



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.
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Think Globally. Act Locally!

Minutes of 3rd Ordinary Meeting of 2025-2026 – Saturday, 13 June 2026

(Last updated – 13 June 2026)

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

1. Meeting start time: 10am

2. Introductions, attendees, apologies and morning tea provided

a. Attendees:

- i. Physical: Frank Ondrus, Perry Bowe, Miriam Sharp and Kerry Kruger
- ii. ZOOM: Charmaine Turnbull, Anna Kula-Kaczmarek and Allan Fong

- #### a. Apologies: Nalayini Shiyamasunthar, Vini Nanjappa, Andrew Nicholson, Fidelia, Isaac Hui and Juliette Mellon
- #### b. Proxy votes: Nalayini and Vini votes are allocated to Anna

3. Confirm minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14 February 2026

- *Moved by Charmaine Turnbull, seconded by Miriam Sharp. Agreed by all present.*

4. President's Report

• General comments

- LEAF 2026 – low crowd attendance; promoted Podcast, \$50 raised in booklet sales
- Ask Andrew to provide viewing/listening statistics on IMAG40 podcasts
- Concern that our e: newsletter is 'out of touch' with how our readers and followers receive their news (i.e. podcasts, short videos, apps, websites, social media and Youtube). Suggested to add 'reader receipt' to our email newsletters over the next 3 months to assess how many active readers we have.
- Suggested to send a poll via social media outlets on how our readers and followers receive their news so HOPE can align better with this.

• Strategic Plan - Focus Area Tracker update – June 2026

- Change of direction suggested in reporting activities –proposed Traffic Lights formula.
➔ *Anna will update before September meeting.*

• Social media and website statistics

- Social media statistics not sent to President. ~~Why not?~~ ➔ *Please ask Jessica Kewegan to follow up with Social Media team and report back to Office Manager (and President).*
- Recruit volunteers to develop short promotional videos – for our many environmental interests and issues

➔ *Moved by Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, seconded by Miriam Sharp. Agreed by all present.*

5. Office Manager's quarterly report (as attachment)

○ Summary of key statistics:

- 4 Newsletters produced
- 4 Media Releases issued
- 24 Feature Articles/Reports circulated
- Grant applications:
 - Successful - Nil
 - Unsuccessful – Grant application for 2 new laptops
 - 1 new – re: Upgrade of website
- Volunteer movement – 8 new; and 8 lapsed

➔ *Moved by Frank Ondrus, seconded by Perry Bowe. Agreed by all present.*

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6. Treasurer's Report:

Opening balance as at 30 Jan 2026 = \$6,070.16

09/03 Paid CCS invoice 017888 -- \$80 with GST = \$7.27 to investigate problem with sending Outlook emails.

16/03 Paid CCS invoice 017896 -- \$80 with GST = \$7.27 to further investigate SPAM settings problem with sending Outlook emails

16/03 Paid CCS invoice 017923 -- \$80 with GST = \$7.27 to further 'tweak' SPAM settings to resolve sending Outlook emails

20/04 Paid CCS \$118.80 with GST = \$10.80 for annual MS365 hosting

12/05 Received \$600 donation from Jerry Coleby-Williams (our Patron) being proceeds from the sale of jams at his Mother's Day event

HOPE General Account balance as at 29 May 2026 = \$4,027.06

HOPE Gift Fund balance as at 29 May 2026 = \$2,284.30

Closing balance as at 29 May 2026 = \$6,311.36

➔ *Moved by Miriam Sharp, seconded Kerry Kruger. Agreed by all present*

7. General business

○ Carried forward items from Ordinary Meeting of 14 February 2026

• Activities completed:

○ 10/03/26 The position description for State/Territory Representatives finalised and posted on Volunteering Queensland's website

➔ *3 initial enquiries, but potential volunteers failed to supply requested information. Keep advertising positions on Volunteering Queensland website.*

○ Review of Strategic Plan scheduled for September meeting added to Year Planner. Email requesting suggested enhancements to be issued early October. Recommended changes to be ratified at AGM.

➔ *Develop poll/survey questionnaire and circulate to membership. Include questions on Strategic Plan; preferred messaging methods; other matters*

○ Youth Engagement matters – Office has circulated "Engaging Youth in Environmental Volunteering" email and poster to Australian universities; and secondary schools & colleges throughout Australia. Update to be provided at June meeting.

➔ *Once both Jessica and Paula return from their overseas trips, they should be able to resume compiling lists of secondary schools and colleges for this 'email' initiative*

○ "Advancing Eco-Social Justice through Indigenous Partnership" – Perry Bowe has prepared a draft Cultural Safety Checklist. Further discussion on matters related to engagement with the Aboriginal community to be dealt with at the June meeting. Still awaiting feedback from Ros Darracot, UniSQ, regarding another student placement to assist in this exercise.

➔ *3rd university student placement, Kersty Horton, selected to research development of Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) – with reference to our supporting documentation.*

➔ *Still awaiting placement paperwork to sign*

○ AI – Perry Bowe has prepared an AI Policy statement and an AI Guidelines Checklist

○ Motion: To adopt AI Policy and accompanying AI Guideline Checklist (see attachments)

➔ *Moved by Perry Bowe, seconded by Kerry Kruger. Agreed by all present.*

○ Frank was mistaken about the free trial option at Philanthropy Australia ➔ *Noted*

• Ongoing activities:

○ 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.

➔ *Anna to circulate sponsorship requests to universities in November*

○ Membership – Explore ongoing options to increase our membership throughout Australia

➔ *Refresh and issue media release to attract more members*

➔ *Investigate publishing HOPE material on Google Scholar*

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- Drone flyovers:
 - 3 properties for Clifton Landcare Assn still to be arranged → *Ben Sparshott still to arrange suitable date & time to undertake this exercise*
 - Coalbank Reserve and Myall Park Reserve for North East Downs (NED) Landcare → *Completed on 31 May 2026*
- Activities on hold:
 - Report on Australian Universities Environmental policies – *On hold until Renuka returns from a leave of absence*
- Grants/Projects – current & proposed:
 - Current grants:
 - 03/03/26 --2 laptops – Submitted EoI to 2025026 Volunteer Grants Program
 - *07/05/26 – EoI unsuccessful*
 - 06/05/26 --Website upgrade – Submitted application to Harcourts Foundation
 - Development of booklet & podcasts of male “Environmental Champions of our Region”
 - *Try next round of GCBF grants*
 - Continuation of “Imagining 2040: Pathways to Flourishing Futures” podcast series
 - *Still searching for an appropriate funding body*
 - *10 more episodes produced in recent months*
 - Other business:
 - Financial matters:

The “Alliance to Save Hinchinbrook (ASH) Inc. finally came through with the donation of \$5,000 plus Margaret Moorehouse’s initial \$500 – totalling \$5,500.

I have permission from the HOPE Gift Fund Committee to transfer \$7,000 to the HOPE General Account.

Andrew Nicholson has submitted his invoice of \$5,500 for producing 20 episodes of the IMAG40 podcast project (see attachment).

I now seek your permission to pay Andrew for his work. → *Approved by Miriam (9/6), Kerry (10/6) and Anna (13/6)*

Also, as we now have funds available, I request we purchase a laptop for Kerry’s use. → *Approved by Miriam (9/6) and Anna (13/6)*
- Report on Fidelia’s projects:
 - Ecological Footprint webinar delivered on 13 April – low attendance, but positive feedback from participants
- LEAF 2026 – Anna and Miriam attended on 8 June. Low attendance. Poor sales of Weeds booklet - \$50.
- Toowoomba’s World Environment Day – Frank and Andrew attended on 8 June and raised \$119 from the raffle
- A 3rd UniSQ student placement has been finalised with Kersty Horton selected to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- An opportunity exists to engage university student placement(s) with:
 - University of Sunshine Coast (UniSC)
 - University of Western Sydney
 - University of Sydney – Capstone Research Project
 - ➔ *Possible projects short-listed for consideration. Other options include from Jobs backlog folder and Strategic Plan themes*
- See backlog Jobs folder

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- A project proposal from Perry Bowe re Australia's commitment to, and progress of, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - see attached Introduction extract
Perry discussed the proposal based on the Monash Sustainable Development Institute's Sustainable Development Goals dashboard. He explained that the project consisted of an analysis of Australia's progress on the SDGs as reflected in government policy, with associated visioning from a social justice perspective. He further explained that, in the interests of currency, a slight shift in cause was required, as the MSDI has decommissioned its dashboard and the Productivity Roundtables are no longer front of mind for most. But the project was still worthwhile, given the upcoming global reviews in 2026/2027.
- Proposal to establish a Policy and Advocacy sub-committee to develop issue position statements:
 - ➔ *Invite existing volunteer base to assist in developing 'Position Statements' on the many environmental issues that we endorse and/or oppose*

8. Next ordinary meeting – 12 September 2026

9. Meeting closure: 11.20am



Kerry Kruger (Secretary)



Anna Kula-Kaczmarek (President)

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