

What does HOPE do?

A special report from Frank Ondrus, the President of Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc. (1 August 2016)

I am often asked what does Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) actually do? The short answer is LOTS!! Let me explain.

HOPE is a national community based not-for-profit environment organisation promoting sustainable living practices as per our Charter (http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/uploads/media/Brochure_HOPE_Charter_2012_07_.pdf).

As we are un-funded, the management committee has pursued a policy of forming strategic partnerships/alliances with organisations at the local, state and national levels (<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/about-us/partnershipsalliances-ngos/>) so as to access their expertise and resources – as well as to cooperate on key issues such as protecting the EPBC Act and the introduction of State-based Container Deposit Schemes.

We also have formed several business alliances (<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/about-us/partnerships-businesses/>) to assist us in furthering HOPE's aims.

On the administration front, the office spends a lot of time:

- promoting HOPE and its activities;
- pursuing corporate sponsorship;
- membership recruitment; and
- investigating grant opportunities for equipment and projects.

List of current funding applications pending:

- GCBF – Project funding to host 6 or 7 Energy Efficiency/Going Solar seminars
- Cannon Australia – for a donation of a new camera and cam recorder
- Australian Ethical Investments – Project funding to stage 3 workshops on Creating Wildlife Habitats on Your Property
- Toowoomba Regional Council – Project funding to stage an extra 3 workshops on Creating Wildlife Habitats on Your Property
- GCBF – Funding application for new and replacement office computers and furniture; and other display equipment

Locally, that is – in Toowoomba where our head office is located, we undertake a variety of outreach activities such as providing information displays for community events; holding community forums on a variety of subjects; attending NGO and government meetings; and making submissions on relevant environmental issues.

State-wide (Qld), we continue to support our colleagues in the environment sector - principally through our membership with Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) and Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC).

HOPE has made submissions to the Queensland State Government's discussion papers:

- Advancing Climate Action in Queensland
- Qld Renewable Energy Expert Panel
- QPC re Solar Feed-in Tariff Pricing Inquiry

We are also currently reviewing the following Queensland State Government documents:

- Qld Weed and Pest Strategy
- Qld Biosecurity Act 2014

Nationally, our priority interests are in supporting the work of the Places You Love Alliance and Lock the Gate Alliance.

Other national issues of interest to HOPE are:

- Developing a national food plan in conjunction with strong policies to protect strategic cropping land vs the overwhelming spread and impact of coal mining and CSG mining on our communities, agriculture and environment; and
- Rehabilitation of abandoned mines.

Internationally, we have several partnerships who supply us with information on issues such curbing the spread of nuclear weapon; and the elimination of 'persistent organic pollutants'.

In conclusion, we need your help to maintain this high level of activity. So, please contact the HOPE office to volunteer some of your time.

We also need your financial support to help cover our annual operating costs of approximately \$20,500.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability. Please send your donation to the HOPE office or pledge online at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135