the loss of biodiversity driven by RFAs have been consistently outlined in previous EDO Tasmania publications
- Commenting on the inadequacy of the Tasmanian Government's draft Climate Action Plan, and advocating for stronger emission reduction targets in the review of the *Climate Change (State Actions) Act 2008*.
- Making submissions to the Productivity Commission's inquiries into the regulation of agriculture, and marine fishing and aquaculture, highlighting areas where stronger regulation is required to ensure those industries operate sustainably.



We have also contributed submissions in response to a range of other government legislative reform proposals, and were a member of the working groups advising on the Tasmanian planning reforms prior to the release of the draft State Planning Provisions in December 2015.

Promoting the law

EDO Tasmania continues to encourage interest in environmental law amongst university students through our summer internship programme and ongoing practical legal placements. In 2015-2016, we were assisted by the following students:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ▪ Elsa Bland | ▪ Megan House | ▪ Theresa Lam |
| ▪ Catlin Buckerfield | ▪ Andrew Norris | ▪ Emilee Freeman |
| ▪ Hannah Ritchie | ▪ Natalie Jones | ▪ Jimmy Dunn |
| ▪ Gabi Harvey | ▪ Allison Tansley | ▪ Simon Perraton |
| ▪ Kathryn Kirk | ▪ Rochelle Hodge | |

We also maintain an innovative programme for external volunteers, which has attracted over 50 participants (primarily from Tasmania, however there are a number of students from other Australian universities enrolled). External volunteers are able to undertake research and drafting tasks to assist EDO Tasmania, but with greater flexibility to fit their contribution around other commitments.

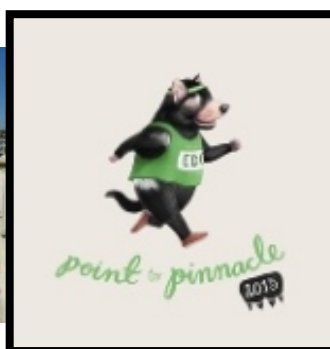
EDO Tasmania lawyers also continue to work closely with the University of Tasmania on a range of matters, including a reference group for the planning curriculum, participation in advocacy events and supervising the Student Legal Service.

Fundraising

Without a steady, recurrent source of government funding, 2015-2016 saw EDO Tasmania continue efforts to secure alternative income to support our work. Staff have spent around 45 hours applying and reporting back to philanthropic organisations and government grant agencies. In 2015-2016, we have undertaken projects with the support of the Mullum Trust, NRM North, NRM South and Cradle Coast NRM.

We have maintained a strong public donations programme (including workplace giving) and undertaken a range of fundraising activities, including:

- **An Evening with First Dog on the Moon** – we hosted an evening at the Theatre Royal, featuring the inimitable First Dog on the Moon and others. A huge thanks to First Dog, Bronte Lee, Jon Kudelka, the Alpine Quartet, the Theatre Royal, Sullivans Cove Whiskey and Margie Jenkin for their contributions towards making this such a wonderful event, and for helping us to raise \$11,000.
- **Forgo for EDO** – an annual event inviting supporters to give up one thing in May, and donate the savings to EDO Tasmania. This year, we had the wonderful graphic design support of Philippa Steele in designing the promotional material for the event. The event raised over \$5,000.
- **Quiz night** – our annual quiz night returned in 2015 with a good time had by all who attended. A huge thanks to Friends School for providing the venue, various sponsors for providing prizes (see below), Axel Meiss and Phil Woods for providing the food, Phil Hoffen and Alex Fry for their rigorous invigilating and Kellie Jay and Margie Jenkin for pulling the beers.
- **Point to Pinnacle** – EDO Tasmania entered a team in the Knight Frank Point to Pinnacle, a half marathon event stretching from Wrest Point to the pinnacle of kunanyi / Mt Wellington. We had a great response from a hardy team of walkers, runners and the indefatigable Paul Pritchard as the event's first disability trike entrant (who also added to the drama by making it across the finish line with only seconds to spare... such a stellar effort!). We raised over \$10,000, and were the top fundraising team for the event.



Independent auditor's report to members of Environmental Defenders Office (Tasmania) Inc

I have audited the special purpose financial report of Environmental Defenders Office (Tasmania) Inc for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Management Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Management Committee is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of the special purpose financial report and information contained therein. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting amounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) (where applicable), and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

To the best of my knowledge and belief, there has been no contravention of auditor independence and any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Limitation of Scope

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable to establish complete accounting control over cash received from all of its activities. Verification therefore has been limited to the receipt of funds recorded in the Association's financial records.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the special purpose financial report of Environmental Defenders Office (Tasmania) Inc presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2016 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

MAX PECK & ASSOCIATES

Rendell W. RIDGE
4 September 2016

Environmental Defenders Office (Tas) Inc

131 Macquarie Street, Hobart 7000

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Assets		
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Operating Account	1,783	8,350
EDO(Tas) Gift Fund	79,638	164,007
MEBank Business Account	168,134	130,695
GST Due from ATO Business	5,037	199
Trade Debtors	977	0
	255,570	303,250
<i>Non-Current Assets</i>		
Plant, Equipment at Cost	36,879	36,879
<i>Deduct</i> Provision Depreciation	-36,879	-36,879
<i>Total Non-Current Assets</i>	0	0
Total Assets	255,570	303,250
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
Trade Creditors	10,074	18,012
Accrued Audit fee	450	490
Employee Entitlements:		
Provision annual leave	13,849	13,849
Provision long service leave	2,821	14,814
Total Liabilities	27,194	47,165
Net Assets	\$228,376	\$256,085
Equity		
Retained Earnings	256,085	194,887
Operating Surplus (- Deficit) for period	-27,709	61,198
Total Equity	\$228,376	\$256,085

Environmental Defenders Office (Tas) Inc

131 Macquarie Street, Hobart 7000

Income Statement for year ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Income		
CLE - inc Conferences	0	1,555
Costs Recoverd & Retained	4,533	650
EDO (Tas) Gift Fund	113,339	192,637
Fees Received	20,574	21,660
Fundraising	13,607	5,600
Grants: Law Foundation	0	19,600
:NRM South	4,868	405
:NRM-North	0	8,990
:Mullum Trust	0	4,545
Interest	3,845	7,241
Membership	1,609	979
Publication-RMPAT Bulletin	7,390	6,256
Solicitors Trust	<i>NOTE</i> 0	46,441
State Funding	8,750	8,886
Sundry Income	1,050	1,709
Total Income	179,565	327,155
Expenses		
Accountancy	2,510	2,043
Audit	460	430
Bank Fees	595	1,278
Client related expenses	804	438
Communications	3,061	2,957
Computer Consumables	412	2,333
Electricity	1,607	1,132
Fundraising	5,494	748
Insurance	1,457	1,205
Lease expenses	1,017	26
Litigation	4,123	0
Memberships	373	1,064
NACLC Levy (inc Public Liab)	1,870	1,488
Office Equipment	1,499	0
Projects	10,116	1,783
Publicity	698	0
Rent	6,526	2,547
Resources, Publications	147	1,500
Salary & related expenses	157,028	239,844
Stationery, Postage, Printing	3,224	1,664
Subscriptions	1,726	745
Sundry Expenses	880	1,320
Travel, Training	1,649	1,412
Total Expenses	207,274	265,956
Net Profit (- Loss) for period	-\$27,709	\$61,198

NOTE: a post-2015 audit adjustment has resulted in correcting the carry-forward balance of the Solicitor's Trust fund account. All grant funds received in 2012-2013 (\$130,000) had been expended at 30 June 2015.



edotasmania

using the law to protect the natural and built environment

131 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000

tel: (03) 6223 2770
email: edotas@edotas.org.au

Annual Return for the Year ended 30th June 2016

I hereby advise that the structure of the committee of the
Environmental Defenders Office (Tasmania) Inc. was as follows:

POSITION	NAME	ADDRESS
President	Roland Browne	1 Glebe Street, Glebe
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Auditor



[Signature]
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We couldn't do it without you!

thank
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