



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Think Globally. Act Locally!

Minutes of 1st Ordinary Meeting of 2025-2026 – Saturday, 8 November 2025

(Last updated – 8 November 2025)

Venue: HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba | Time: 10.30am - 12noon

1. **Meeting started at. 10.30am.**
2. **Introductions, attendees, apologies and morning tea and lunch provided**
 - a. Attendees:
 - i. Physical: Frank Ondrus, Anna Kula-Kaczmariski, Miriam Sharp, Perry Bowe, Renuka Sarathbhavan and Kerry Kruger
 - ii. ZOOM: Charmaine Turnbull
 - a. Apologies: Georgy Hadwen, Jerry Coleby-Williams, Andrew Nicholson, Md Nabil and Janet Bishop
 - b. Proxy votes: Nil
3. **Confirm meetings of Ordinary Meeting held on 13 September 2025**
➔ *Moved by Kerry Kruger, seconded by Frank Ondrus. Agreed by all present.*
4. **President's Report (tabled)**
 - Strategic Plan - Focus Area Tracker update – November 2025
 - Social media and website tracker reports – with additional input from Charmaine Turnbull. Website statistics show higher than usual activity from abroad with a low corresponding number of 'Home' views which may indicate 'bot' targeting of website. Need for a new website where the foundations are laid for a website that is harder to hack and where tracking in the areas we wish can be done automatically.
 - It was noted that the majority of our social media followers are on Facebook and X. Charmaine was thanked for her dedication to the social media reporting for the group.
➔ *Moved by Anna Kula-Kaczmariski, seconded by Miriam Sharp. Agreed by all present.*
5. **Office Manager's quarterly report**
 - Summary of key statistics:
 - 1 Newsletters produced
 - 3 Media Releases issued
 - 8 Feature Articles/Reports circulated
 - Grant applications:
 - 1 successful -re: Governance training
 - 1 pending re: Male Environmental Champions. Discussed options to apply for grants aimed at improving men's mental health or youth involvement for this project if grant is unsuccessful.
 - 1 new – re: 2 laptops
 - Sponsorship matters:
 - Letters sent to universities, Westpac and BAA (Biodynamic Agriculture Australia)
➔ *No responses to date*
 - Letters to 114 waste industry businesses – with 3 negative responses to date
 - Volunteer movement – 11 new; and 4 lapsed
 - 2 Submissions
➔ *Moved by Frank Ondrus, seconded by Perry Bowe. Agreed by all present.*

- Acknowledgement of volunteer contributions
 - Tremendous effort by volunteer researchers – producing many feature articles and report reviews, as well as enough newsletter articles for 4 future editions

6. Treasurer's Report:

Opening balance as at 31 Aug 2025	= \$5,844.49
HOPE General Account balance as at 31 Oct 2025	= \$4,703.81
HOPE Gift Fund balance as at 31 Oct 2025	= \$1,684.30
Closing balance as at 31 Oct 2025	= <u>\$6,388.11</u>

➔ *Moved by Miriam Sharp, seconded by Renuka Sarathghavan. Agreed by all present*

7. General business

- Carried forward items from Ordinary Meeting of 13 September 2025
 - ➔ Activities completed:
 - Podcast interview of our Patron – Jerry Coleby-Williams ➔ *Completed and promoted 14/10/25.*
 - Substantial changes made to operation of Social Media and Website management practices
 - ➔ *Investigate options to automate the production of monthly statistics across Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn.*
 - ➔ *Social media volunteer position descriptions to be re-advertised on Volunteering Queensland (VQ) website with recent stepping down of 2 volunteers*
 - 4-part Pilot Podcast project ➔ *Podcast Project information uploaded to website mid-October and launched publicly on 15/10/2025.*
 - ➔ Actions pending:
 - Updating of Ecological Footprint PPT (by Lizzie Pennington) ➔ *Check progress with Lizzie or reassign.*
 - Proposed FREE drone flyers - Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP) Toowoomba (2 sites) (on hold for the time being); Allora Mountain Environmental Reserve (scheduled 27/11/25); and Clifton Landcare Association (3 sites).
 - Review of responses from Australian universities re their environmental policies ➔ *Assigned to researcher(s) ➔ Renuka to have draft report available in a month or so.*
 - Continue chasing corporate sponsorships to assist with our operations costs ➔ *with a focus on finding a financial benefactor*
 - Anna to continue sending letters to Queensland universities
 - Grants/Projects – current & proposed:
 - Current grants:
 - Purchase 2 laptops ➔ *mycause fund-raiser unsuccessful – only 4 donations totalling \$225 received with our share being \$196.04. mycause campaign closes on 10 Nov 2025.*
 - ➔ *Online grant application submitted to Grassroots Environmental Grants program (Sept 2025)*
 - ➔ *30/10/25 - Application was unsuccessful*
 - ➔ *\$5,000 donation pledged by Alliance to Save Hinchinbrook (ASH) Inc. to be used to purchase the laptops. Once monies have been received, ask Kerry Kruger and Georgy Hadwen to each select a laptop to the value of \$2,500 from their preferred local store and have them send an invoice to the HOPE office for payment.*
 - Governance training course ➔ *29/11/24 - Submitted online application to Qld Gives*
 - *Successful (28 April 2025)*
 - *Grant monies received (28/04), course booked for 18-19/12/25 and invoice paid on 06/06/25*
 - Development of booklet & podcasts of male “Environmental Champions of our Region”
 - ➔ *10/06/25 – Submitted online application to Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF)*
 - Other business:
 - Q. What is an acceptable percentage of AI to use enhancing/finishing articles, media releases, etc.?
 - ➔ *Lots of discussion about the ethics of using AI to generate articles for HOPE's publication. Anna to draft a policy statement to circulate to our volunteer base for their reflection and comment.*

- Other matters from the floor
 - Update from Renuka – Review of Australian universities environment related policies and practices; and preparing a database of secondary schools in the Toowoomba region
 - Update from Perry - Currently working on a 2-part critical review of immigration issues in Australia. 2 earlier major reports critiquing the work of IPEN and ICAN will be published respectively on 10/11 and 24/11.
 - Frank's report on Andrew's "Imagining 2040 – Pathways to Flourishing Futures' Podcast project
→ *Andrew is pleased with the response to date on the pilot Podcasts. And, he has started interviewing guests for the larger, longer Podcast project.*
 - Partnerships/Alliances program – Invitations sent to:
 - Intrepid Landcare Australia | Inspiring & connecting young people
 - Australian Earth Laws Alliance – Advocates for Earth centred law, governance and ethics.
 - Connecting people and nature since 1982 - Conservation Volunteers Australia
 - Who we are - Total Environment Centre
 - Homepage - Humane World for Animals
 - Australian Conservation Foundation | Homepage
 - Australian Youth Climate Coalition
 - Website upgrade – the matter of 'modernising' our website has been raised again. The issue of providing accurate, relevant and ethical data to our readers/subscribers was discussed. The office manager is tasked with seeking quotes to undertake this exercise. Also, we'll need to locate suitable grant opportunities.
NB: Another possibility is to see if any university students doing IT courses may be interested in volunteering to help us out!

8. **Next ordinary meeting** – 14 February 2026

9. **Meeting closed** at 11.52am



Kerry Kruger (Secretary)

Anna Kula-Kaczmarek (President)

8 November 2025