



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) 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>

ACNC Registered Charity | ABN 48 036 173 161

Think Globally. Act Locally!

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 10 June 2025

Re: Queensland Government cuts funding to the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO)

Last year Sam O'Connor, Shadow Minister for the Environment, vouched to continue funding the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) Queensland if LNP were re-elected. He stated, "we believe the state government should continue to provide funding towards their operations just like they do with other community legal services." This year the Queensland Government has announced that there "is no additional money budgeted" for the EDO from 1 July.

Previously the EDO had received separate funding from the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of the Environment, Tourism Science and Innovation, both of which were unable to support the EDO in the next financial year. The EDO has received \$500,000 in state funding for the last 5 years used to employ two lawyers in Brisbane and Cairns who have provided free legal advice to approximately 1,500 Queenslanders over that time.

The EDO, described as a "valuable community legal centre providing free advice and representation on environmental and planning matters" by Anthony Gough Deputy Director of Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), has helped 50,000 Queenslanders, fight environmental injustices in their communities in the last 35 years. This funding cut means fewer locals will be able to seek environmental justice, advice, and education on pertinent environmental issues.

Aside from providing legal advice to citizens the EDO has worked on national nature law reform including during the 10-year review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The EDO has also been involved in the consultation and drafting of the Government's Nature Positive Plan. Despite their efforts only Environment Information Australia and Environment Protection Australia legislation was introduced to Parliament but then were removed from Parliamentary agenda. In essence, aside from the 'water trigger' amendment in the EPBC Act, there has been little environmental reform in the last Parliamentary term.

The EDO will continue to provide expertise and legal advice to environmental groups such as the Places You Love Alliance and Australian Conservation Foundation. Frances Medlock, Senior Solicitor of the EDO hopes "to see the full nature law reforms passed through the Parliament in the first twelve months of the re-elected Government, and [will] keep advocating for best practice environmental principles to be adopted in the new legislation."

The Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) has started a petition requesting that the House to call on the Government to deliver on its commitment, in line with Minister Sam O'Connor's statements to continue funding the EDO. We encourage our readers to sign this **petition which closes on the 22nd of June-** <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=4249>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Kula-Kaczmarek', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, President- HOPE Inc. | admin@hopeaustralia.org.au

Please consider visiting and/or posting items to our Social Media platforms:
Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | LinkedIn