



Think Globally. Act Locally!

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Monday, 20 May 2024

Dear members and supporters,

Re: We're at the crossroads! And, what direction should we take?

Introduction:

Due to ongoing health concerns, and the increased workload of President and Office Manager roles, I have decided that after 17 years as President I will step down from that role at the completion of this current term.

I ask that you read this letter in its entirety, to gain a full understanding of the situation that HOPE is in.

Background:

From Householders' Options to Protect the Environment's beginning in Victoria in 1988, as a "branch based" organisation, HOPE was established as a national community-based, non-profit environment group. In 2007.

HOPE is largely unfunded – except for the occasional grants for projects and/or to purchase equipment; and has always been managed entirely by volunteers!

Mutual Support Program (<https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/home/partnershipsalliances-ngos/>) was introduced in an effort to bolster our abilities to act on the 'national stage', and we sought "complimentary access to the expertise and resources of envNGOs." And, for those envNGOs who said yes, HOPE would support and promote their respective campaigns, projects and events.

Recent times (and events of national significance) have impacted on HOPE and its capacity to effectively carry out the group's objectives.

Prior to COVID, throughout COVID and post COVID, HOPE members have regularly asked "are we on the right trajectory, doing the things we do?"

Pre-COVID:

- A dip off in physical attendance at HOPE meetings and events
- Limited feedback from members

COVID:

- Unable to hold physical meetings; and all public events cancelled
- 30% loss of membership; and 50% loss of volunteers

Post-COVID:

- Embark on a rebuilding phase
- Encourage our 'passive' members to be more pro-active in promoting HOPE and its activities in their communities

Obviously, as both the President and Office Manager of HOPE, I believe we have been doing activities that abide by the HOPE Charter (see attachment); plus supporting our alliance/partner members and their respective objectives.

Here is a brief list of our major activities over the past 2 years:

- March 2023 – Publication of our “Minimise Waste and Conserve Resources” brochure
- 19 April 2023 – Staging of an afternoon Weeds Forum at the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ), Toowoomba campus
- June 2023 – Completion of Qld Women’s Week project – “*Queensland Women -- Inspiring stories from Environmental Champions*” booklet and podcast series (10 months duration)
- November 2023 – Completion of our commission by Biodynamic Agriculture Australia Ltd to produce “*Stories from Australian Biodynamic Farmers and Gardeners*” booklet and podcast series (6 months duration)
- November 2023 – Upgrade of our website - <https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/>
- February 2024 – Completion of Nesting Boxes Project – Construction of 150 nesting boxes for birdlife and other tree-dwelling animals which were then distributed free-of-charge to landcare, Land for Wildlife and animal welfare groups in the Darling Downs region (11 months duration)
- 1 May 2024 – Screening of “*Climate Changers*” documentary at UniSQ, Toowoomba

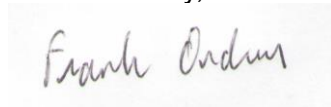
Closing remarks:

In coming days, I will be issuing the agenda for our next quarterly Ordinary Meeting being held on Saturday 8 June 2024. I invite you to carefully read the agenda and consider how you may be able to contribute to the Management Committee and/or Admin Support Team to ensure that, come our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, we will have a strong team to take us into 2024-2025 and beyond.

Remember, without feedback from **YOU** – the members and supporters of HOPE, the management team is ‘driving blind’ in respect to activities being undertaken.

We implore you to respond / provide feedback on issues/events or HOPE’s activities in general.

Yours faithfully,



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