



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

Think Globally. Act Locally!

Minutes of 2nd Ordinary Meeting of 2025-2026 – Saturday, 14 February 2026 (Last updated – 14 February 2026)

Venue: HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba | Time: 10.00am - 12noon

1. **Meeting start time:** 10.10am
2. **Introductions, attendees, apologies and morning tea provided**
 - a. Attendees:
 - i. Physical: Frank Ondrus and Miriam Sharp
 - ii. ZOOM: Charmaine Turnbull, Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, Vini Nanjappa and Perry Bowe
 - a. Apologies: Kerry Kruger, Andrew Nicholson, Georgy Hadwen, Tennille Winter and Renuka Sararthbhavan
 - b. Proxy votes: Votes for Kerry Kruger, Andrew Nicholson, Georgy Hadwen, Tennille Winter and Renuka Sararthbhavan held by Frank Ondrus
3. **Confirm minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8 November 2025**
 - o *Moved by Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, seconded by Charmaine Turnbull. Agreed by all present.*
4. **President's Report**
 - General comments (see attachment)
 - Strategic Plan - Focus Area Tracker update – February 2026 (see attachment)
 - Social media and website statistics (see attachment)
 - o *Moved by Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, seconded by Miriam Sharp. Agreed by all present.*
5. **Office Manager's quarterly report** (as attachment)
 - o Summary of key statistics:
 - 4 Newsletters produced
 - 5 Media Releases issued
 - 22 Feature Articles/Reports circulated
 - Grant applications:
 - successful -re: Governance training
 - unsuccessful re: Male Environmental Champions
 - 1 new – re: 2 laptops
 - o Volunteer movement – 15 new; and 14 lapsed
 - o *Moved by Frank Ondrus, seconded by Anna Kula-Kaczmarek. Agreed by all present.*
6. **Treasurer's Report:**

Opening balance as at 1 Nov 2025	= \$6,388.11
25/11 Paid CCS account of \$149 re: Annual website hosting renewal	
03/12 Purchased printer toner cartridge - \$168.95 with GST = \$15.36	
22/01 Annual ZOOM licence of \$223.90 renewed. Paid privately by Miriam Sharp.	
HOPE General Account balance as at 30 Jan 2026	= \$4,385.86
HOPE Gift Fund balance as at 30 Jan 2026	= \$1,684.30
Closing balance as at 30 Jan 2026	= <u>\$6,070.16</u>

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- Miriam confirmed there had been no gift fund donations in the current quarter.
- ➔ Moved by Miriam Sharp, seconded Anna Kula-Kaczmariski. Agreed by all present

7. General business

- Carried forward items from Ordinary Meeting of 8 November 2025
 - ➔ Activities completed:
 - As a registered charity (listed with ACNC), we no longer have to submit an OFT Qld Annual Return form. We only need to submit a "Change of details relating to an Incorporated Association" (form 10a) if we have a change in the Executive.
 - The ACNC Annual Return was submitted online on 16/11/2025
 - Drone flyover of Allora Mountain Reserve conducted on 27/11/2025
- Grants/Projects – current & proposed:
 - Current grants:
 - 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
 - Anna, our President, undertook 'governance' training course on 18-19/12//2025
 - President's report on 'governance training' submitted 13 /02/2026
 - ➔ Office Manager now able to acquit the Qld Gives grant
 - ➔ Seek interest from membership to undertake a future 'governance training' course
 - Development of booklet & podcasts of male "Environmental Champions of our Region"
 - 10/06/25 – Submitted online application to Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF)
 - 19/12/25 – Grant unsuccessful
 - ➔ Anna advised that she has sourced a couple of grant sites and funding opportunities for "Environmental Champions of our Region"
 - ➔ Both the President and Office Manager to explore other funding opportunities
 - Other business:
 - Review Georgy Hadwen's latest report
 - Georgy's report "HOPE: A National Journey Toward Environmental Stewardship (2007–2025)" and Anna Kula—Kaczmariski's review of the report (see attachments) will be discussed to ascertain what items may be actioned in some way.
 - Suggestion: Do we pursue State & Territory representatives to help promote HOPE in those jurisdictions; and to increase our membership?
 - Action: Office Manager to develop and circulate Position Description state rep roles.
 - Recommendation that we schedule an annual review of the Strategic Plan at the September Ordinary Meeting each year so that changes can be voted on at the AGM. We can also consider some of Georgy's suggestions at this time.
 - Anna was keen to progress some of Georgy's youth recommendations, improving on current efforts rather than the ambassador program. Frank spoke about media releases and events to get young people talking. Intrepid Landcare and Youth Climate Coalition are engaged.
 - Action: Review 'Youth Engagement' options at June's ordinary meeting
 - Review Laura Little's suggested 'ongoing exercise'
 - Laura's report "Advancing Eco-Social Justice through Indigenous Partnership, Student Opportunities for HOPE Inc." and Anna Kula—Kaczmariski's review of the report (see attachments) will be discussed to ascertain if Laura's proposal is worth implementing by us.
 - Anna has already drafted letters for the Universities seeking student placement or in-kind support, these will be sent in March once University's reopen.
 - Anna expressed particular interest in progressing the Cultural Safety Checklist for volunteers and this was broadly supported. The "Eco-Social Justice" primer for new volunteers was also supported.
 - Action: Perry volunteered to start drafting a Cultural checklist.

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- Frank spoke about previous student placement relationship with Ros Darracott at UniSQ and this may be helpful Laura's suggestions are progressed.
 - Discussion on the use of AI to generate articles – see President's draft policy statement and Perry Bowe's viewpoint on using AI for research purposes (see attached documents)
 - Anna's letter has been circulated to researchers
 - Action: Perry volunteered to put a best practice guideline into a formal policy document.
 - Sponsorship (an ongoing activity) – The need to attract regular sponsorship to help offset our operating expenses; and to give us the opportunity to undertake more projects, etc.
 - Membership – Explore ongoing options to increase our membership throughout Australia
 - Once position description for State/Territory Representatives is drafted and approved, post on Volunteering Queensland's website. Select suitable volunteers to undertake these positions
 - Development and circulation of SWOT PPTs on the 8 focus areas of our Strategic Plan (11/01/2026)
 - ➔ Done. Fidelia updated and loaded to website.
 - Report on 'drone flyover' projects
 - Drone flyover of 3 properties for Clifton Landcare Assn still to be arranged
 - ➔ Anna's husband Mike may be able to assist with doing drone flyovers. Anna will discuss further with Frank
 - Report on Fidelia's projects:
 - Development of Strategic Plan "Focus Area – SWOT PPTs"
 - Refresh of "Ecological Footprint – Steps Towards Sustainability" PPT
 - Progress report from Renuka and Nina's review of Australian Universities Environmental policies
 - Project on hold whilst Renuka takes a leave of absence from HOPE.
 - Free trial subscription to Philanthropy Australia – seeking possible funding sources for our proposed projects
 - ➔ Office Manager to locate correct website link and send to President for action
 - Other matters from the floor
 - Perry raised some questions regarding feedback received from Jane O'Sullivan, SPA Qld re his recent report on Immigration. More broadly he was interested in ensuring the group did endorse papers on social justice matters. Frank reiterated HOPEs commitment to social justice issues as a foundation stone of environmental stewardship.
 - Anna and Miriam confirmed willingness to attend to LEAF event on World Environment Day in June. Will seek other volunteers to help on the day.
 - Action: Anna to explore options of free access to EFTPOS machine and/or QR code at this year's Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF)
- ➔ We'll also require literature to handout; prizes for the raffle; and items to sell.

8. Next ordinary meeting – 13 June 2026

9. Meeting closure: 11.35am



Perry Bowe (Acting Secretary)



Anna Kula-Kaczmarek (President)

(Final draft submitted - 22 February 2026)

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