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The EDO (ACT) newsletter is designed to provide information on what's happening in environmental law in the ACT and throughout Australia.

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ACT News

ACT feed-in tariff commences

The ACT's new solar feed-in tariff (FiT) scheme came into operation in March 2009. This followed an agreement between the ACT Greens and the ACT Government, to bring the commencement date of the FiT legislation forward from July.

This scheme pays residents 50 cents for every kilowatt of solar energy they produce. The Government amended the initial feed-in tariff legislation so that the scheme does not apply to large solar energy producers (i.e. those with a system > 30kw).

The EDO has previously supported an early introduction of feed in laws as an essential mechanism for encouraging the uptake of renewable energy sources. A copy of the EDO's submissions on the feed in laws are available at our website: <http://www.edo.org.au/edoact/>

Australian Heritage Village proposed redevelopment

The ACT government has recently rezoned the old Australian Heritage Village site in Watson to enable a new residential development. The draft plan variation which came into effect on 17 April 2009 changes the zoning from its former leisure and accommodation zoning to a residential zoning to enable the sites redevelopment for medium density housing.

The Watson Community Association has raised concerns regarding potential impacts of the proposed development on the endangered yellow box/ red gum woodland on the site and the endangered regent honeyeater which has previously nested on the site.

Any proposed development which would have a significant impact on this woodland and honeyeater would need to be referred to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, for assessment and approval.

The EDO has been providing advice to the Watson Community Association in relation to this matter.

Canberra Airport draft Master Plan – required to be resubmitted

Following the rejected draft Master Plan prepared by the Canberra Airport in 2008, the Canberra Airport has prepared a revised 2009 Preliminary Draft Master Plan. The plan updates Canberra Airport's existing approved 2005 Master Plan and outlines the vision for the operation and development of the Canberra airport for the next 20 years.

The Canberra Airport was required to resubmit its 2008 draft Master Plan when the Plan prepared in February 2008 by the Canberra Airport, which proposed to establish Canberra Airport as Sydney's second airport and as a 24 hour freight hub with a dramatic increase in the frequency of flights and with no night time curfew, was rejected by the Federal Transport Minister. The 2008 draft Master Plan was rejected as it did not provide sufficient detail and did not adequately address matters raised during public consultation (including concerns about developing a freight hub and potential noise concerns).

The ACT Government has also engaged a noise expert to undertake an independent review of Airservices Australia aircraft noise monitoring in Hackett. The appointment was in response concerns raised about the proposed expansion of Canberra Airport and the development of a freight hub.

Consultation on the draft 2009 Master Plan closed last Friday, 8 May.

The EDO previously raised concerns about the lack of adequate assessment of the environmental impacts of the draft plan. A copy of the EDO's submission on the draft plan is available at <http://www.edo.org.au/edoact/>

The EDO is currently preparing advice in relation to the relevant environmental laws which apply to developments at the airport.

ACT Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets - Assembly Hearings

Following a public submission process the ACT Legislative Assembly Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water is currently holding public hearings as part of its inquiry into appropriate greenhouse gas reduction targets in the ACT.

The EDO ACT made a submission to the inquiry and its submission is available at

<http://www.legassembly.act.gov.au/downloads/submissions/17%20EDO%20ACT%20Inc.pdf>

Gas fired power station approved

In March this year the ACT Planning and Land Authority conditionally approved the controversial data centre and power station at its new site in Hume, pending approval from the ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services and the Environmental Protection Authority.

Following community opposition to the original proposal to build a large gas fired power station and data centre at Macarthur, the development was moved to Hume with a smaller power station. The ACT Legislative Assembly passed legislation (Development Application (Block 20 Section 23 Hume) Assessment Facilitation Act 2008) which removed the requirement to undertake an environmental impact statement for the proposal at the new site and removed certain review rights.

ACTEW AGL plans to build a 500kw gas-fired power station at Williamsdale near the Hume Highway.

Possible Summernats pollution tests

The Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water has recommended, in its report on Annual and Financial Reports 2007-2008, that 'the Environment Protection Authority monitor air quality in residential areas close to 'burn out' events at the Summernats Car Festival and make that information publicly available' (recommendation 5).

According to the report, the ACT Government received eight complaints in relation to the 2009 Summernats festival, two due to air quality and six due to noise. The report noted that

the Committee was advised that ‘there is no ACT air quality standard regarding occasional smoke from burn-outs’ but noted ‘the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality (Air NEPM) specifies standards and goals for ambient levels of its criteria air pollutants, ie carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, photochemical oxidants (as ozone), sulphur dioxide, and lead and particles (as PM10), and that the ACT does have the capacity to monitor air quality, with a view to considering possible remedial actions. .

A copy of the Committee’s report and recommendations is at:

<http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/downloads/reports/CCEW01%20AR07-08.pdf>

Grassland investigation completed

In March 2009 the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Maxine Cooper, completed her Report on ACT Lowland Native Grasslands following an investigation directed by the Chief Minister.

The report found ‘there is an urgent need for land management actions to be undertaken to protect the 60% of the Territory’s lowland native grassland sites that are currently in a critical condition or approaching this state. The threatening processes that have caused the demise of the grassland sites include weeds, inappropriate mowing regimes, overgrazing by stock, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and rabbits. The prolonged drought has exacerbated the effect of these processes.’

A report for one of the grassland sites considered in this investigation, the Belconnen Naval Transmission Station, was released in March 2008 and led to the decision to cull kangaroos on this land.

A copy of the report is available at:

http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/investigations_and_consultation/investigation

New water pipeline project

The ACT Government has made a decision to enable ACTEW to build a \$100 million water pipeline from Murrumbidgee to Googong and to buy and store water in Tantangara Dam in the Snowy Mountains when required.

The ACT government has previously decided to expand the Cotter Dam. Construction of the Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline is expected to start in February 2010 and is expected to be completed by July 2011, while construction of the expanded Cotter Dam is likely to start in August 2009 with an expected finish date of April 2011.

Further details of the project is available at:

<http://www.actew.com.au/News/ArticleDetail.aspx?id=992>

FOI Act amendments

Recent amendments to the *ACT Freedom of Information Act 1989* removes the use of conclusive certificates as a means for ministers or ‘principal officer’ delegates to exempt documents from the FOI process.

FOI laws are an important mechanism for community groups to access information. The removal of conclusive certificates will assist in ensuring government decision making is more open and accountable.

Community Noticeboard

The ACT government has introduced a new community noticeboard which has appeared in the *Canberra Times* since mid February. The noticeboard is a consolidated placement of government announcements, community consultations sessions and events. The noticeboard covers a range of upcoming community events, opportunities to comment, community consultation meetings, government seminars, grants and awards (including those relating to environmental interests).

The noticeboard appears in the Early General News section of the *Canberra Times* every Saturday and is a useful tool for community groups seeking access to information.

Yass wind farm

A renewable energy company, Epuron is proposing to build a wind farm near Yass. About 185 turbines are proposed for three sites south-west of Yass, at Coppabella Hills, Marilba Hills and Carolls Ridges.

An environmental assessment report is being prepared to consider potential impacts from the proposal including ecological, biodiversity, noise, visual, traffic and transport impacts.

The assessment will be submitted to the NSW Planning Department.

Energy efficient water systems

The ACT Greens have introduced a Private Member's Bill, the Building (Energy Efficient Hot Water System) Legislation Amendment Bill 2009 which, if passed, would ban inefficient hot water systems in new houses. If the legislation is passed, all hot water systems installed in new houses will need to be low-emission types such as solar, heat pump or efficient gas.

News From Around Australia

CPRS amended

The Federal Government has announced substantial amendments to its proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). The following changes have been proposed to the existing scheme:

- A delay in the introduction of the Scheme of 12 months, until July 2011
- An increase in the upper carbon reduction limit to 25 per cent below 2000 levels by 2020 if the world agrees to an ambitious global deal to stabilise levels of CO2 equivalent at 450 parts per million or lower by 2050;
- A one year fixed price period during which carbon permits will cost \$10 per tonne of carbon in 2011-12, with the transition to full market trading from July 1, 2012;
- A new global recession buffer to be provided as part of the assistance package for

emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries.

For more information on the changes to the CPRS, visit http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2009/media_release_0967.cfm

National Strategy for Energy Efficiency

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has drafted a 'National Strategy on Energy Efficiency 2009-2020'. The Strategy is designed to substantially improve minimum standards for energy efficiency and accelerate the introduction of new technologies. This is to be achieved through improving the regulatory processes and addressing the barriers to uptake of new energy-efficient products and technologies.

Improving the energy efficiency of homes and businesses is intended to enable compliance with the Australian Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), which is the primary scheme aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Strategy incorporates and builds on measures already agreed by COAG and the Ministerial Council on Energy through the National Framework on Energy Efficiency. Mechanisms provided for in the Strategy include raising the mandatory energy efficiency standard for new homes from 5 stars to 6 stars and an expansion of the Renewable Energy Target for the year 2020.

The draft Strategy can be accessed at http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2009-04-30/docs/National_strategy_energy_efficiency.pdf

Gorgon Gas Project

The Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) recently gave a report to the WA Environment Minister, in effect giving its approval to the controversial \$50 billion Gorgon liquefied natural gas plant off Western Australia, subject to a number of conditions to deal with the increased potential impact on one of the most significant flatback turtle rookeries in Western Australia.

The proposed site of the project at Barrow Island is home to many rare and unique species.

The EPA report is now open for public consideration until 14 May. Environmental assessment and approval of the project is then required by the Western Australian Government, and the Federal Environment Minister under the Commonwealth Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The EPA report is available at: www.epa.wa.gov.au

National Pollutant Inventory

Information on reported emissions to Australia's air, land and water during 2007-08 was recently made available with the publication of the annual data for the national pollutant inventory (NPI). The NPI is a publicly accessible database containing information on emissions of 93 substances from more than 4100 industrial facilities around the country. The NPI also includes data from non-industry diffuse sources such as domestic household activities and motor vehicles. The NPI is a collaborative program between all Australian

jurisdictions under the NPI National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM). This was the tenth NPI reporting year.

An overview of the latest NPI data is available at: <http://www.npi.gov.au/overview/index.html>
To access the NPI database go to: <http://www.npi.gov.au/index.html>

First Senate report on EPBC Act review

The two reports of the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts on the operation of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* have been released. The first report covers several key issues, including the scope of the Act; the referral, assessment and approval process; the agreements and coordination between governments and agencies; threatened species and ecological communities; and community and stakeholder engagement. The second report covers the role of regional forest agreements (RFAs).

The committee makes 10 recommendations in the first report, all of which the EDO called for in its submission to the inquiry and at a parliamentary hearing attended by the EDO. Most importantly, the committee calls for a greenhouse and land clearing trigger and an expansion of the merits review process currently available under the Act.

In relation to the second report the committee recommends that the Independent Review consider the findings in this report and recommend proposals for reform that would ensure that RFAs, in respect of matters within the scope of Part 3 of the EPBC Act, deliver environmental protection outcomes, appeal rights, and enforcement mechanisms no weaker than if the EPBC Act directly applied.

This inquiry and report is independent to the statutory 10 year review of the EPBC Act which is still underway.

The full report is available at:
http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eca_ctte/epbc_act/report/report.pdf

A copy of the ANEDO submission to the review is available at:
http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eca_ctte/epbc_act/submissions/sub90_revised.pdf

Approval of McArthur River zinc mine expansion

The Federal Environment Minister has approved the expansion of the McArthur River zinc mine, near Borroloola in the Northern Territory, subject to new environmental monitoring requirements.

The works required to divert the River and associated mining activities have been allowed to recommence immediately. Operations ceased last December when a High Court challenge to the previous Environment Minister's approval was successful.

The Minister has required mining company Xstrata to prepare certain monitoring plans, and has requested greater engagement with local stakeholders regarding the operation of the mine. Traditional landowners in the area are concerned that Xstrata take the Minister's

recommendations into consideration.

For more information, visit

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/20/2497002.htm?section=justin>

Jervis Bay rezoning proposal rejected

The Federal Minister for the Environment, Peter Garrett has refused to approve a proposal by Shoalhaven City Council to rezone up to 1200 'Heritage Estates' allotments near Vincentia in NSW, which were sold up to 20 years ago as rural land that could not be built on. The effect of the rezoning would have been to allow development to take place where it had previously been prohibited.

The proposal by Council also involved public infrastructure works. Garrett rejected the proposal due to 'unacceptable impacts on nationally threatened species (including the endangered eastern bristlebird, white-footed dunnart and the ground parrot) and the ecological integrity of the nearby Booderee National Park'. It said that the development would have isolated the Booderee National Park from important wildlife corridors that are critical to the survival of nationally protected plants and animals.

Current Inquiries and Opportunities for Comment

ACT

Draft ACT Kangaroo Management Plan

Feedback is invited on the Draft ACT Kangaroo Management Plan which will guide the management of the environmental, economic and social impacts of eastern grey kangaroos in the ACT while ensuring the welfare of the animal.

Submissions close: Monday 11 May 2009.

Further details of the draft plan are available at:

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/environment/local_wildlife/kangaroo/draft_act_kangaroo_management_plan

Lawson planning study

A draft plan for Lawson has been prepared by ACT Planning and Land Authority. Lawson South is bounded by Ginninderra Drive and Baldwin Drive but does not include Defence land in Lawson North. The draft plans propose a variety of housing types and environmental conservation. Public consultation will be used to develop a land supply strategy, capital works program and possible changes to planning controls for this part of Belconnen. The draft plans attempt to reflect reduced greenhouse gas emissions through increased housing density and diversity and has been described as an attempt at an 'urban village'. Land release in Lawson is expected to begin in 2010/11.

Submissions due: 12 May 2009.

A drop-in information session and display on the study will be held at St Simons Anglican

Church Georgina Crescent, Kaleen on Saturday 2 May 2009 between 9.00am and 1.00pm.

Further details, including the draft planning study is available at: www.actpla.act.gov.au.

Proposed southern cemetery

Feedback is invited on the proposed southern cemetery and possible crematorium on Mugga Lane. A community survey is available from the TAMS website, Canberra Connect Shopfronts and ACT public libraries. The community consultation program will include information sessions, stakeholder meetings, information displays and a letterbox drop to locals.

A public meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13 May** at the Southern Cross Club in Tuggeranong. Further details available at:

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/about_our_department/community_engagement/community_engagement_activities_and_events/proposed_southern_cemetery_and_crematorium

Energy rating discussion paper

The ACT Planning and Land Authority has released a discussion paper on home energy ratings. The paper addresses issues relating to changes in provisions for home energy ratings under the ACT House Energy Rating Scheme (ACTHERS) and the proposed introduction of licensing requirements for building energy assessors. These reforms will impact industry participants, consumers and other stakeholders.

This paper seeks input from interested parties, industry and relevant stakeholders on the impact of the proposed changes.

More information is available at:

http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/siting/energy_ratings

Commonwealth

National Waste Policy Consultation Paper released

The Federal Minister for the Environment has released the consultation paper, '*A National Waste Policy: Managing Waste to 2020*'. The aim of the policy is to identify best practice in waste management and resource recovery, and to ensure Australia achieves a balance between incentives and regulation. A recent snapshot of waste and recycling trends show our waste increased by 28 per cent between 2003 and 2007. This occurred in spite of a big increase in recycling efforts, through kerbside recycling programs and actions by the commercial and industrial sectors.

Submissions due: 13 May 2009.

For more information and to access the consultation paper, visit

<http://www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy/index.html>.

Amendments to FOI law

Extensive changes have been made to the Commonwealth FOI Act which will change the way FOI requests are processed, decisions are made, and of the review and appeal

mechanisms. The exposure drafts which have been released for public comment are the *Information Commissioner Bill 2009* and the *Freedom of Information Amendment (Reform) Bill 2009*. The release of these Bills follows the introduction into Parliament on 26 November 2008 of the *Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Bill 2008*.

Submissions due: 15 May 2009.

More information is available at: http://www.dpmmc.gov.au/consultation/foi_reform/index.cfm.

Draft of Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for 2010-2020

The draft Biological Conservation Strategy 2010-2020 has been developed to replace the current National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity, which was agreed in 1996. The draft strategy is an important national policy document that will guide how governments, the community, industry and scientists manage and protect Australia's plants, animals and ecosystems over the next ten years.

Submissions due: 29 May 2009

More information is available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/strategy/draft-strategy.html>

Federal Government's Energy White Paper

The Federal Government is developing an Energy White Paper to guide the development of and investment in the Australian energy sector. Climate change has largely been neglected in the development of the White Paper. Six discussion papers have been released on the following issues:

- Realising Australia's Energy Resource Potential, available at:
<http://www.ret.gov.au/energy/Documents/facts%20statistics%20publications/Discussion%20Paper%20-%20Realising%20Australia%27s%20Energy%20Resource%20Potential%20APRIL%202009.pdf>
- Governance, institutional, legal regulatory frameworks and community engagement, available at:
<http://www.ret.gov.au/energy/Documents/facts%20statistics%20publications/Discussion%20Paper%20-%20Governance%20institutional%20legal%20regulatory%20frameworks%20and%20community%20engagement%20APRIL%202009.pdf>
- International Energy, available at:
<http://www.ret.gov.au/energy/Documents/facts%20statistics%20publications/Discussion%20Paper%20-%20International%20Energy%20APRIL%202009.pdf>
- Investment, competitive markets and Structural Reform, available at:
<http://www.ret.gov.au/energy/Documents/facts%20statistics%20publications/Discussion%20Paper%20-%20Investment%20competitive%20markets%20APRIL%202009.pdf>
- Maximising the value of technology in the energy sector, available at:
<http://www.ret.gov.au/energy/Documents/facts%20statistics%20publications/Discussion%20Paper%20-%20Maximising%20the%20value%20of%20technology%20in%20the%20energy%20sector>

[%20APRIL%202009.pdf](#)

• Our people demographics and indigenous participation, available at:

<http://www.ret.gov.au/energy/Documents/facts%20statistics%20publications/Discussion%20Paper%20-%20Our%20people%20demographics%20workforce%20and%20indigenous%20participation%20APRIL%202009.pdf>

Submissions due: 29 May 2009.

For more information on the Energy White Paper, visit

http://www.ret.gov.au/energy/facts/white_paper/Pages/default.aspx

National Human Rights Consultation

In December 2008, the Federal Government launched a national public consultation about the legal recognition and protection of human rights and responsibilities in Australia. The National Human Rights Consultation is an historic opportunity for individuals and communities throughout Australia to improve democracy and to have a say about the protection of fundamental values such as freedom, respect, and dignity.

The Human Rights Law Resource Centre has produced a comprehensive report to enable individuals and organisations to participate in the National Human Rights Consultation in an informed and evidence-based way. It is intended to provide important background information for those seeking to engage in the consultation.

The report is available here

http://www.hrlrc.org.au/html/s02_article/article_view.asp?id=436&nav_cat_id=183&nav_top_id=69

ANEDO will be preparing a submission that seeks to highlight the need for greater protection of human rights, focusing on those relating to the environment. For an example of this work, visit the EDO ACT's website at <http://www.edo.org.au/edoact/> and access their 2005 submission on 'Human Rights legislation in the ACT'.

Submissions due: Monday 15 June 2009 (note – this date has been extended).

More information is available from

http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/nhrcc.nsf/Page/Share_Your_Views

Litigation News

Large fines for environmental law breach

A company and its project manager have been heavily fined for illegal clearing at a Mission Beach (Queensland) development, under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. A development proposal for the site was still being assessed for its likely impact on the nationally-protected southern cassowary and an investigation revealed the company had cleared land before a referral decision had been made, amounting to an offence under the Act.

The project manager was fined \$5,000 and the company was fined \$40,000.

ACCC takes “Greenwash” Claims to Federal Court

The Federal Court has imposed a five year injunction against a director of a company who was ‘knowingly concerned’ in a company’s misleading green claims. This followed an earlier declaration by the Court that claims by Western Australian franchisor SeNevens International Ltd, that its “Safeties Nature Nappy” product was “100% biodegradable”, amounted to misleading deceptive conduct under sections 52 and 53 of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cth).

The matter was brought before the Federal Court by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

Gunns’ legal action against The Wilderness Society settled

Woodchip company, Gunns Ltd has ended its four-year long legal battle in the Victorian Supreme Court against The Wilderness Society (TWS) and a number of its former officers in a settlement recently reached. Gunns has agreed to pay TWS \$350,000 in costs and discontinue its legal action, releasing TWS from liability from all actions. TWS was required to pay Gunns \$25,000 in damages for a protest in the Styx Valley in November 2003.

The Wilderness Society has not given any undertakings to Gunns and is free to continue to campaign to protect Tasmania’s forests. TWS has commented on the significance of this conclusion to the matter as ‘a significant win for free speech in Australia.’

Final result in EDO case: *Walker v Minister for Planning*

The hearing for an application for special leave to appeal to the High Court of in the *Walker v Minister for Planning* matter took place on Friday 13 March.

The NSW EDO argued, on behalf of Jill Walker, that as the objects of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act) included the encouragement of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). ESD was a mandatory relevant consideration when making decisions under Part 3A of the Act. Under Part 3A the NSW Minister for Planning determines whether to approve projects of State or regional planning significance.

Initially, the NSW Land and Environment Court found that the Minister had to consider the public interest under Part 3A. The Land and Environment Court further found that consideration of the public interest required the Minister to consider ESD and therefore required the consideration of the climate change impacts and increased flood risk to the site. The Court went on to find that the Minister had failed to consider flood risk from climate change in his analysis of ESD and declared the Minister's decision void.

This decision was overturned in the NSW Court of Appeal. Leave was then sought to appeal the Court of Appeal's decision to the High Court.

At the application for leave to appeal before the High Court, two judges heard the matter, Justices Gummow and Heydon. The Judges determined that the matter did not have sufficient prospects of success on appeal to grant special leave, despite it being well argued. The High Court did, however, agree that there should be no order as to costs, not disturbing the Court of Appeal's earlier finding that there should be no costs order due to the public interest nature of

the proceedings.

NSW Supreme Court finds development applications a TPA-free zone

In the decision *Street v Luna Park Sydney Pty Ltd* [2009], the NSW Supreme Court held that the provisions of the Trade Practices Act (Cth) 1974 dealing with misleading and deceptive statements will not apply to development applications. The court additionally found that developers do not owe a duty of care to avoid foreseeable risk of economic loss caused by inaccurate statements in development applications, to potential purchasers or developers of adjoining land.

Community Education and Events

Launch of EDO ACT Environmental Law Handbook

Where: to be advised shortly

When: to be advised shortly

The ACT EDO has recently published the second edition of its ACT Environmental Law Handbook, thanks to a previous grant from the ACT Government and ongoing funding from the Commonwealth Government. The handbook is a comprehensive guide to environmental laws in the ACT and covers planning and development processes, including environmental impact assessment processes, biodiversity protections, heritage protection and sustainability.

The handbook is an easy to use guide designed for both non lawyers and lawyers. It is a useful resource for community groups and individuals seeking to understand and use environmental laws to ensure good environmental outcomes.

Copies of the handbook are available from the EDO office at a cost of \$10 for EDO members and \$15 for non members. Please contact the office if you would like a copy of the handbook.

Invitations to the launch of the handbook will be sent to EDO members and interested parties.

2009 Animal Law Lecture Series

Where: Australian National University

When: 11 May, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Voiceless is organising an animal lecture series. The lecture in Canberra will be delivered by leading US animal protection litigator, Bruce Wagman, a leading US animal protection litigator who will share his experiences seeking justice for animals in the courtroom.

More details available at:

http://www.voiceless.org.au/Law/Lecture_Series/Animal_Law_-_coming_soon_to_a_venue_near_you.html

Bridging the Gap 09

Where: Canberra

When: 23-24 July

Richard Trudgen (author of 'Why Warriors Lay Down and Die') is holding a 2 day seminar on 23-24 July aimed at building capacity with indigenous communities. Richard and Yolngu co-presenters offer strategies for addressing the current crises facing many Aboriginal communities across Australia today

Further information is available at www.ards.com.au/seminars.htm

Other News

Calling all Photographers

The EDO is developing a portfolio of photos for use in various EDO publications (such as our quarterly newsletter, the EDO website and education material). The types of images which we are seeking are images of the local ACT environment (eg photos of the local flora and fauna as well as city scapes, images associated with renewable energy eg solar panels, tanks etc) which we could use to illustrate environmental issues.

We require digital photos to enable us to reproduce the images online.

Please contact the EDO office if you have images which the EDO would be free to use.

Appeal for one-sided used Paper – we have run out

We at the EDO use paper printed on one side for most of our printing needs. If you know anyone or you are able to supply us with any non-confidential one sided paper we could use to accommodate our printing needs we would love to hear from you on: edoact@edo.org.au or 6247 9420.

FREE copies of the new edition of the *Rural Landholder's Guide to Environmental Law in NSW*

The new edition of the *Rural Landholder's Guide to Environmental Law in NSW*, a publication last produced by the NSW EDO in 2006, is now available for free, including postage and handling. The guide is a valuable tool in understanding the law in NSW regarding land management and explains legislation dealing with issues such as vegetation management, protected species, fire management, water management, construction and development, pollution, agricultural chemicals, crops and stock, mining and quarrying, heritage protection, conservation on private land and trading and offsetting agreements.

To obtain your FREE copy of the guide please email education@edo.org.au or call (02) 9262 6989. Boxes of 160 are also available on request for groups or organisations.

Banksia Awards

The Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award, the Environment Minister's Young

Environmentalism of the Year Award and a variety of other Banksia Environmental Award's acknowledge Australians of all ages who are making an outstanding contribution to protecting and caring for our environment.

Entries for all categories both awards **close 11 May 2009**.

More information is available at:

http://banksiafdn.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1.

Finding your local representative

A newly launched website (www.yourvoiceinhouse.org.au) allows you to enter your postcode or location and it will tell you every politician that represents you, in both houses of parliament, at both the state and federal level. The site provides postal addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for your political representatives.

Advocacy targeted at local members is often a useful tool in environmental campaigns and this quick guide to contacting political representatives should be a very useful tool for individuals and community groups.

Contact us

Environmental Defenders Office (ACT) Inc.
Level 1, 4 Mort Street, Canberra City ACT 2601.
Ph: (02) 6247 9420,
Fax: (02) 6247 9582,
e: edoact@edo.org.au

If you no longer wish to receive our Newsletter by email, please email us at edoact@edo.org.au with "unsubscribe Newsletter" in the subject line. Your email address will be removed from our newsletter database and we will not send you these newsletters.



