



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 20 September 2015

### “State of the Park!” – Free Community Forum, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

The future of our National Parks will come under the spotlight at the next community forum to be held by environmental group Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE).

The free community forum will be held on Saturday 3 October at the Dr Price Room, 6 Little St, Toowoomba starting at 4pm.



Guest speaker Paul Donatiu, Principal Advocate with the National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ), will talk about how National Parks protect our unique plants, animals and landscapes, along with some of the challenges these vital tracts of land are facing.

A highlight of the forum will be an outline of the pressure brought to bear on national parks in Queensland from early 2012 to late 2014 when they came under siege from numerous quarters and were asked to fulfil roles that they were never designed for.

Mr Donatiu brings extensive experience and knowledge to this subject from his background in architecture, psychology and environmental management. He has worked for WWF-Australia, Griffith University and Greening Australia and his Churchill Fellowship in 2010 took him to California, Europe and South Africa to study climate refuges for endangered species.

Mr Donatiu said that "National parks are the foundation of biodiversity conservation across Australia. Only national parks and other conservation areas fully protect our unique plants, animals and landscapes, and enable threatened species to survive."

Everyone interested in preserving these unique habitats is welcome to attend.

For further information and/or to reserve your seat at the community forum on Saturday 3 October, please contact the HOPE office on ph: 07 4639 2135 or email: [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) .

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