



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Places We love

There's a place I love, a place to rewire and remember my place when my worries weigh me down. A place to reboot and forget about things for a while. I've found the place I love from Brisbane to Broome, Port Philip Bay to Port Douglas. I find my place by the nearest waters edge. It's wherever the boat leaves from; it's the riverside campfire or the white sand under a full moon. It's the early morning reflections exploding into a school of nervous mullet and the midday sun warming the deepest river canyon. It's the place I love. We all have one.

The **Places You Love Alliance** stands up for these special places. A huge part of Australia's national character is our natural places and the willingness to fight for them. Lake Pedder, the Franklin River, Terania Creek and Jabiluka are but a few special places that have inspired Australians to stand up and fight. The much-celebrated diversity of our land has given rise to countless specific issue-focus groups; the Places You Love Alliance is facilitating a collaboration the likes of which have never been seen in Australia.

HOPE Australia (Householders' Option to Protect the Environment Inc.) is one of 42 organisations to have signed on as member to date, joining the Places You Love Alliance eager to protect our special palaces from the threat posed by the biggest resource boom in history.

HOPE President Frank Ondrus says, "Our members love the bush and the coasts, we want to help the Places You Love Alliance lobby the federal Government to keep intact the EPBC (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) Act to protect and conserve existing national parks as well as our wild rivers and alpine areas".

HOPE, along with Greenpeace, The Wilderness Society, the Australian Conservation Foundation and a growing list of groups are building the biggest environmental alliance in our nation's history.

"We're able to stand side by side in promoting the overall need to look after our natural environment" Mr. Ondrus says.

Last October the Places You Love Alliance released the "Australia We Love Report" highlighting the state of nature in Australia. Drawing on a wide range of sources including scientific and economic data as well as social and cultural analysis, the report profiles the places we love and the everyday Australians who are taking action on behalf of their own special place.

For Dr Anne Poelina, Nyikina traditional owner and managing director of Madjulla Inc., this meant direct collaboration with senior elders and other aboriginal elders in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. With the threat of extensive mining looming Dr Poelina and her counterparts are working to develop and introduce sustainable and mutually beneficial elements to the regions diverse economies.

"This is about our country- the river – the sea – the hill country and the desert. We need to preserve the land if we want to preserve Humanity", explains Dr Poelina.

On the back of the "Australia We Love" report, The Places You Love Alliance is now seeking to open a countrywide conversation on the state of nature. Using the hashtag #oznatureconvo the Places You Love Alliance is seeking help in creating a long-term plan for nature in Australia. Australia is a diverse land inhabited by a diverse people. Coordinating the clamoring voices of all those people is no small feat, the Places You Love Alliance have embraced

the challenge but they need your support. Visit www.placesyoulove.org and sign up to a shared vision for our nations beautiful natural places.

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(Written by Dave Graham, HOPE Volunteer (Qld))