



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Australia's current and future environmental laws are at risk – It's time to Act!

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) has grown increasingly concerned with the watering down of protections within the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act over the past few years.

The political environment which has allowed these protections to be reversed for the exploitation of resources and individual/business interests is now at a point that threatens the environment which will in turn increase the impacts of climate change, extinction rates of wildlife, plants and eventually our way of living.

As many national organisations such Australian Conservation Foundation have highlighted recently 'we are now entering a political period where the protection of nature is being threatened.'

As a result, HOPE, a member of the 'Places You Love' Alliance (PYL), will play an active role along with many other like-minded organisations and community members in encouraging the federal government to take seriously the need to include 'climate change', water and other key themes and triggers into the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

HOPE in partnership with PYL Alliance will endeavour to create greater awareness of the work being undertaken by the Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law (APEEL) who recently developed a recommendations report for the Federal Government.

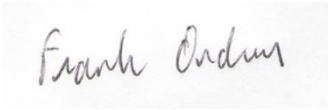
This report, a positive blueprint for the environment is aimed at addressing key issues of concern which include: climate change; deforestation and rampant land-clearing for agricultural purposes; adverse/perverse impacts caused by mining; decreased staffing levels of key environment related departments and loss of protection for our marine environment.

HOPE's motto of "Think Globally, But Act Locally" has been at the core of our environmental interests since our formation in 1988.

HOPE believes that the PYL Alliance needs to draw a line in the sand and demand that the government takes seriously its duty of care responsibilities for protecting and enhancing our environment.

If government fails to accept their responsibility on this matter, the alliance should consider 'direct action campaigns' to force compliance at the next federal election.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Ondrus". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.