



Environmental
Defender's
Office

Western Australia (Inc)

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

/

2017

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Management Committee

Members elected October 2016 Annual General Meeting

Michael Bennett
Anna Bond
Sonia Dorling
Alex Gardner

Retired during the year

Sonia Dorling
Peter Robertson
Anna Bond
Peter Rogers
Mia Pepper
Lorna Clarke

Mia Pepper
Peter Robertson
Peter Rogers
Becky Rorrison

12 December 2016
20 April 2017
9 June 2017
11 June 2017
17 July 2017
26 October 2017

Co-opted during the year

George Lowry
Lorna Clarke
John Bailey
Louisa Wales
Virginia Eastman

24 October 2016
18 January 2017
22 May 2017
22 June 2017
24 August 2017

Committee at date of notice of AGM

Alex Gardner
Becky Rorrison
Michael Bennett
George Lowry
John Bailey
Virginia Eastman
Louisa Wales

Convener
Deputy Convener
Secretary
Treasurer
Member
Member
Member

Staff

Current

Declan Doherty
Isaac St Clair Burns
Sharon Crombie

Principal Solicitor
Restricted Practitioner
Office Manager

Former

Shayla Strapps

Acting Manager

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday between 9:00 am & 5:00 pm



Convener's Report

Professor Alex Gardner

The EDOWA has much to celebrate at this 2017 Annual General Meeting. There has been excellent progress in rebuilding our team, stabilising our budget and re-invigorating our core activities. There are four key achievements since the last AGM.

- In late 2016 and early 2017, our then Acting Manager, Shayla Strapps, completed the review and reform of our office procedures, opening the way for our new Principal Solicitor, Declan Doherty to commence on 9 January and gradually build a talented and dedicated team of staff and volunteers.
- We survived a second financial year without governmental funding, thanks to the very generous financial donations of members, some generous bequests and the success of new fundraising initiatives, and were rewarded with the restoration of the EDOWA to the State Government's Community Legal Centre funding for 2017-18, as announced in the September 2017 budget.
- We have sustained our core membership and, with an increased use of social media and informative newsletters, also built a following of non-members who are interested in and supportive of our work.
- We have rebuilt a valuable and interesting environmental legal practice, engaging in legal education, law reform and advocacy.

The Management Committee are very grateful for the valuable contributions made by all our staff, volunteers, pro bono counsel and members and other supporters. We are confident that we can

point to considerable success in pursuit of our core mission: "empowering the community to protect the environment through law". In the Principal Solicitor's report, Declan will expand on both the challenges and successes encountered along the way.

In this report, I want to expand on:

- the contributions made by our staff and management committee members,
- recognise the crucial role that key donors and fundraising events have made to the success of the EDOWA in the past year; and
- open a discussion with the EDOWA Association membership about how we can address the ongoing challenge of financial and organisational security, especially through a proposal to merge with other EDOs in Australia to form a new national entity, the Environmental Defender's Office Australia.

Contributions by Staff & Committee Members

Let me start by thanking our Acting Manager, Shayla Strapps, who managed the EDO office from 1 July 2016 mid-January 2017 when Declan took over as Principal Solicitor. Shayla's role in the EDO was well acknowledged in my 2016 report. However, I should express our gratitude for the continued professional skill and energy with which she discharged her role following the 2016 AGM. She completed the audit and reform of office procedures in December 2016 and assisted Declan to settle into his role in January and February. Shayla also conducted a Community Legal Centre crosscheck training exercise in early August and a review of the crosscheck report in October. This has been of great assistance to Declan as Principal Solicitor and to the EDO generally because all of the staff are new to the Community Legal Centre practice.

The Committee is impressed with Declan's professional skill, care and energy in rebuilding of the EDOWA legal practice. There has clearly been a lot to learn for all the EDO team. Declan has shown great leadership in fulfilling important responsibilities for training and supervising a growing team of legal clerks and volunteers at the same time as maintaining and building relations with clients, donors and government agencies, as well as keeping the Committee informed. At the same time, Declan has energetically approached the challenges of fundraising, working effectively with the fundraising sub-committee to ensure the EDO's financial



survival. Declan is to be highly commended for the talented team of volunteers that he has assembled and effectively supervised in publishing newsletters for members and supporters, as well as undertaking a number of significant events in 2017; including the Access to Justice seminar and crowdfunding campaign, the joint EDOWA & Piddington Society Land Use Seminar, the Centre for Stories evening with Scott Ludlam, the Carbon Budgets and the Law seminar with the Centre for Mining, Energy and Natural Resources Law at the UWA Law School, and the EDOWA Art Auction launch on 1 November. On top of these educational and fundraising events, the EDO has run a number of cases, provided numerous important advices and is undertaking an important biodiversity law reform project with Gondwana Link supported by grant funding from the Koorabup Trust. The Committee records its gratitude for this excellent work but also notes that fundraising has taken a lot of time and effort.

The Management Committee has also had a busy year supporting Declan and the team with a range of activities. While there has been a significant change in the Committee membership since the AGM, all for various important personal reasons, each has made a valuable contribution. One departing member, Peter Robertson, deserves a special mention for his six years of service, building the Committee's understanding of the E-NGO sector and keeping an eye on practical dimensions. A lot of the Committee's energy has also gone into the fundraising and educational events. I wish particularly to note the efforts of our Treasurer, George Lowry, of our Secretary Michael Bennett (especially on the Carbon Budgets seminar) and our most recent member, Virginia Eastman, who did a splendid job with the Art

Auction launch, an event that is uniting beautifully the artistic appreciation of our environment with the EDO's aims. In appreciating these efforts, we need to keep in mind our basic goals. One of the early tasks that the Committee and Declan undertook was to prepare a 2017 Statement of Strategic Priorities. We consulted with the membership on this strategy, though we did not receive much feedback from members on the draft. Members may wish to review the Strategy as they reflect on the achievements recorded in these annual reports. Another focus of Committee deliberations has been governance reform. In the early months following the 2016 AGM, a subcommittee of the Convener, Deputy Convener and members Alex Head and Ed Fearis set about the task revising the Association's rules to conform to the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA), which came into operation on 1 July 2016. This task has been put aside because it has been overtaken by national developments in governance reform, addressed below.

At this stage, however, let me note briefly the situation with proceedings commenced in July 2016 by the former Principal Solicitor, which were recorded in my report to the 2016 Annual General Meeting. On 22 July 2016 the former Principal Solicitor commenced Industrial Relations Commission proceedings against the EDOWA claiming unfair dismissal. These proceedings were defended and ultimately withdrawn in their entirety by the former Principal Solicitor on 22 March 2017. There is an unresolved Freedom of Information application to the University of Western Australia for access to emails of members of the Management Committee that have UWA staff accounts.

Recognition of key donors, fundraising efforts and State Government Grant

As the Financial Report makes clear, we have survived financially on donations. The generosity of all donors and the efforts of all who contribute to our fundraising events is greatly appreciated. However, it has become clear over the past two years that these valiant efforts by numerous members, volunteers and staff have not produced sufficient regular donation income to sustain the EDOWA. It has been the special generosity of a very small number of key donors and bequests that has enabled the EDOWA to survive.

The State Government's restoration of the EDOWA to the Community Legal Centre funding for the 2017-18 budget has bolstered our capacity to survive for another year, if we sustain our fundraising. The reality of contemporary public funding is that the EDO cannot in the foreseeable future depend on government funding. Indeed, we must aim never again to depend on government funding for the largest part of our revenue. We need to develop broad community support so that we have a financial and reputational community base that ensures we can deliver quality professional services that all major political parties will want to support with public funding.

We also need to consider new ways to strengthen our professional capacity and build our financial base. Increasingly, we will need to draw on national environmental law expertise from other EDOs and employ the expertise of dedicated fundraisers to generate a larger number of donors and attract the ongoing support of environmental philanthropists. In the course of the last two years, two consultants' reports have studied the options for greater national integration of the EDOs across Australia. The EDOWA has, in early November 2017, joined a process to investigate a national merger of EDOs to form EDO Australia.

Merger Proposal

Besides the current arrangements of separate EDO organisations in each region and an umbrella network organisation, three main options for national integration have been identified:

- a national peak body that coordinates some national activities;
- a national foundation that coordinates some national activities and the raising and allocation of funds; and
- a single national entity formed from the merger of the existing EDOs that would have elements of centralised decision-making and administrative services, guiding and supporting regional offices, and undertaking nationally co-ordinated fundraising, grant administration and deployment of resources.

The third of these is the option most favoured by the other EDOs in Australia. It is also the option that the Management Committee supports. The process of merger investigation in which we will participate aims to prepare a constitution for a national entity, national fundraising goals and national protocols for operations and service delivery. We are acutely aware of the numerous important issues to be addressed, especially in the constitutional design for ongoing national decision-making. The aim of the investigation is to prepare a proposal for each EDO to take to its own regional organisation for approval. The decision to undertake a national merger will belong to the EDO organisations and members around the country. In a separate item on our agenda, the Committee presents an information statement on the national merger proposal and seeks your feedback on, and endorsement of, the merger investigation.





Principal Solicitor's Report

Declan Doherty

This is my first annual report as Principal Solicitor, having started with EDOWA in January this year. There is much to be pleased with, as we reflect on a very busy and productive year for the organisation.

Not long after I started with EDOWA, I sat down with the Management Committee to develop our strategic priorities which have guided our workload for the year. In summary, we decided that the focus of our legal work this year would be on the following priority areas:

- State-based action on climate change, and in particular, identifying and promoting pathways for the State to take better account of national and international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Using existing and new legislation to advise on and advocate for better protection of the State's biodiversity;
- National co-ordination of EDO's, by working with other EDOs on nationally significant issues and law reform projects; and
- Undertaking law reform work both in response to government actions and to support access to justice for those seeking to protect the environment.

In undertaking this work we have acted for a variety of different clients right across the State: from the Kimberley, Shark Bay and Exmouth in the North, to Albany and Esperance in the South-West, to remnant bushland in Perth and Peel regions, and to the Great Western Woodlands. We have had a

very busy year assisting the community to protect the State's precious environment in the public interest. We have made good progress in each of our priority areas. This has included providing written legal advices to community and conservation groups on land clearing laws, the new Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, and opportunities for the use of conservation tenure to manage land. We have advised on legal avenues to reduce emissions from some of the State's largest greenhouse gas emitters. We have also advised clients on fracking, including opportunities for reform of existing legislation governing fracking and the recently announced scientific inquiry into fracking.

In terms of our litigation and advocacy work, we have continued to represent several clients in the Mining Warden's Court, Supreme Court and through the Ministerial Appeals process to protect land with significant environmental values. We have represented community groups in both the South-West and North of the State in relation to environmentally damaging development arising from poor land-use planning decisions. We have been active on the law reform front through our participation in a number of State Government working groups on environmental law and policy, and by working with other EDOs on numerous law reform submissions.

However, two particular pieces of work stand out for me this year which I think reflect the broad range of work that the EDOWA undertakes. First, I was inspired working with several conservation groups on proceedings in the Mining Warden's Court and in the Environmental Protection Act 1986 appeals process, to protect the amazing Helena Aurora Range (Bungalbin) from mining. Bungalbin, located within the Great Western Woodlands, is an amazing banded ironstone formation with significant environmental and heritage values that our clients consider should be protected in an A Class Reserve. Having visited the site earlier in the year, I can only agree. Now that the Mining Warden's Court and environmental appeals processes have come to an end, we are waiting for a final decision from the State government as to whether or not the remaining mining tenements will be granted and whether the project will proceed. Working to protect Bungalbin this year has reaffirmed why it is vital for there to be a strong and active EDOWA to protect the special places in WA in the public interest.

Second, as a result of private funding from the Koorabup Trust we have been partnering with Gondwana Link on a project to identify law reform opportunities to improve biodiversity protection

in the South West. This project has involved us meeting with a variety of stakeholders in Perth and the South-West over the last 6 months as part of an audit of existing laws applicable to landscape scale conservation. In addition to law reform recommendations, the project will also result in updates to several of EDOWA's fact sheets that are available to the general public. An overview of this project is provided later in the report.

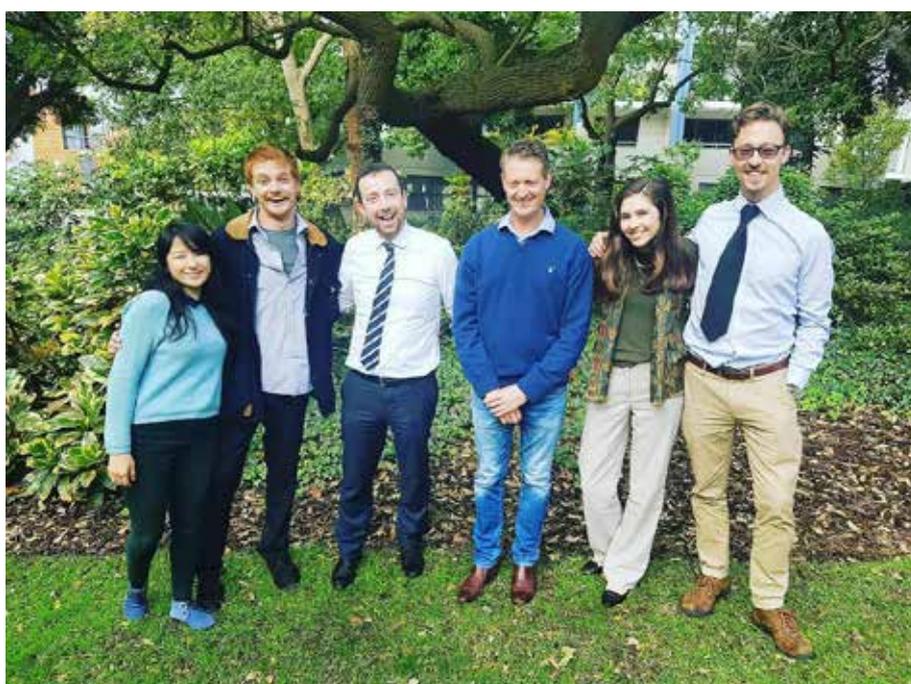
Another key focus for us, which is also reflected in the strategic priorities we set in January, was to ensure that we attracted sufficient funds to keep EDOWA operating for another year. We were very thankful to receive the news that, in this year's State budget, the Government agreed to provide a 12 month grant to EDOWA (in addition to other community legal centres). This State Government grant is essential to help EDOWA continue to provide legal services to community groups and individuals seeking environmental justice for the State's air, land, water and biodiversity for future generations to come. However, as Alex has mentioned in his report, we cannot rely on government funding alone. It is important that we generate some of our own funds to ensure that we can keep providing public interest legal services to the community over the long term. We were very grateful for the support of generous donors and the broader community who have attended and contributed to our various fundraising events this year. We were very pleased to have raised over \$25,000 from our Access to Environmental Justice crowdfunding campaign (which included very generous contributions from some individual donors). We also thank everyone who attended the

recent launch of our art auction fundraiser (which runs throughout the month of November). These fundraising events not only helped to raise much needed funds for EDOWA, but have also allowed us to communicate our key messages around access to environmental justice, climate change and protection of biodiversity.

I would like to thank Barristers Dr Johannes Schoombee, John Southalan and Dane Chandler for their pro bono support as counsel on matters this year.

But none of this could have been achieved without the support of our other staff including solicitor Isaac St Clair-Burns and office manager Sharon Crombie, and our large and dedicated team of volunteers who have provided me with invaluable support throughout the year. I have been amazed by the hard work, commitment, passion and multi-tasking skills that they have all demonstrated throughout the year to keep our various fundraising events, newsletters, and legal advices on track. It has been a privilege to work with you all this year. Special thanks also to Shayla Strapps who helped me settle into the role at the start of the year, as well as her guidance and advice on other key matters this year.

Finally, I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Professor Alex Gardner and the Management Committee as I have settled into the role. The Committee's support, counsel and oversight of our operations, has been invaluable as we have worked through the various challenges throughout the year, and has ensured we have a high standard of professionalism and governance.



LEGAL ADVICE

The following are just some examples of the advices that we have provided to the community in Western Australia this year to help them defend the environment in the public interest.

Biodiversity Conservation

In 2017 we advised several clients on a range of issues relating to biodiversity protection, land clearing and habitat protection. This included advising on:

- potential impacts to Carnaby's Cockatoo and other endangered species resulting from land clearing by developers and local governments throughout the Perth and Peel Regions;
- protection of the forests in the South-West, and in particular advising on management plans for the Karri forests and also how the new Biodiversity Conservation Act could be used to enhance protection of forests more generally, and opportunities for further improvements to that Act
- forms of conservation tenure and other mechanisms to protect and manage environmentally sensitive areas throughout various parts of the State;
- native vegetation clearing laws, and in particular the use of exemptions that enable clearing of roadside vegetation and areas of important habitat;
- proposals to develop industrial pipeline facilities in the vicinity of Exmouth and the Ningaloo Reef.



State Fracking Inquiry

We have advised various clients on the form and content of the independent scientific panel inquiry into the effects on the environment of the process of fracking, and look forward to continuing to advise clients as they participate in the inquiry process.

We have also advised clients on changes required to legislation to provide better protection to Traditional Owners and landowners more generally from the impacts of fracking



Carbon Pollution

We have advised clients on opportunities available to the State Government within existing legislation to reduce carbon emissions from some of Western Australia's heaviest carbon emitters. This has included considering how controls should be placed on carbon pollution under the Environmental Protection Act, as well as reviewing the extent to which existing carbon pollution conditions are being complied with.

We have also assisted and advised clients with appeals under the EP Act against the lack of carbon pollution controls on recent approvals being granted to heavy emitters.



ADVOCACY



The final hearing is scheduled for 16 November 2017.

Duchess Paradise Coal Project – Fitzroy River, Kimberley

In a long running matter, we continue to advise a Nykiina Mangala Traditional Custodian to object to the proposed Duchess Paradise Coal Project. The proposed mine is located close to the Fitzroy River and also near the Camballin wetlands.

Our client has objected on various public interest grounds under the Mining Act. There are large coal deposits in this area, and our client is concerned that if this project is approved it will lead to further applications for mining leases following, resulting in significant impacts to this area.

The proponent is continuing to pursue a mining lease application, despite withdrawing from the environmental approvals process under State and Commonwealth environmental laws.



Yeelirrie Uranium Mine – Supreme Court proceedings

EDOWA is currently representing the Conservation Council WA and three members of the Tjiwarl people who hold native title in the area, in judicial review proceedings in the Supreme Court of Western Australia. Our clients are seeking judicial review of the former WA Minister for the Environment, Albert Jacob's decision to approve a uranium mine at Yeelirrie.





Shark Bay

We are currently assisting a client protect an area of land adjacent to Shark Bay world heritage area. The area has undergone significant conservation work in recent years and is the home of endangered fauna.

We have assisted the client in the Mining Warden's Court and in negotiations with a company which has mining interests in the area, which if realised would impact important conservation values in the area.



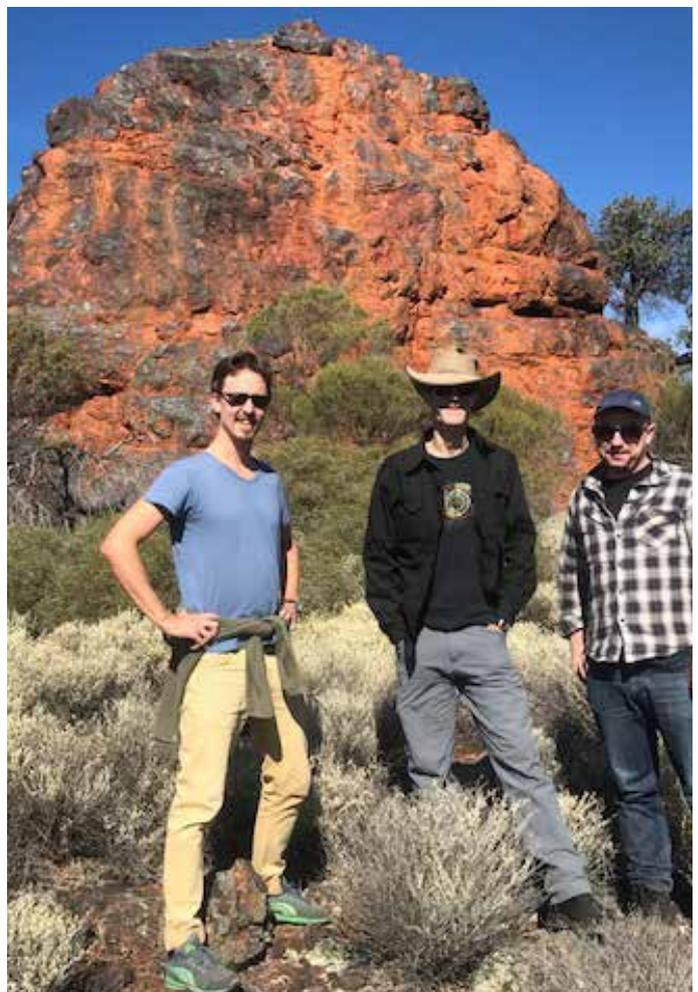
Helena Aurora Ranges (Bungalbin)

EDOWA continues to represent three of WA's largest conservation groups, the Conservation Council of WA, the Wilderness Society and the Wildflower Society, in the Mining Warden's Court. The groups objected to the grant of mining tenements in the Mount Manning-Helena Aurora Range Conservation Park to support an iron ore mine.

The Helena and Aurora Range (Aboriginal name 'Bungalbin') is a magnificent banded ironstone formation (BIF) range in Western Australia, one of the last that remains untouched. It is host to a number of endemic flora and fauna and was proposed to be made into an A-Class reserve due to these unique and spectacular values.

With the assistance of pro bono counsel EDOWA has assisted clients in the Mining Warden's Court as well as in the environmental appeals process.

Principal Solicitor Declan Doherty, solicitor Isaac St-Clair Burns and barrister John Southalan were lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit Bungalbin to see the spectacular landscape EDOWA was working to help protect.



Proposed Waste Management Facility - Esperance

In October, Principal Solicitor Declan Doherty and Law Graduate Victoria Sozzi travelled to Esperance to attend a site visit and meeting with the Esperance Merivale Tip Action Group (EMTAG).

EMTAG is a group of community members who are concerned by a proposal by the Shire of Esperance to develop a landfill on a site close to the Town

Centre and risks impacting a number of sensitive land uses. There is particular concern relating to the likely effects on the groundwater system as neighbouring agricultural properties and aquaculture businesses rely on groundwater as a primary water source. The proposed location is in the vicinity of Lake Warden which is listed as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

It was useful for us to view the site as well as neighbouring land uses and places of environmental significance. The proposal has recently been referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for a decision on whether or not the proposal will be assessed.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Moore Catchment Council Clearing Workshop

In April, Principal Solicitor Declan Doherty participated in a Native Vegetation Clearing workshop coordinated by the Moore Catchment Council along with representatives from Birdlife Australia, the Wildflower Society and local landowners. The workshop aimed to inform participants of their obligations under clearing laws and what they can do about illegal and excessive clearing in the area.

The session was well attended and included local farmers, conservationists and members of local government. Given less than 10% of native vegetation remains in much of the wheatbelt, community engagement in protecting remnant vegetation is vital.

National Environmental Law Association WA Conference

In September, Declan and Isaac presented at NELA's State Conference: Compliance, Enforcement and Emerging Risk in environmental law. Declan presented with Henry Jackson, a Barrister at Francis Burt Chambers, on third party appeals and community engagement.



NATIONAL
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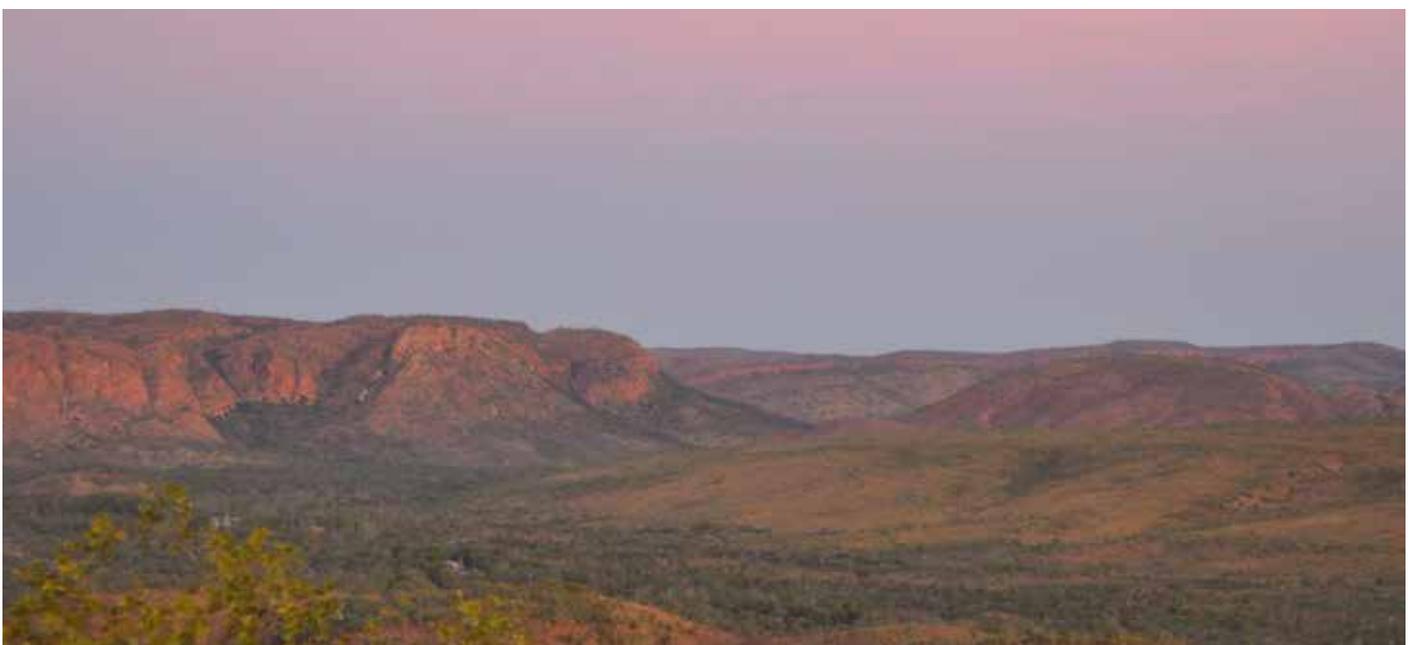
Millennium Kids Workshop

In October, Principal Solicitor Declan Doherty and law graduate Sarah Flynn facilitated a 'law' workshop at the Millennium Kids UNconference for Future Thinkers. The conference attracted young future leaders from across Western Australia and Indonesia, who care about a changing climate, bush and wetland protection and waste. The workshop focused on how to ensure the protection of Western Australia's precious bushlands forever and involved a trip out to the Beeliam Wetlands, which of course was the site of the Roe 8 project.

Focused on empowering and stimulating the minds of young people in designing solutions to real world problems, the three day conference consisted of numerous presentations and workshops with scientists, photographers, artists and lawyers.

With Declan, Sarah, Millennium Kids Inc CEO, Catrina-Luz Aniere, former WA Chief Scientist, Professor Lyn Beazley and others floating around the room to stimulate discussion, the workshop was an engaging and vibrant experience. Once they have confirmed their law reform proposal ideas, the young people will present these ideas to a local government representative, who has committed to submitting their proposals to Parliament.

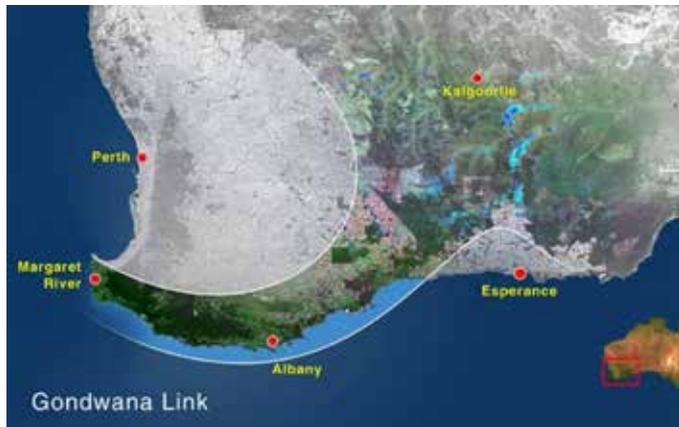
Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed our experience at the Conference and look forward to continuing our involvement with Millennium Kids in the future to encourage younger generations to participate in the protection of WA's incredible environment.



LAW REFORM

Gondwana Link Project

This project is investigating opportunities for legal reform to improve large scale biodiversity conservation outcomes in South-Western Australia. The significance of the South West region is internationally recognised for its biodiversity, with it being one of only two such biodiversity hotspots identified in Australia. Despite this, the region continues to face many threats to these environmental values, impacting our ability to achieve large scale conservation outcomes in the region.

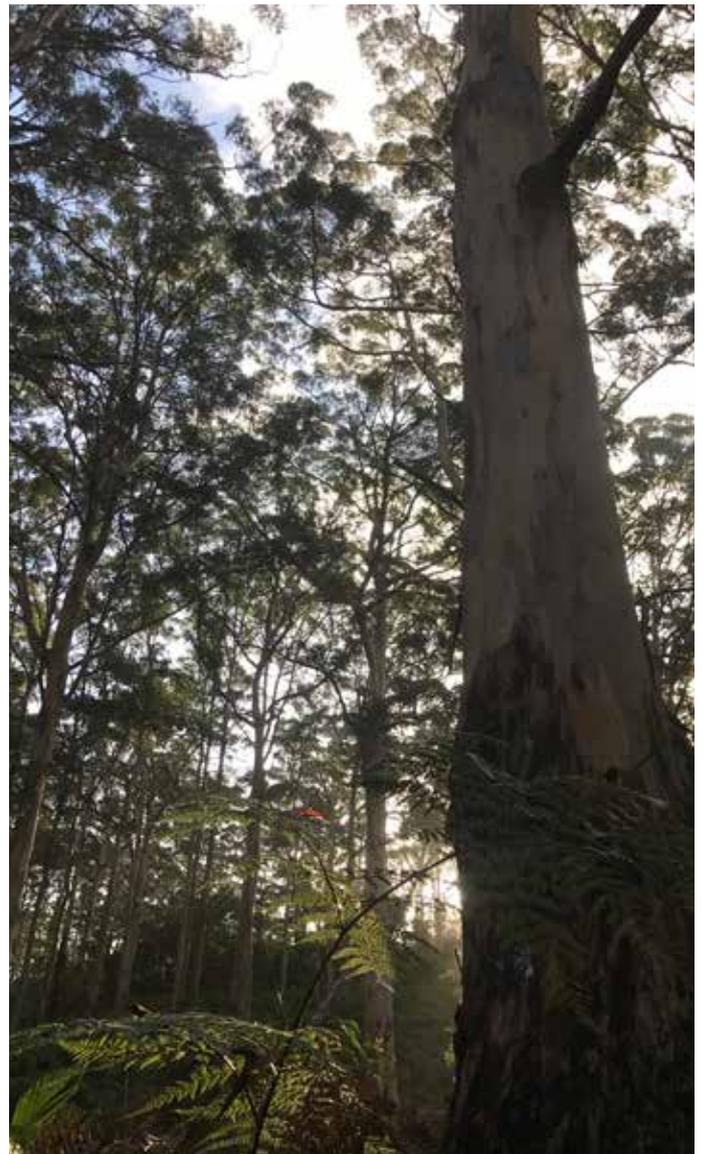


“The role of the law and policy is central to our ability to conserve these unique and important areas of Western Australia’s globally significant natural heritage.”

Working closely with community stakeholders, conservation groups and landowners in the Gondwana Link region, the Western Australia Landcare Network (WALN) and State and local government representatives, we are seeking to advance knowledge on the limitations and strengths of the current legislative and policy framework. Using this knowledge, we will then undertake a

targeted legal audit to assess reform opportunities to more effectively deliver biodiversity conservation outcomes. The project will also provide easy-to-understand guides on environmental law and suggestions for law reform and increased community participation in the processes involved in such reform.

The project also involves EDOWA updating approximately 30 legal fact sheets which will be available to the public.



Albany Workshop

As part of the Gondwana Link law reform project, EDOWA, and WA Landcare Network hosted a targeted focus session in Albany in October. Participants included local landowners, representatives from conservation groups, Gondwana Link and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions.

The focus session aimed to further inform the project on some of the constraints, barriers and opportunities that stakeholders are facing in their efforts to achieve conservation based outcomes in the south west. Key themes of the day were habitat management and protection, invasive species management, land tenure challenges and fire management.

The day was a great success, with much passion and knowledge ensuring that the project has a

great understanding to move forward with. The learnings from this session will now become the focus of the upcoming legal audit, which is central to how we identify and utilise law reform opportunities to improve biodiversity outcomes.

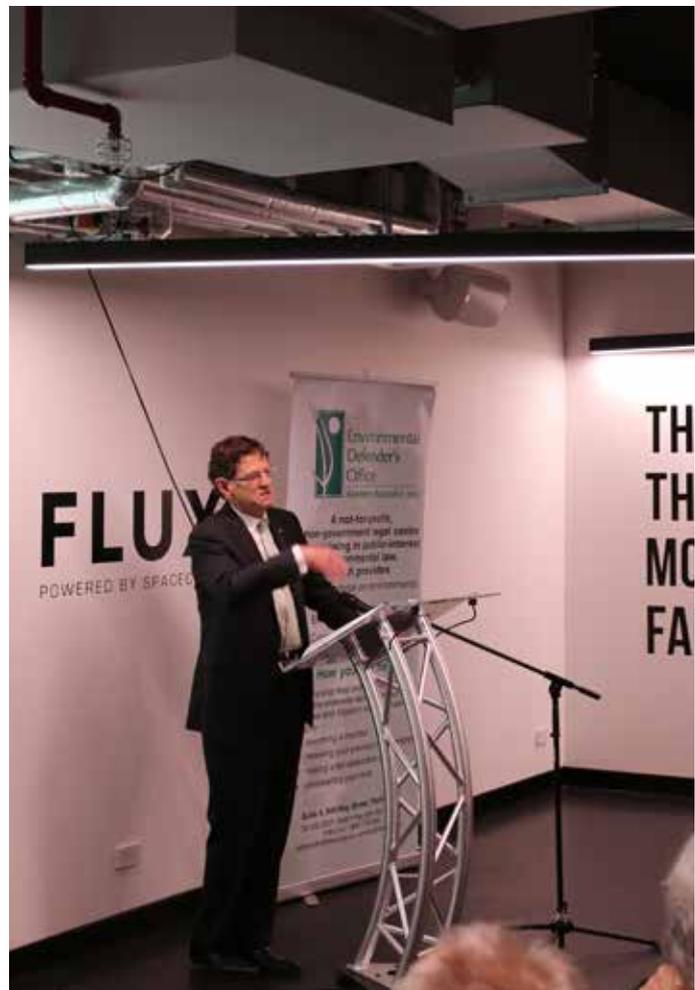




Accessing Environmental Justice Seminar

In May we launched our crowdfunding campaign with the seminar at FLUX in the city. Presenting the keynote address was former High Court Chief Justice the Honourable Robert French on the subject of access to justice. We were also joined on the night by former Premier of Western Australia, Professor Carmen Lawrence, and Professor John Bailey of Murdoch University, to explore current legal and policy impediments to environmental legal representation for individuals, communities and conservation organisations.

Following these speeches EDOWA officially launched its crowdfunding campaign – Accessing Environmental Justice. We were very thankful to everyone who donated and helped us raised over \$25,000



Art Auction Launch

In November we launched our first online art auction at Gallery Central in Northbridge. This was inspired in part by EDO Northern Territory and Environs Kimberley's art auction fundraisers of recent years. The auction was not only an important fundraiser for EDOWA, but also a great way to support Western Australian artists.

The launch party was a great success. The evening was opened with a Welcome to Country by Uncle Ben Cuimermara Taylor, Ngoongar Elder. This was followed by an opening address from the Minister for the Environment the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC. The newest EDOWA committee member, Virginia Eastman hosted lively and entertaining talks with two of the artists involved, Jennifer Hopewell and David Prior.

The real stars of the show, however were the incredible artworks on display, which gave attendees



the opportunity to preview some of the amazing work featuring in the online auction. Delicious food was devoured from By Word of Mouth catering, accompanied with sparkling wine some of which was generously donated by Bunkers in Margaret River.

The auction will run until the end of November and will take place via an online auction platform called GalaBid. Head to the EDOWA website for further details!

In addition to the artists we heard from at the launch, the art featured on the online auction includes art from prominent Indigenous artists from art centres across regional Western Australia and Fremantle, as well as pieces from well-loved WA artists such as Julie Dowling, Loretta Egan, George Haynes and Jane Martin.







Dreaming Green at the Centre For Stories

In June EDOWA in collaboration with the Centre for Stories hosted Dreaming Green: Envisioning a Sustainable Future Through Storytelling, with guest speakers Scott Ludlam and Kate Kelly (Save Beelihar Wetlands Convenor).

The two incredible speakers shared what sparked their passion for environmentalism and sustainability.

Innovations in Land Use Seminar

In 29 June, EDOWA in conjunction with the Piddington Society, hosted a CPD event on developments in Planning, Environmental and Native Title law. Situated at Curtin Law School's Perth city campus, guest presenters provided insight into the latest developments in a variety of innovative land use topics relating to planning, native title, biodiversity, property, international standards and information environmentalism.

Speakers included Shannon Davis (Solomon Brothers); Mark Gregory (Castledine Gregory);

Sophie Kilpatrick (Cross Country Native Title Services); Robert Cunningham (Curtin University) and John Southalan (Resources Law Network) and Declan Doherty (EDOWA)

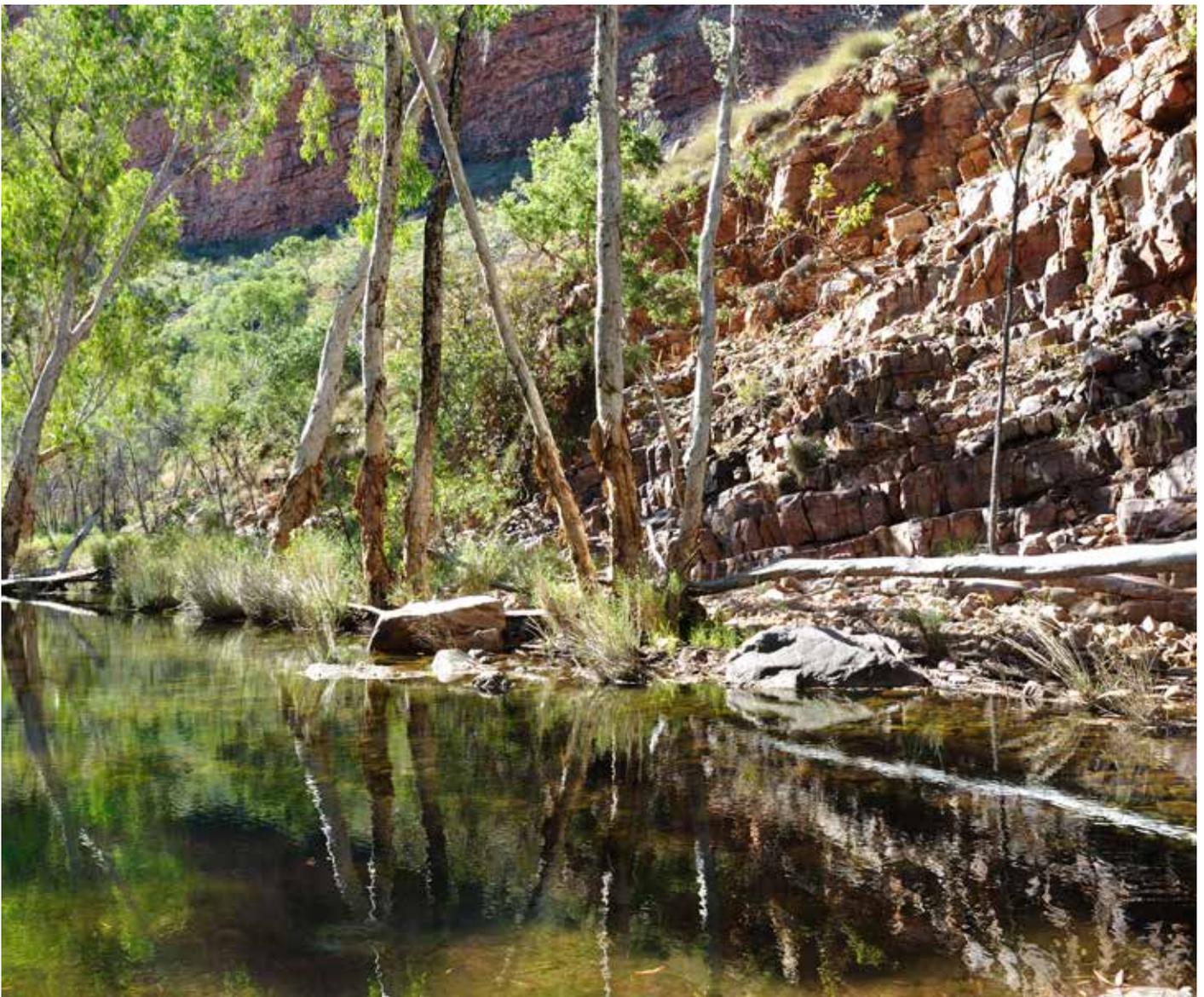


Carbon Budgets Seminar



In October EDOWA and UWA's Centre for Mining Energy and Natural Resources Law hosted a legal seminar on Carbon Budgets and the Law. This seminar revolved around the topical Paris Agreement and its 1.5-2C temperature target. The agreement implies a global carbon budget which presents challenges to every economy and industrial sector. These are particularly acute in areas like mining and energy and create important dilemmas for lawyers and other professionals advising in this area.

This meant that the seminar was a great opportunity to hear from experienced speakers on the concept of the carbon budget and its legal implications. David Ritter (Greenpeace), Professor John Chandler (UWA) and Michael Bennett (UWA) gave very interesting presentations, which certainly generated a lot of debate and discussion at the end.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report



George Lowry

The last financial year has been a challenging period for EDOWA. The full impact of the Commonwealth (2014) and WA (2015) Coalition Governments' defunding of the EDOWA took effect with the depletion of cash reserves at the commencement of the financial year. With no immediate prospect of government funding, it fell upon the EDOWA membership and friends to bridge the funding gap.

As you will see from the Income Statement (Note 8) this indeed took place with donations making up the substantial source of income. On behalf of EDOWA I extend my gratefulness and thanks to members and donors for their generous financial and in kind support during the year to keep the EDOWA doors open.

Final results for FY17 show EDOWA made a surplus of just over \$67,000 which represents a \$135,000 turnaround over the previous financial year. Notwithstanding significant funding from donations, considerable efficiencies were made during FY17 including savings from the restructure of operations, moving offices from the city to West Perth, appointing an Office Manager whose duties included

bringing EDOWA's financial management in-house, and reviewing several overhead expenses.

In January 2017 EDOWA received an injection of capability and enthusiasm through the appointment of Declan. My thanks go to Declan and his team for their ongoing support and hard work to attract donations, fees and government funding through the year which I know added considerable additional pressure to a full legal schedule.

Looking ahead funding is by no means secure. A one-off grant from the new Labour WA Government has enabled EDOWA to underwrite half of EDOWA's FY18 budget. The other half (approximately \$150,000) will need to be funded through donations, membership and other fund-raising activities. Funding for FY19 looks more uncertain.

I believe, continuing to operate under this financial uncertainty is ultimately detrimental to the organisations ability to achieve its objectives. I encourage the EDOWA membership and Committee to seek out a more secure funding model. Finally, my thanks to my fellow Committee members for their support during the year and attendance at sub-committee meetings.



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2017**

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

STATEMENT BY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Management Committee of the association declare that:

1. The financial report and notes are in accordance with Part 5 of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* and with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012 (Cth)* and:
 - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - b. give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. In the Management Committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with the resolution of the Management Committee.

CONVENER 

Dated: 31 October 2017

TREASURER 

Dated:

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	8	295,802	284,841
LESS EXPENSES			
Employee expenses		124,553	200,212
Occupancy		22,880	28,394
Overheads		37,220	19,084
Depreciation		1,997	1,567
Client disbursements		3,369	2,794
Other		38,118	100,654
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>(228,137)</u>	<u>(352,705)</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		67,665	(67,864)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank			
- General		18,137	6,006
- Fund		122,824	79,469
Cash on hand		738	4,292
Trade and other receivables	2	<u>10,281</u>	<u>4,789</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>151,980</u>	<u>94,556</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and Equipment	3	<u>2,504</u>	<u>3,138</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,504</u>	<u>3,138</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>154,484</u>	<u>97,694</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	4	20,758	30,930
Unearned income	5	2,182	1,772
Provisions	6	<u>4,847</u>	<u>5,960</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>27,787</u>	<u>38,662</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>126,697</u>	<u>59,032</u>
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		59,032	126,896
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>67,665</u>	<u>(67,864)</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>126,697</u>	<u>59,032</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2015	126,896	126,896
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	(67,864)	(67,864)
Balance at 30 June 2016	59,032	59,032
Balance at 1 July 2016	59,032	59,032
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	67,665	42,669
Balance at 30 June 2017	126,697	101,669

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Membership, funding and grant income		295,486	192,311
Interest received		727	2,230
Payments to suppliers and employees		(242,916)	(330,299)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	7	53,297	(135,758)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant & equipment		1,364	-
Net cash used in investing activities		1,364	-
Net (decrease) / increase in cash held		51,932	(135,758)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		89,767	225,525
Cash at the end of the financial year		141,699	89,767

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The management committee has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. These financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared.

These financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, except where specifically identified in the following notes.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by Environmental Defender's Office WA (Inc.) in the preparation of the financial statements;

- a) **Plant & Equipment**
Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis so as to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life to the entity.
- b) **Unearned income**
Unearned income is the unutilised amounts of grants received on the condition that specified services are delivered or conditions are fulfilled. The services are usually provided or the conditions usually fulfilled within 12 months of receipt of the grant.
- c) **Revenue**

Grant revenue is recognised in the income statement when the associated services are provided or costs incurred. Grant income that has been received but not earned is deferred as unearned income.

Donations are recognised as revenue at the earlier of when received or when the donor can demonstrate they made the donation.

Interest revenue and distribution income from investments is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).
- d) **Employee Benefits**
Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may not satisfy vesting requirements. Those cash outflows are discounted using market yields on commercial bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows.
- e) **Income Tax**
Environmental Defender's Office WA (Inc.) is exempt from income tax under section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended.
- f) **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

- f) Goods and Services Tax (continued)
Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flow.
- g) Trade and Other Payables
Trade and other payables are carried at amortised cost and due to their short-term nature they are not discounted. They represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the organisation prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the organisation becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.
- h) Cash and Cash Equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise of cash at banks and cash on-hand.
- i) Trade and Other Receivables
Trade and other receivables which are stated at amounts which are expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.
- j) Comparative Information
Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
2. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade debtors	-	411
Sundry debtors and prepayments	7,021	2,618
Rental bond	3,259	1,760
	<u>10,280</u>	<u>4,789</u>
3. PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Furniture & Fittings – at cost	37,281	35,918
Less Accumulated depreciation	<u>(34,777)</u>	<u>(32,780)</u>
Total furniture & Fittings	<u>2,504</u>	<u>3,138</u>
Office Equipment – at cost	55,597	55,597
Less Accumulated depreciation	<u>(55,597)</u>	<u>(55,597)</u>
Total Office Equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>2,504</u>	<u>3,138</u>
4. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Trade creditors & Accruals	11,374	3,492
Employee expenses payables	8,795	27,140
GST payable	589	298
	<u>20,758</u>	<u>30,930</u>
5. UNEARNED INCOME		
Income in advance (member)	2,182	1,772
	<u>2,182</u>	<u>1,772</u>
6. PROVISIONS		
Provision for annual leave	4,847	5,960
	<u>4,847</u>	<u>5,960</u>

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
7. CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Reconciliation of Net Cash from / (used in) Operating Activities to Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year.		
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	67,665	(67,864)
Depreciation	1,997	1,567
Provision for annual leave	(1,113)	-
Asset write off adjustment	-	9,090
(Increase)/decrease in Receivables	(5,490)	408
Increase/(decrease) in Payables	(10,172)	(70,257)
Increase/(decrease) in Unearned Income	410	(8,703)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	53,297	(135,758)

8. INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Income from ordinary activities is consist of;

Interest Income	727	2,230
Donations & Fundraising	280,819	199,151
Other Income	14,256	83,460
Income from Ordinary Activities	295,802	284,841

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA) INC.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017
TO THE MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE WA (INC.)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE WA (INC.)**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Audit Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Environmental Defender's Office WA (Inc.) ("the Association"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2017, income statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Management Committees' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Association's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Management Committee for the Financial Report

The Association's Management Committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The Management Committees' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Management Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Management Committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Management Committee either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Management Committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Board Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of Board Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with Board Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

STANTONS INTERNATIONAL AUDIT AND CONSULTING PTY LTD
(Trading as Stantons International)
(An Authorised Audit Company)



Samir Tirodkar
Director

West Perth, Western Australia
31 October 2017

STAFF

Declan Doherty **Principal Solicitor**



Declan commenced with the EDOWA in January 2017 and has developed significant experience in various roles in his career in all aspects of environmental law, including environmental impact assessment, water management, biodiversity conservation, climate change, Aboriginal heritage, mining and land access, and human rights.

Isaac St Clair-Burns **Solicitor**



Isaac graduated from Murdoch University in 2015 with First Class Honours in Law. His thesis examined the role of Climate Change litigation in the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia and the U.S.

Isaac commenced with EDOWA as a volunteer in October 2015. He was an inaugural Piddington Justice fellow and completed his Practical Legal Training with EDOWA. He was admitted in the Supreme Court of WA on 4 November 2016 and commenced role as a Restricted Practitioner with EDOWA from January 2017.

He has experience working with Native Title, Planning and Environmental Law including reviewing the Quinlan Report in response to the Supreme Court's invalidation of the EPA's decisions to approve the Roe 8 highway extension. He is also a member of the National Environmental Lawyers Association

Sharon Crombie **Office Manager**



Sharon is the Office Manager at EDOWA. Sharon has brought a wealth of accounting and office management experience to EDOWA.

VOLUNTEERS

**Thank you to our
incredibly dedicated
and talented team of
volunteers this year!**

2017 VOLUNTEERS

Victoria Sozzi



Victoria is a Notre Dame law graduate currently completing her PLT placement at EDOWA. She began studying law with the hope that she would be in the position to affect environmental change

Sarah Flynnne



Sarah is a recent Curtin University Law graduate who is currently studying a Master of Environmental Law at the University of Melbourne. Currently completing her Practical Legal Training at EDOWA, she enjoys volunteering at EDOWA due to its exposure to a wide range of environmental issues, great people and crucial contribution to the protection of Western Australia's environment. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys travelling, scoping out markets and dogspotting.

Rod Hailstone



Rod is an environmental scientist by background, having spent his career working in government and resources based roles. Rod brings a great understanding of environmental management, compliance, regulation and approvals processes across NSW, Qld, and most recently WA. Having graduated from a law degree in 2011 (majoring in environmental law) Rod has recently decided to change focus in his career, and pursue opportunities as an environmental lawyer.

"I am thoroughly enjoying my time as a PLT with the passionate, knowledgeable team at the EDOWA. It is a great experience which will position me well for the journey ahead."

Mariko Hunt



Mariko volunteers at EDOWA two days per week, doing both legal work and lending a hand with the media and communications side of things. She completed an 80-day Practical Legal Training placement at EDOWA through the Piddington Justice Project in August this year, and will be admitted to the legal profession in December. When she is not learning how to be a lawyer or updating the EDOWA Instagram you will find her at the beach, practicing yoga or the "funny baby goat videos" part of the internet.

Lucy Clark



Lucy volunteered at EDOWA for the second half of this year as part of the Law in Context Unit offered through the University of Notre Dame Law School. Lucy worked as a paralegal assisting the EDOWA team with legal jobs as well helping with events run by EDOWA including the Carbon Budgets Seminar and the Art Auction. Outside of university studies and work, Lucy will be likely camping, surfing or playing hockey!

Tom Kettle



Tom recently graduated from Law at the University of Notre Dame, after completing a BA at the University of Western Australia with majors in Political Science and International Relations and Anthropology. He is currently completing his PLT with the College of Law and pursuing his passion for environment and sustainability law/policy, conservation issues and social justice, by volunteering at EDOWA and CCWA. He spends his free time mind surfing or immersing himself in the real deal, camping, fishing and exploring in remote parts of Australia.

Emiko Watanabe



Emiko is currently studying her Bachelor of Laws at Murdoch University. With an existing background in sustainable development, volunteering at EDOWA seemed a natural fit. Prior to her law studies, Emiko has worked in government and non-profit sectors, and has always gravitated towards work that benefits the community and the public interest. She finds it great to work with down to earth and likeminded people who are passionate about environmental change! When she's not volunteering at EDOWA, you can find her at a local gig, art exhibition or on the radio at RTRFM.

Clara Joyce



Clara is a recent graduate from a Bachelor of Law Commerce at University Western Australia. She is passionate about promoting access to environmental justice and protecting the West Australian landscape. Currently Clara is assisting the EDOWA in the organisation of fundraising and educational events

Jacob Wotherspoon



Jacob Wotherspoon is a Law/Psychology graduate from Murdoch University who completed his Practical Legal Training at EDOWA through the Piddington Justice Project in partnership with ANU. Jacob continues to volunteer at EDOWA. He collaborates with Principal Solicitor Declan Doherty and RP Isaac St Clair-Burns by providing assistance in moving forwards litigation matters and legal advice. In his spare time Jacob enjoys going to the gym, painting and playing golf. He has filed for admission to practice law and hopes to establish himself within the minerals and environment sector in Australia.

Jonathon Davidson



Jonathon is a journalism graduate assisting with communications duties at EDOWA.

Eliza Cowling



After living in London for the past few years Eliza Cowling has returned to Perth to study Arts Management at WAAPA. Eliza is assisting the EDOWA in our inaugural arts fundraiser, helping to create a successful event.

Gabrielle Inga

Gabrielle Inga is studying a Bachelor of Laws and Arts (International Relations) at Curtin University. Passionate about real action on climate change and Indigenous rights, Gabrielle enjoys volunteering at EDOWA as it is a place where she can align her values with work that will have an impact on the wider community. Gabrielle helped assist the EDOWA for a few months earlier this year with legal research, administrative tasks and communications. When she is not studying or writing a new story for the EDO newsletter you'll find Gaby in a spin class, having breakfast with friends or finding a new vegan recipe

Kelsey Brosens

Kelsey Brosens is a final year Law and Criminology student at Edith Cowan University who has a passion for environmental, administrative and commercial areas of law. She is currently a volunteer at EDOWA in a paralegal and administrative capacity in order to develop her skills, connect with influential people

within the area and to start her career within her area of interest. Kelsey enjoys learning about real world applications of the theory learnt within her education and is eager to increase her knowledge in her current interests in law. With her spare time, Kelsey enjoys going to the gym, keeping healthy running with her puppy, reading and volunteering at Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club.

Maya Ismailjee



Maya is in her first year of a Bachelor of Laws degree at Murdoch University, having previously graduated from the University of Western Australia in History and Politics.

Lea Hiltenkamp



Lea Hiltenkamp is a penultimate year Juris Doctor Student at the University of Western Australia. Upon graduation she would like to ideally practice in an area of social justice, with a focus on environmental law. Volunteering at the EDOWA has helped her to apply theoretical environmental law knowledge in actual legal practice. Lea is also enjoying being at the EDOWA because it is allowing her to experience a much wider range of new and interesting environmental issues which had not been covered in her studies. When not at the EDOWA you will find Lea planning future travels, experimenting with Japanese recipes or reading the newest book she picked up at her local independent bookstore.

