



Think Globally. Act Locally!

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>

ABN 48 036 173 161

Monday, 12 October 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

Re: HOPE endorses EDOs response to proposed Devolution of National Environmental Responsibilities to State and Territory Governments

The Federal Government is seeking to devolve their approval and enforcement powers and responsibilities under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to the state and territory governments. This would allow States and Territories to assess and make decisions about environmental protections and development approvals without any guidance from the Commonwealth or the Federal Government.

The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) has drafted and submitted a response to the Federal Government outlining an analysis of the proposed changes and highlighting how this devolvement of powers would fail at protecting Australia's environment and biodiversity. The Federal Government is proposing to introduce these amendments before a full review has been conducted on these changes.

This devolvement of power has the potential to create a 'one-stop' shop process around seeking environmental approvals. This would allow States and Territories to green light development projects without further approvals or overseeing from the Federal Government.

HOPE Inc. fully endorses EDO's efforts in reviewing the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and supports the creation of robust environmental standards across Australia that protects matters of national environmental significance.

For more information about EDO's response the Federal Government's planned devolution of EPBC Act approval powers visit <https://www.edo.org.au/2020/08/07/epbc-act-reform-fast-track-to-weaker-standards-protections/>

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

Written by Regina Kimble – HOPE researcher Qld