



Environmental Defenders Office

2 October 2023

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment
Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division
UNOG-OHCHR
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

By email: hrc-sr-environment@un.org

Dear Special Rapporteur

EDO submission: Procedural elements of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

The Environmental Defenders Office (**EDO**) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to inform the Special Rapporteur's report on the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Our submission is **enclosed** with this letter.

As you know, EDO is a community legal centre and non-government, not-for-profit organisation, that provides legal services on public interest environmental law matters to clients in Australia and the Pacific Islands. Our work is underpinned by an environmental justice and human rights framework. We recognise that the human rights of certain people and communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental harm, including the impacts of climate change. This guides EDO to focus on empowering overburdened people and communities to fight for environmental justice.

The timing of the Special Rapporteur's report is particularly pertinent for Australia, where we are witnessing a decline in legal protection of procedural rights. The Special Rapporteur's report represents a significant opportunity for Australia to consider how the procedural rights of the right to a healthy environment are protected in Australia and identify measures to ensure better protections of these rights.

Given the Special Rapporteur's expertise on States' obligations relating to procedural rights in environmental matters at international law, our submission focuses on Australia's implementation of procedural rights at a domestic level. Our submission also provides links to EDO's work to further support our submission.

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If EDO can be of any further assistance to the Special Rapporteur, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Environmental Defenders Office

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