

Environmental Defender

Autumn 2020



A message to you, our supporters, from CEO David Morris

I hope you are well and safe in these strange times. Together we are standing up to the challenges of COVID-19, as well as the climate and extinction crises confronting us. We simply couldn't do all this without the support of people like you.

Since mid-March, our staff – like many of you – have moved to working from home. We're actively navigating the legal system as it moves online. Much has changed, but much remains the same:

- We're still ensuring our expert legal services are available to vulnerable communities to protect the health of the environment, on which we all rely. We're reimagining our systems and what it means to provide access to justice on environmental matters at a time where physical presence and connection with our clients is not possible.
- Our workshops are being delivered online and we're working from the grassroots to ensure ongoing connectivity to communities who continue to fight for the places, plants and animals they love.
- Importantly, our lawyers are still scrutinising government decision-making at all levels, which will have impacts long after the COVID-19 crisis has passed. Indeed, the current crisis has required our lawyers to be even more vigilant in our vital 'legal watchdog' role.

State and Territory Governments across Australia have passed laws and changed practices in response to the pandemic. It is important that these measures are transparently and consistently applied, and powers are exercised rationally, proportionately and for a proper purpose, as decisions made now will have long-lasting impacts on the health of our communities and environment.

Many of you have called us with questions and concerns about ongoing public consultation and government reforms. Due to the significant disruption that comes with lockdown, some communities are struggling to respond to developments that will seriously affect their lives and livelihoods. EDO is carefully watching the exercise of Government powers, with an eye on procedural fairness and access to justice.

I very much appreciate the support you have shown us and hope we all find peace of mind and are able to return to some sense of normality soon. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading this edition of our Environmental Defender newsletter covering just some of the important work you are helping us to achieve.

David Morris, CEO, Environmental Defenders Office



Litigation

In **Adelaide**, we're providing advice on the proposed expansion of BHP's Olympic Dam copper-uranium mine - one of the largest mines in the world. The expansion would nearly double production and increase the amount of water extracted from the Great Artesian Basin to 50 million litres a day for the next 25 years. This water extraction could have serious long-term adverse impacts on Basin flows, and the nationally listed and culturally significant Mound Springs and native species dependent on them.

In March, we and our client, The Wilderness Society SA, welcomed the good news that NOPSEMA had formally accepted Equinor's notification to end the operation of its approved environment plan for the Stromlo-1 project. Our client is extremely pleased that Equinor's

plans have now officially come to an end. As a result of Equinor's withdrawal of its plans, our client's Federal Court action was discontinued without the need to go to trial.

While the commercial motivation for Equinor's decision is not clear, the litigation that EDO was to run in the Federal Court would have had to be taken into account by Directors when making decisions about the long-term future of this project. If our client's case had proceeded and been successful, Equinor would likely have had to go back to the drawing board on its community engagement for this already highly controversial project.

As well as the impact on climate change from the development of new fossil fuel reserves, any oil spill resulting from drilling in the Bight would have posed catastrophic risks to marine and coastal life across southern Australia. This pristine marine environment is a haven for whales and dolphins, including as the world's most important nursery for the endangered southern right whale. We are thrilled that it is safe, for now.

In **Brisbane** our solicitors are providing Court representation to a range of clients opposed to the opening up of the massive Galilee Basin for coal mining:

- The Australian Conservation Foundation in their ongoing litigation dealing with water infrastructure for Adani's Carmichael mine;
- The farmers and local landholders of the Bimblebox Alliance Inc, who are bravely taking on influential billionaire Clive Palmer's Waratah Coal Project, which would devastate the beautiful, ecologically important, nature refuge they have worked for 20 years to protect;
- Youth Verdict, a diverse group of young people from right across Queensland, has joined Bimblebox in challenging the Waratah Coal Project. This alliance of local landholders and young people, represented by EDO lawyers, is bringing a case that's set to make

legal history - it's the first time an Australian coal mine is being challenged on human rights grounds. Youth Verdict represents a cohort of young people whose lives will be severely impacted by climate change. This, we will argue, is in breach of their human rights.

We are representing Darling Downs farmers, the Oakey Coal Action Alliance (OCAA) in a special leave application to the High Court. OCAA is fighting a long running David & Goliath battle to save their groundwater and protect high-quality farmland against the expansion of the massive New Acland coal mine. You may have seen OCAA President Mrs Aileen Harrison, grandmother and alpaca farmer, interviewed on the ABC.

Our **Brisbane** team is still advising clients on the proposed Toondah Harbour Development, and the project's impact on the protected RAMSAR wetlands and migratory birds, turtles, dugongs and koalas.

Our **Darwin** office is representing clients across the NT, including remote communities; pursuing transparency and accountability about fracking and mining operations using freedom of information laws, among other means.

We are continuing our longstanding work for community members in Borroloola who are seeking accountability around the operations of the McArthur River Mine. We are also advising clients seeking to protect the NT's precious marine environment - from Darwin Harbour to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

In **Hobart**, we've been busy defending the integrity of our protected areas, national parks and reserves. In late June, we will appear with our clients - The Wilderness Society (Tasmania), Tasmanian National Parks Association and two individuals - and counsel in the Tasmanian Supreme Court, appealing against the Tribunal findings which led to the issuing of a development permit for a helicopter-accessed private



tourism development on a publicly owned island in Lake Malbena in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

This case is important, as it will guide how decisions are made on other private development in Tasmania's pristine wilderness, as part of the Tasmanian State Government's push to open up national parks and reserves to private development through its Expressions of Interest process. That process in Tasmania is emblematic of the broader push to "unlock" development potential in national parks across Australia, and all our lawyers are watching closely.

The Perth office is providing advice and assistance to a range of clients in relation to the massive Burrup Hub LNG expansion project in the Kimberley. We're also providing advice and assistance to clients on proposed oil and gas developments in the sensitive Gulf of Exmouth, adjacent to the Ningaloo Reef World Heritage Area.

Our **Sydney** office has a number of active cases, including one we recently filed on behalf of our client, the Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action. This case seeks to compel the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to develop policies to regulate greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change.

This case is about ensuring our key agencies have the tools they need to manage the global crisis of catastrophic climate change. The unprecedented 2019-20 bushfire season – along with the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic – created a new context in which it is vitally important that the local effects of global problems can be effectively managed. It affirms the crucial role of EPAs around Australia and acknowledges their important powers and responsibilities to manage pollutants like greenhouse gases in order to protect our economies and communities.

Our clients have experienced the trauma of losing their communities, livelihoods and homes to bushfires. Through this case, they are working to ensure the EPA does everything in its power to ensure others don't go through the same traumatic experience.

The EPA is our lead agency charged with the responsibility of developing objectives, guidelines and policies to ensure environmental protection for the community. It's an agency with legal teeth – and yet it doesn't have a climate change policy!

The massively increased frequency and severity of bushfires in Australia is an outcome of global climate change. Federal politics has failed to adequately address the growing threat of global heating, but state governments and agencies can step in and fill the leadership gap. We will argue on our client's behalf that the EPA has a duty to use its existing powers to ensure local protection for the NSW community by regulating greenhouse gas emissions to levels consistent with a safe climate and global warming of 1.5°C or below.



Left: Lake Malbena, Tasmania. Above, top: Bushfire smoke over the NSW South Coast. Above, bottom: Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action President Jo Dodds.

We want to make sure that when we come out the other end of these immediate crises we have built the tools to locally manage global problems, like global heating and pandemics. As individuals, we can wash our hands, stay home and practise physical distancing to combat COVID-19. Together, we can demand the EPA to do everything possible to protect communities and economies from the environmental threat of climate change, no concessions.

Another legal action is being brought in the Federal Court by EDO's **Sydney** lawyers against the operator of the Maules Creek mine (majority owned by Whitehaven Coal), near Narrabri in central north NSW, on behalf of our client South East Forest Rescue (SEFR).

The Maules Creek coal mine is a prime example of why biodiversity offsetting doesn't work. In 2013, Whitehaven gained approval for the mine on the condition that it obtain biodiversity offsets to

compensate for clearing the iconic and critically endangered box gum grassy woodland, more formally known as White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland. Seven years on, it still has not secured those offsets, in the order of some 5,532 hectares. Meanwhile, the bulldozing has continued.

The local community, informed by experts, has been raising concerns that Whitehaven's proposed offsets areas would not deliver the necessary environmental outcomes since the project was first assessed, and then approved, in 2013. The federally listed box gum grassy woodland is an ecological community on the brink of extinction. This iconic woodland once existed across millions of hectares in eastern Australia. Today, there is far less than 5% left in the world. It provides important habitat for rare and endangered species like the Superb Parrot, Regent Honeyeater and the Squirrel Glider.

Given the devastation wrought by recent bushfires on threatened species and native habitat across the country, protecting our unique landscapes has never been more important. SEFR is seeking declarations from the Federal Court that Whitehaven has breached, and will continue to breach, its federal approval conditions by failing to secure some 5,532 hectares of woodland. Our client also seeks orders requiring that the biodiversity offsets are secured and independently verified before further clearing goes ahead.

EDO considers that biodiversity offsets are a last resort for residual impacts and must be like-for-like, identified and reserved in perpetuity. They must be secured up front, before any clearing takes place, and provide an improvement for the impacted species or ecological community. Anything less results in a net loss of threatened species and communities and essentially facilitates local extinctions of our unique wildlife.

Squirrel glider habitat is under threat from Whitehaven's Maules Creek mine.



Finally, after years of work by lawyers in our **Sydney** office, we were pleased to note the NSW Land and Environment Court's judgment in WaterNSW's prosecution of two irrigators in the northern Murray-Darling Basin. The Court found that the irrigators extracted water from the Barwon-Darling River in contravention of a condition of their water supply works and use approval, which is an offence under the Water Management Act 2000.

EDO and our clients have been working to protect the people and environment along the Barwon-Darling River/Barka for many years. The conclusion of this prosecution is an important component of broader efforts to ensure compliance with water laws in the Murray-Darling Basin, and the protection of the communities, species and ecosystems that depend on healthy rivers. We are continuing our work on law reform to address ongoing issues in the Basin.

Legal Education & Outreach

Our **Adelaide** office is collaborating with SA conservation groups to produce a report on the state of urban trees, and which legal and policy initiatives are needed to improve their protection.

In **Cairns**, we work closely with Councils to advise them of community and environmental concerns, working as a positive team to assist them in creating best practice, meeting their obligations and creating collaboration and trust with the community, alerting Councils to opportunities under their powers to protect and conserve unique tropical environments.

We are currently working with a new wetland catchment management group, local council, state members, scientists, traditional owners and other regional stakeholders to develop a restore forward project for Ninds Creek and the ETTY Bay wetlands adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef, home to protected species, including cassowaries.

We are working with a regional council and local clients to establish best practices to manage sediment control, water flow and road maintenance issues impacted by wet seasons; and drafting nature conservation options on private land for our client Terrain Natural Resource Management to publish as fact sheets.

We have also just received a grant for \$500 from Legal Aid Qld for the Cultural Safety Funding Agreement to Develop a factsheet on the protection of cultural heritage sites for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders under the respective Cultural Heritage Acts in Queensland; guiding a regional conservation council on a Mining Development Licence in a highly agricultural area close to the Great Barrier Reef with huge community impact.



Left: Cassowary in Far North Queensland. Right: Forest life in the Tarkine / Takayna, Tasmania.

In **Canberra**, we have had to suspend the face-to-face element of the ANU Environmental Law Clinic during the lockdown, however we are still organising seminars with key-note speakers via Zoom. We are looking forward to reopening the clinic when the Canberra office physically reopens.

We are also in the process of updating the *ACT Environmental Law Handbook*, and updating EDO fact sheets for distribution following end of lockdown.

In **Hobart**, we're raising awareness in the community about the end of a 6-year moratorium on the logging of high conservation value native forests, home to endangered species like the Swift Parrot and Tasmanian Devil. We've published a fact sheet to help communities understand what could happen to their forests and assist them in making informed representations to their local State MP about the issue. Our lawyers are watching closely to ensure concerned groups swift and decisive action can be taken if the Tasmanian Government takes steps to allow logging in these forests.

We've been helping community groups to engage in the 1 in 10-year opportunity that is the EPBC Act review. As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, we pivoted early to deliver an online Australia-wide seminar from Hobart with UTAS Law Faculty, aiming to help members of the community make an effective submission in this rare opportunity to reform our national environmental law.

The **Perth** office has continued to run online seminars during the quarantine period on the reviews of Australia's national environmental laws, and upcoming changes to WA's environmental protection legislation.

Our **Sydney** team is developing a comprehensive climate change workshop targeted at farmers and

land managers. The idea is to improve understanding of the law and the opportunities and risks of climate mitigation and adaptation for farmers and land managers.

During the downtime from teaching environmental law, our Outreach teams are updating our popular fact sheets to help local people engage with legal processes across the country.

Law Reform

Our **Adelaide** office has been busy with advocacy on current planning reforms - the most significant in SA for 25 years - that will influence planning decisions for decades to come. These include the final format of the key planning and design code.

We have also made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into legislation that will facilitate development of the national nuclear waste facility in SA. The Federal Government intends to locate the nuclear waste facility near the country town of Kimba, despite objections from native title-holders, concerns regarding transport and storage of intermediate nuclear waste and economic impacts on existing industry. Other concerns include continued and greater use of toxic radioactive tailings waste dams that could put workers and wildlife at increased risk of harm.

In **Brisbane**, along with Lock the Gate and Western Rivers Alliance, we have written to the Palaszczuk Government to stop all new fracking approvals on the rivers and floodplains of the Lake Eyre Basin until the

protections promised at the last election have been put in place. This letter was written in response to a government move to delay indefinitely a second round of consultations about proposed amendments because of the current COVID-19 crisis. As Revel Pointon, our Senior Law Reform Solicitor in Brisbane said; a moratorium would be a show of good faith in protecting the precious Lake Eyre floodplains.

Our **Canberra** office is progressing law reform submissions on the recognition of Climate Change and the ACT's emissions reduction targets in the *Planning and Development Act*.

The **Darwin** office has been responding to the NT Government's consultation on implementing the new *Environment Protection Act 2019*, set to commence in mid-2020. This reform is the most significant environmental law reform in the NT for decades. Making sure the NT Government sets a strong implementation framework will be essential to ensure this law is effective in transforming the NT's historically weak and ineffective environmental impact assessment law.

The critical importance of land-clearing reform was illustrated by last year's Maryfield case, which centred on the approval of clearing of over 20,000ha of native vegetation without any proper environmental impact assessment, despite its potential contribution of approximately 18% of the NT's annual greenhouse gas emissions. Following on from our Maryfield Station case win, we are developing ideas to reform and implement better land-clearing laws in the NT.

With the NT Government's climate change policy yet to be finalised, we are developing our ideas for a *Climate Change Act* for the NT – this will be critical to ensure the NT has strong, mandatory emissions reductions targets and can deliver a coordinated response to climate change across government – essential for a jurisdiction like the NT which is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

In **Hobart**, the Tasmanian's government's draft Major Projects Bill - introducing a new approvals process for "major projects" - will impact on important public rights to participate, potentially removing merits appeal rights over any large or controversial development.

We're working with the community to respond to this complex legislation, which will affect Tasmanians' rights and disproportionately impact those in the community without access to lawyers and experts.

We are continuing to play a watchdog role in relation to the impacts of salmon farming on our waterways and marine areas, after giving evidence at the Tasmanian Legislative Council's Inquiry into Finfish Farming Regulation in February. Our lawyers have been asked to provide further evidence about international approaches. We have recently written to the EPA Director in relation to regulation of hatcheries within the upper regions of Derwent Estuary catchment, to obtain information on compliance with environmental licence conditions. This was in response to reports released to the EDO by the EPA that show breaches of licence conditions. We will continue working with the EPA to ensure that water quality in the Derwent is protected.

In **Sydney**, we've done significant work on key aspects of water law and policy that are in need of reform in across the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB).

We strongly recommend further amendments to legislate a 'no meter, no pump' rule and universal telemetry. These changes would have the added benefits of reducing costs for the regulator and helping irrigators improve their social licence. Telemetry would provide users with an opportunity to demonstrate they are abiding by the law on a real time basis. EDO advises hundreds of farmers, many of whom have indicated they would like to see a system in place that not only guarantees compliance, but also protects their reputations – and the reputations of other law-abiding landholders.

The Australian Government has spent some \$6.5 billion on reallocating water to the environment in the MDB, through a combination of buying back water licences from willing sellers and modernising irrigation infrastructure. However, in many catchments this water can be legally extracted for irrigation purposes. EDO lawyers - and many of our clients - strongly recommend introducing mandatory protection of this water in the legal instruments that govern water sharing at a catchment scale. It defies logic for the



government to purchase water to restore the health of the Murray-Darling Basin and then allow it to be pumped for private gain.

It is important to note that the existence of a law is not the same as enforcement of the law. We therefore strongly recommend that the government commission an independent, third party review of this issue to identify possible problems and propose appropriate solutions (noting that any breaches of these provisions could lead to litigation).

Alongside the litigation our **Sydney** office is running on behalf of Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action, we're working on a law reform paper that will outline the steps available to the EPA to use their existing powers to control greenhouse gas emissions.

The EPA's functions include issuing licences to control pollution and putting caps and prices on harmful pollutants. It already does this with a number of pollutants. Applying this function to greenhouse gas emissions is one option available to control these pollutants and manage the state's contribution to climate change.

Recently, the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority published a revised version of its *Environmental Factor Guideline for Greenhouse Gas Emissions*. This revised version comes after extensive consultation and follows the withdrawal of an earlier version due to industry pressure. Lawyers from EDO's **Perth** office actively participated in the consultation process for both versions of the Guideline.

Significantly, the new Guideline establishes an objective 'to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in order to minimise the risk of environmental harm associated with climate change' and outlines requirements for proponents to provide estimates of all scopes of emissions over the life of a proposal and to set targets for ongoing emissions reductions to contribute to net zero emissions.

The new Guideline also expressly refers to the Paris Agreement climate goals and the scientific findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

EDO continues to assist clients in relation to the GHG Guideline and environmental impact assessment of proposals in WA. We will keep working to ensure that community concerns as to GHG emissions and climate change are effectively addressed by the EPA in its assessments and advice – and to assist clients to exercise their legal rights where this does not occur.

At a time of heightened awareness of public and planetary health, the 10-year review of our national environment law – the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) – provides an opportunity to establish clear, integrated and strategic law to deliver ecologically sustainable development and build ecosystem health and resilience for all Australians.



Left: NT landscape after rain. Right: Barwon river at Walgett by Tim Connors. Above: Endangered Rose Crowned Fruit Dove by Marlis Schoeb.

Short-term responses to the COVID-19 crisis in Australia that reduce environmental protections or public involvement in decision-making in order to focus solely on immediate economic stimulus measures may have damaging long-term consequences.

Rebuilding and restoring ecosystems burnt by bushfires and sustainably managing landscapes scarred by climate change, extreme weather and drought will require laws that deliver a long-term vision for human and environmental health.

Nationally, our Policy experts worked together on our exhaustive EPBC Act review submission, which makes 83 recommendations for reform. We identified the following priorities:

1. A new Australian *Environment Act* that elevates environmental protection and biodiversity conservation as the primary aim of the Act, consistent with Australia's international obligations;
2. Duties on decision makers to exercise their powers to achieve the Act's aims – i.e. deliver environmental outcomes;
3. Effective mechanisms to address the most significant environmental challenges - climate change, land clearing and cumulative impacts. In addition to existing triggers, new triggers for federal protection should include:
 - Significant greenhouse gas emissions (in addition to other measures to address climate change throughout the Act, for example, adaptation planning through bioregional plans and recovery plans)
 - Significant land-clearing activities
 - The National Reserve System (terrestrial and marine protected areas)
 - Ecosystems of National Importance
 - Vulnerable ecological communities (alongside other listed species, populations, ecological communities and critical habitat); and
 - Significant water resources (beyond large coal and coal seam gas project impacts).



Your legacy of environmental justice and protection

Leaving a special gift your will to EDO is one of the most effective ways you can ensure communities and non-government organisations will continue to have access to environmental justice, the greatest capacity to defend our environment and the most agile ability to reform law into the future. EDO is a unique organisation in that its impact is widespread across many NGO's and communities, having a far-reaching positive effect for protection of the natural and built environment of Australia and the South Pacific.

Such an extraordinary gift, no matter how big or small, provides vital funds that will contribute to a better, healthier, planet. **An honourable legacy to leave for future generations.**

I believe in people, planet and profit. But by 2000 I realised that profit ruled, as too many huge open cut coal mines were approved in the NSW Hunter Valley, with people and planet mere collateral damage. What the EDO achieved for Gloucester and the planet in the Rocky Hill coal mine case made world news.

I am so grateful for what the EDO does for us all, and wish I could afford to donate more than I do for specific EDO cases. But I own my home; when I die and it's sold, that's my one chance to give more towards maintaining these essential legal resources into the future.

And that will benefit my children and grandchildren, who know I have bequeathed an amount to EDO in my will, not huge, but enough to help others get 'a fair go' after I've given up the fight!

Sharyn Munro, Bequestor

Keep us informed

If you have included a gift in your will to EDO, please let us know! This will help us plan for the future, and we would love the opportunity to thank you formally.

If you are interested in leaving a legacy of hope for future generations, would like to talk to our bequest officer or receive some more information, please email us at bequests@edo.org.au

A special thanks to our outstanding major supporters

EDO would like to recognise The Ian Potter Foundation, Purves Environmental Fund and the Myer Foundation for their incredible support of our legal work to advance environmental protection. They, along with others, made a significant investment to the 'One EDO project' which enabled the 8 EDO offices across the country to merge into a united, national legal powerhouse for our environment and communities across Australia. EDO is thrilled to share this moment with all three of them, extending a particular thank you to Louise Arkles, Erika Hosoyama and Jane Thomas, whose support and encouragement has been simply outstanding.

As we develop innovative, transformative legal solutions to advance environmental laws in Australia, we do so with great pride knowing that they believe in and are committed to our work. To have the support of these Foundations, who have been instrumental in ambitious and game changing initiatives in Australia to date is an honour, and we are thankful for their vision for a fair, healthy and sustainable Australia.

We are truly grateful to have you standing with us – thank you again to The Ian Potter Foundation, Purves Environmental Fund and The Myer Foundation.



Below (from left to right): Emma Carmody, Rachel Walmsley, Brendan Dobbie, Elaine Johnson and Sean Ryan, Best Lawyers award winners.

In April, a number of our lawyers were listed in the *Best Lawyers in Australia* guide, demonstrating that EDO's expertise is on par with Australia's top legal firms. We also received a listing in one of the Lawyer of the Year categories. Only a single lawyer in each practice area and community is awarded this accolade. Best Lawyers is the oldest and most respected peer review publication in the legal profession. Acknowledgement in the publication is a significant honour and the EDO is among the few non-corporate firms to be represented.

Our clients and supporters know you can trust EDO lawyers to provide first-class advice and legal assistance. To have five lawyers honoured provides independent recognition of our nation-leading public interest practice and the high esteem our lawyers enjoy within the Australian legal profession.

EDO's Special Counsel **Brendan Dobbie** has been honoured as Best Lawyers 2021 Climate Change Law Lawyer of the Year in Sydney, and was also listed in the Water Law and Planning and Environmental Law fields.

Several other EDO lawyers have been recognised amongst the nation's best: **Rachel Walmsley**, Director Policy and Law Reform (Sydney) and **Sean Ryan**, Principal Solicitor (Brisbane) named in the Climate Change field; Special Counsel **Emma Carmody** (Sydney) listed in Water Law and Planning and Environmental Law; and **Sean Ryan** and **Elaine Johnson**, Principal Solicitor (Sydney) named Best Lawyers in Planning and Environmental Law.

We hope you are as thrilled as we are to see our dedicated lawyers acknowledged in this way, and Brendan's well deserved recognition as 2021 Lawyer of the Year in Climate Change Law in Sydney - you will be seeing more from him in this field in the coming months. Here's what Brendan wrote to the EDO team:

Thanks everyone for the congratulations. It's a great honour to receive this recognition from the Best Lawyers list, however I wanted to stress that it's not an accolade that I can claim for myself.

The best thing about our work at the EDO is that we do it all as a team. In fact, in my five years here, I don't think I've been involved in a single piece of work that has involved only one person. The recognition that our lawyers receive amongst the broader legal community is testament to the success of all facets of our organisation pulling together to achieve great outcomes.

Whilst acknowledging the huge contribution that Elaine, Rachel, Sean and Emma have made to the work of the EDO, I believe these kinds of accolades need to be shared and celebrated throughout the EDO as a whole. So kudos to you all, and thanks for making the EDO such a great place to work!

This peer recognition reflects the trust our clients place in us and demonstrates the expertise and passion typical of all our staff. We offer our sincere congratulations to Brendan, Emma, Rachel, Sean and Elaine for this well-deserved honour.

Thanks again for your part in helping us provide essential legal services and support to people across the country.

While we are all confined to our home offices, please feel free to contact us via email at info@edo.org.au - you can find more on our website www.edo.org.au



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