



Environmental Defenders Office

Managing Lawyer NT – Healthy Environment and Justice Position Description

EDO relies on our people to use their skills and experience to provide the best possible support to our clients and other staff. While this job description aims to outline the fundamental reason the role exists, the role may evolve as EDO evolves.

If you see a way to play to your strengths in a way that achieves EDO outcomes, please don't be limited to this list. We have important work to do and need everyone to be operating at their best.

Job title: Managing Lawyer NT – Healthy Environment and Justice

Reporting to: Director – Healthy Environment and Justice

Purpose of the position

Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is the largest environmental legal centre in the Australia-Pacific, dedicated to protecting our climate, communities and shared environment by providing access to justice, running ground-breaking litigation and leading law reform advocacy.

The Managing Lawyer will be responsible for EDO's Northern Territory Legal Practice (NT Practice) and successfully oversee a programme of legal work aligned with the organisation's strategic priorities. The NT Practice is part of our national Jurisdictional Program and the Managing Lawyer reports to the Director of EDO's Jurisdictional Program. Priorities for the practice in a given year are aligned with the EDO's longer term strategy and are agreed by the Director.

Key responsibilities & duties

1. Provide legal advice, representation and education to the Northern Territory community on a broad range of public interest environmental law issues and disputes.
2. Engage in litigation, policy and law reform, and outreach in the Northern Territory to achieve EDO's strategic outcomes, working with National Managing Lawyers, the Head of Policy, and the Director of EDO's Jurisdictional Program.
3. Supervise the legal practice and administration of the EDO's NT Practice, the Darwin office and ensure the EDO's implementation of and compliance with its policies and procedures and legal obligations.
4. Deliver legal services in a culturally competent manner and work with clients from a wide variety of backgrounds, including clients who speak English as a second or more language.
5. Demonstrate and foster EDO's values in all aspects of the NT Practice.
6. It is expected that you will be largely self-directed in the carrying out of day-to-day duties of the position.

Duties

Legal work and practice management

1. Provide legal advice and representation to the public on a wide range of legal matters relevant to the environment.
2. Supervise and have carriage of litigation undertaken within the Northern Territory.
3. Undertake public education and outreach, including developing online resources and fact sheets, and the conduct of workshops or seminars in the Northern Territory with a focus on outreach in remote communities.
4. Engage in law reform related to environmental law and legal policy, including participating in government policy processes and by developing and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders in the Northern Territory.
5. Manage the provision of legal services by the Darwin office including compliance with professional obligations.
6. Ensure the quality and accuracy of the legal work delivered by the NT Practice and work delivered by other EDO solicitors within the Northern Territory where relevant.
7. Supervise solicitors within the NT Practice and work conducted by other EDO solicitors within the Northern Territory where relevant.

Leadership and staff management

8. Work with National Managing Lawyers to allocate national resources to local litigation, law reform and education work and collaborating with the Thematic Managing Lawyers and Director of EDO's Jurisdictional Program to determine how caseloads will be supervised.
9. Be responsible for the governance and strategic coordination of the EDO office in Darwin and for the NT Practice, including in relation to operational planning, implementation and review of policies and quality assurance, and budget administration.

External relations

10. Represent EDO in the media as required and in agreement with the Director of EDO's Jurisdictional Program and Director of Fundraising, Marketing and Communications (FMC).
11. Participate in and support EDO fundraising, communication activities, including responsibility for acquittal of grants tied to the delivery of services within the Northern Territory and deliver any locally focused fundraising activities in collaboration with the Director, FMC.
12. Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders including Northern Territory government, the legal profession, environmental NGOs, traditional owners and other communities and community-based organisations.
13. Such other duties as reasonably requested by the Director of EDO's Jurisdictional Program from time to time. It is expected that you will be largely self-directed in the carrying out of day-to-day duties of the position.

Commitment to EDO's Values:

Commitment

- We are committed to; a united organisation, to each other, to collaboration, to justice, to our communities and to creating a world where nature thrives.
- We are committed to providing excellent legal services and resources, informed by the best available science, in order to empower clients and communities.

- We are committed to improving our planet and society.
- We care for EDO's clients and stakeholders.
- We are fearless in the face of adversity, and care for each other as we face this adversity.

Diversity

- We are respectful of and welcome diversity of staff, volunteers, offices, environmental regions, communities, stakeholders.
- We respect First Nations Peoples' knowledge and experience, and work with them to protect their country and culture.
- We acknowledge that the law has not always been just.
- We dedicate ourselves to understanding the diversity of our people and culture.
- We welcome and respect our own differences and learn from them and collaborate to achieve our greatest potential.
- We are great lawyers and great people, with open hearts and open minds.
- We respect the different places our stakeholders come from and strive to help them, even if their worldviews don't align completely with ours.

Integrity

- We work effectively, efficiently, strategically, professionally and ethically; "justice is in our nature".
- We are truthful with ourselves and others.
- We are nonpartisan and inspire trust in our clients, stakeholders and government.
- We respect the world's resources and make maximum productive use of the resources entrusted to us.

Vision

- We lead change and environmental empowerment using innovation, creativity, and courage.
- We expand the boundaries with creativity and skill, pioneering new legal pathways to a healthier, safer world and inspiring others.
- We are inquisitive, curious and persistent: exploring new ideas and embracing change.
- We boldly challenge the status quo while providing solutions to our most pressing challenges.