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ACT ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Election Round Up (Environmental Scan)

With the ACT Legislative Assembly election just one day away, the EDO has combed the websites of each of the major political parties for their environmental policies and compiled them here so that you can be better informed walking into your local polling station on Saturday.

Climate Change

Labor has an emissions reduction target of 40% on 1990 levels by 2020, as do the Greens. In order to achieve this target Labor has outlined a set of actions in *AP2*¹ while the Greens have developed a Climate Energy Package, both of which are accessible online. Further, both parties' have backed up their emissions reductions targets with renewable energy targets of 90% by 2020. The Liberal's have neither an emissions reduction target nor a renewable energy target.

Transport

Each major party has committed to improving bus services: Labor has proposed a \$37 million upgrade; the Liberals plan to use present public transport resources more effectively and 'get the basics right'; while the Greens have developed a \$31 million package focussed on improving bus connections to the suburbs. Both Labor and the Greens support light rail and both have emphasised the important role public transport, cycling and walking ('active transport') can play in reducing emissions. The Greens have developed a concrete plan to fix and upgrade Canberra's network of paths and promote walking and cycling. The Liberals have pledged \$3 million to establish a fund for capital works, such as footpaths, although this policy is not expressly linked to transport but, rather, to 'cleaning up our city'.

¹ Discussed in the next article.

Waste

Each major party has a policy addressing waste. Labor has a *Waste Management Strategy* aimed at reducing waste and recovering resources to achieve a sustainable, carbon-neutral Canberra. The Liberal's are committed to providing Canberran's with a third bin for garden waste, exploring collaborative models with regional counterparts to collect and process other forms of organic waste, and to provide a capital grant of \$10 million for the construction of a processing facility. The Greens have launched a 'Waste Package' targeting household organic waste, commercial, and industrial waste which make up over three quarters (77%) of the waste going to landfill in the ACT.

Infrastructure

Labor takes to the election its *ACT Planning Strategy*, which aims to create a more compact, efficient and sustainable Canberra. The Liberal's infrastructure policy is based around the establishment of an agency - *Infrastructure Canberra* – which would advise on infrastructure development for the long term interests of the city, and who's Commissioner would be guided by a 'Sustainable Infrastructure Charter'. The Greens have proposed nearly \$2.8 million of measures to 'build greener, build better and for better engagement with the community on planning matters'.

Conservation/Biodiversity

Labor's most recent views on biodiversity can be found in *AP2*, but otherwise there has been little mention of conservation or biodiversity from both Labor and the Liberals in the lead up to the election. In contrast, the Greens have policies regarding Canberra Nature Park, including a 30% increase in Park rangers and \$2.9 million to reverse existing damage and \$3 million to tackle invasive weeds. Similarly, the Greens have a biodiversity protection strategy for the ACT, including a commitment to reserve the threatened Yellow Box-Red Gum woodland and temperate grasslands at Kinlyside and Throsby.

Overall, the environmental policies proposed by Labor and the Greens, respectively, are comprehensive and far-reaching, in contrast to those available on the website of the Liberals. This is just a brief review, for more information have a look at the following websites:

<http://www.act.gov.au/> (ACT Government)

<http://www.actlabor.org.au/> (ACT Labor)

<http://www.canberraliberals.org.au/> (Canberra Liberals)

<http://act.greens.org.au/> (ACT Greens)

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Weathering the Change: Action Plan 2

On 13 September 2012 the ACT Government released its new climate change strategy, [Weathering the Change: Action Plan 2](#) (AP2).² The plan updates the Government's response to climate change and responds to the targets set by the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* (ACT). The legislated targets are a 40% reduction below 1990 levels by 2020, 80% reduction below 1990 levels by 2050, carbon neutrality by 2060 and a determination setting renewable energy targets of 15% by 2012, and 25% by 2020. These emission reduction targets require a revision of the renewable energy targets. The AP2 details the revised target, which is now 90% renewables by 2020.

In summary, the plan is to achieve the 2020 reduction target by reducing emissions from electricity, gas, transport fuel and landfill sites, with a large reduction achieved by changing the mix of electricity supply. The AP2 proposes that the Territory will develop approximately 690 megawatts of large-scale renewable energy, delivering approximately 1 900 GWhours of emissions-free electricity each year by 2020.

²www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/254947/AP2_Sept12_PRINT_NO_CROPS_SML.pdf

The plan identifies five sectors responsible for the majority of the ACT's emissions and outlines how each sector can contribute to the target by pledging eighteen actions across each sector, aimed at cutting emissions by approximately 2024 000 tonnes of CO2 by 2020.

Climate change adaption, monitoring and reporting are also included in AP2, but it is the taking of Canberra's mix of renewables to more than 90% by 2020 that is the major focus, with large-scale renewables accounting for 72% of the potential targeted emissions.

AP2 explains how each of its eighteen actions will be subject to regulatory impact assessments, implementation and risk planning, along with normal budgetary processes. An assessment of potential social equity and cost of living impacts will be completed each year and reported to the Assembly.

A change in commuter behaviour is required for the goals to be achieved, with the expectation that 30% of the journeys around the national capital will be taken on public transport within eight years.

The plan contains details of the expected costs and savings across each sector, with savings resulting from improvements in household energy efficiency and costs from renewable energy investments. Combining the two, net savings are expected at around \$30 per household per year from 2013–17. Net costs are estimated to grow from zero in 2018, peaking at around \$60 per household in 2020 before again declining. The costs of transport fuel savings are not included in this net savings calculation.

The plan acknowledges climate change and that investing in climate change mitigation often means paying now for benefits that will accrue over the medium to long term. AP2 describes the benefits of acting on climate change at both the local and global levels.

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Our Future, Our Environment Forum

With the ACT Legislative Assembly elections due to be held on 20 October 2012, there was a large gathering at the ACT Conservation Council's *Our Future, Our Environment Forum* on 21 September 2012. The forum gave the three main political parties the opportunity to describe their environmental policies, how they plan to make Canberra a more sustainable city, and what they will do to ensure the ACT's biodiversity is protected. Simon Corbell MLA, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, spoke for the ALP; Vicki Dunne MLA, Shadow Minister on Nature Conservation and Water, spoke for the Canberra Liberals; and Shane Rattenbury MLA participated as the Greens spokesperson on Environment, and on Energy. An expert panel also put a range of questions to the MLAs.

In summary, all parties committed to making a priority the long overdue completion of the review of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980* (ACT). Both the ALP and the Greens stated their commitment to protect the proposed greenfield development area of Kinlyside in North Gungahlin from urban development. The Liberals did not rule out protection but noted they had insufficient information to be able to commit to any detail. The area includes 120 hectares of critically endangered yellow-box /red-gum woodland. It was flagged in the 2004 'woodlands strategy'³ as a priority area for conservation. Simon Corbell also committed to a strategic environmental assessment of North Gungahlin. The Liberals expressed their preference for integrating biodiversity and conservation administration into a single agency covering research, policy, monitoring and regulatory functions.

All parties showed a strong commitment to improving active transport measures so that walking and cycling in the ACT might be safer and easier. The Liberals emphasised the need for improving the road infrastructure and explained their reasoning behind this.

Both the ALP and the Greens had announced their climate change policies prior to the Forum, including their strategies for achieving a 40% greenhouse gas reduction target by 2020. See the

³ ACT Government, *Woodlands for Wildlife: ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy*, Action Plan No. 27 (2004).

[Greens](#) and [ALP](#) websites for more information.

For more information, the Conservation Council has developed a 2012 ACT Election Agenda which identifies sixteen areas for action including biodiversity, climate change, planning, transport, waste, water and governance for a smarter more sustainable Canberra.

The Conservation Council and member groups: Canberra Loves 40%, Climate Action Canberra and Australian Youth Climate Coalition have prepared a scorecard on each of the party's responses to the specific measures. For more information, [click here](#).

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Inner hills protected areas may be expanded

Canberra's inner hills have long-term protection in the National Capital Plan and the Territory Plan. They form valuable wildlife corridors and include significant components of the ACT's biodiversity, which is representative of the Australian Alps and Southern Tablelands bioregions. Outstanding examples of the endangered ecological communities of yellow box / red gum grassy woodland, remnant natural temperate grasslands,⁴ and the species and genetic complexes that contribute to the diversity of those ecosystems are features of the protected areas. The Aranda Snowgums (the area known as Smith's Paddock) is listed under the *Heritage Act 2004 (ACT)*, and the Aranda Bushland in the inner hills area has pre-European yellow box / red gum grassy woodland of high conservation value.

In 2012 the Australian Heritage Council is considering a nomination of the central national area and the inner hills area to the National Heritage List, along with another Canberra-wide nomination.

⁴ Nature Conservation Species and Ecological Communities Declaration 2012 (No 1) DI2012—11. Under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth), the ecological community of *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland and derived native grassland* is listed as critically endangered and the *Natural temperate grasslands of the Southern Tablelands of NSW and the ACT* is listed as endangered

The Aranda Bushland abuts a rural lease that extends across to the greenfield development areas of the Molonglo Valley. The ACT Government advised the Friends of Aranda Bushland Inc (FoAB) in September 2012 that it had reached an agreement with the rural lessee, prior to the caretaker period for the ACT October 2012 election, that it would resume the rural lease area (with compensation to the lessee). The rural lease blocks also include high conservation value areas, and *the* nationally endangered small Purple Pea (*Swainsona recta*). Parts of the rural lease have become significantly degraded, however, due to the widespread invasion of weeds such as St John's wort, Paterson's curse and serrated tussock.

Established in 1989, FoAB is a ParkCare group dedicated to conserving and promoting the bushland areas adjacent to the suburb of Aranda. These areas adjoin Black Mountain Reserve to the east and the Mount Painter Nature Reserve to the west. The Aranda Bushland forms part of the national capital's network of reserves that comprise Canberra Nature Park (CNP).

For over ten years FoAB has been attempting to have the ACT Government expand CNP to include the rural lease blocks, or more recently, to create a new type of conservation lease. For many years FoAB has undertaken an annual workparty to remove woody weeds on parts of the rural lease, and has advocated that the lessee be required to comply with the land management agreement (LMA) and the Conservator's Directions, which are intended to protect the significant conservation values of the site. FoAB's concern is that despite the LMA and Conservator's Directions, the endangered biodiversity of the south Aranda woodland is becoming more critically compromised due to the lack of control of noxious weeds.

Beyond the issue at Aranda, there is a general concern among ACT Park Carers and environmental groups that there is a low level of compliance with, and enforcement of, LMAs.

In August 2012 FoAB lodged an application pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (ACT) regarding the rural lease blocks adjacent to the Aranda Bushland. The details of the LMA were not disclosed, as the LMA was said to contain material deemed commercial in confidence,

the disclosure of which would constitute a breach of confidence that could compromise 'business affairs'.

The importance and fragility of this area are largely accepted. Some of the documents released pursuant to the FOI application, however, indicate that the cost of managing the land reserve would be \$15 000 per year compared with no cost to the Government if the land was managed via the rural lease and the Conservator's (largely ignored) Directions, which may explain the delay in resuming the land.

The use of the land once resumed will be a matter for the incoming ACT Government. In the interim, the Department of Territory and Municipal Services is to consult with FoAB regarding priority land management activities, and liaise with the lessee in a bid to settle an appropriate course of action. The cost of weed management of one 15 ha block has been estimated at \$63 000 over the first six years of a ten-year restoration program.

FoAB is disappointed with the results of the FOI application, given that weed control and stocking rates in areas of conservation value should be in the public domain.

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ACT EDO Chair contributes to International Study for the Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) Consortium

In 2011–12 the [ICCA Consortium](#) produced international studies for a range of regions and jurisdictions that examined the laws and policies in place to recognize Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Protected Areas. The studies were structured as a Recognition Study and Legal Review of relevant laws and policies. The *Recognition Study* considers various legal, administrative, social, and other ways of recognising and supporting conservation measures by Indigenous peoples and local communities. The *Legal Review* analyses the interaction between ICCAs and international and national laws, judgments, and institutional frameworks. Both the

ways in which Indigenous peoples and local communities are working within international and national legal and institutional frameworks to secure their rights and maintain the resilience of their ICCAs. The *Recognition Study* for Australia is available [here](#). The *Legal Review* for Australia can be read [here](#).

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COMMONWEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

News from Federal Parliament:

- The Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has introduced a package of seven bills which would change the way that the carbon pricing mechanism will operate from 1 July 2015. For more information [click here](#).
- The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Declared Commercial Fishing Activities) Bill 2012* received assent on 19 September 2012. The Act effectively banned the operation of the Dutch owned Super-trawler inappropriately named “Abel Tasman”, and amends the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) to provide for the minister to establish an independent expert panel to conduct an assessment into the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of a declared commercial fishing activity and to prohibit the declared commercial fishing activity while the assessment is undertaken. This Act can be found [here](#).

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RECENT CASES

Environment Protection Authority v Queanbeyan City Council (No 3) [2012] NSWLEC 220

On 18 September 2012, the Land and Environment Court of NSW found Queanbeyan City Council guilty of one charge of water pollution against s. 120(1) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997* ('the Act'). The offence, to which the Council pleaded guilty, involved the polluting of the Queanbeyan and Molonglo River systems following the discharge of between 915,336 and 1,112,830 litres of sewage which escaped due to a pump failure on 4 November 2007. The untreated sewerage overflowed into the Queanbeyan River and travelled downstream to the Molonglo River and into Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra. On 8 November 2007 the Molonglo waterskiing area and the east basin of Lake Burley Griffin were closed. On 9 November 2007 the whole of Lake Burley Griffin was closed until 16 November 2007. The waterskiing area was reopened on 13th November 2007. The Council had been issued prevention notices by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in the years prior to the pollution incident due to previous pump failures.

His Honour Justice Pepper found that despite the 'staggering amount of effluent' discharged, the actual harm caused to the environment was insignificant, however His Honour did find there was a potential, albeit low, risk for harm to public health and the environment given the large amount of sewage discharged into the rivers and given that people use the rivers for fishing and recreational activities.⁵ His Honour further found there is an obligation on councils who provide services to the community to carry out these services in manner so as to avoid harm to the environment.⁶

⁵ *Environment Protection Authority v Queanbeyan City Council* (No 3) [2012] NSWLEC 220, 167.

⁶ *Environment Protection Authority v Queanbeyan City Council* (No 3) [2012] NSWLEC 220, 195.

Recent Cases

In determining the appropriate sentence, His Honour found the Court had jurisdiction to take into consideration the fact that pollution occurred in the ACT as a result of the commission of an offence in NSW and that the Act operates extraterritorially insofar as it allows the Court to take into account the totality of the environmental harm caused.

Orders were made against the Queanbeyan Council including:

- Payment of \$80,000 to the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority to be used for the Numeralla East Landscape Project (a Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority project where landholders, Landcare, local government and NSW Crown Lands work together to implement works to improve fish habitat and water quality in the Numeralla East sub-catchment);
- Payment of EPA's legal costs being \$343,000; and
- Payment of \$1,189 for the EPA's investigative costs and expenses.

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LAW REFORM AND POLICY

EDO Submissions

- ANEDO Submission on the Renewable Energy Target Review – Issues Paper - 14 Sept 2012.

[Click here](#)

- ANEDO Submission to Expert Panel on the Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait People in the Australian Constitution 29 Sep 2011. [Click here](#)

- ACT EDO Submission on proposed reduction of ‘green tape’ in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) – Sept 2012. [Click here](#)

- ACT EDO Submission on proposed nomination of the Canberra — Central National Area and Inner Hills to the National Heritage Lists – June 2012. [Click here](#)

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Opportunities to Comment – ACT

ACT Nature Conservation Strategy

A draft of the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2012-2022 (the draft) has been released. The purpose of the strategy is to guide a coordinated and integrated approach to nature conservation in the ACT and region. The strategy aims to assist future planning of and investment in the ACT’s open spaces, rural areas, urban areas, riverine corridors, and nature reserves. For a copy of the draft, [click here](#). Public consultation is welcomed and instructions on how to make a submission are outlined on pages 26-27 of the draft. Submissions close on 10 December 2012.

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Environment Protection Act 1997 (ACT)

The Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate is reviewing the *Environment Protection Act 1997* (the Act) and the *Environment Protection Regulation 2005* (the Regulation) on behalf of the ACT government. The Act promotes shared responsibility in protecting the ACT's environment and provides for mechanisms to reduce or eliminate pollution discharges into the air, land and water. Public submissions are welcomed and the Discussion Paper on the review is available [here](#). The Discussion Paper should be read in conjunction with the Act, which can be found [here](#), and the Regulation, which can be found [here](#). Submissions close on 6 November 2012.

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Opportunities to Comment – Commonwealth

Water Amendment (Long-term Average Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment) Bill 2012

On 11 October 2012 the Senate referred the *Water Amendment (Long-term Average Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment) Bill 2012* to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications for inquiry and report. The Committee is seeking written submissions from interested individuals and organisations. Submissions should be received by 26 October 2012. The reporting date is 19 November 2012.

For more information, [click here](#).

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Biosecurity legislation

The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has released the new biosecurity legislation and associated consultation regulation impact statement for public comment. This is an opportunity for stakeholders to have their say on Australia's biosecurity

arrangements. The consultation program comprises online discussion via the website, public consultation meetings from 30 July to 6 August 2012 or by making a [formal submission](#). The closing date for comment is 24 October 2012. The schedule of public consultation meetings and further information can be found [here](#).

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Fisheries management system

The Fisheries Minister has released the Terms of Reference for the first major review of Australia's fisheries management system in two decades. The scope of the review has now been broadened to include the *Fisheries Management Act 1991 (Cth)* and *Fisheries Administration Act 1991 (Cth)*.

The review will recommend changes to Australia's fisheries legislation in order to reflect environmental, economic and social considerations as part of a modern fisheries management system, and will examine any required changes to the fisheries management legislation to reflect the objective of a precautionary principle. The closing date for comment is 26 October 2012. Further information can be found on the [here](#).

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Australian Carbon Pricing Mechanism

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has released an exposure draft of the Clean Energy Amendment Regulation 2012, which covers the liquid fuels Opt-in Scheme and restrictions on the surrender of specified eligible international emissions units.

The draft regulations implement qualitative surrender restrictions as provided for in Part 6, Division 2 of the *Clean Energy Act 2011*. The draft regulations and an explanatory note to assist stakeholders may be found on the [public consultation page](#) of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's website.

These qualitative restrictions were previously announced by the Government in *Securing a clean energy future: The Australian Government's climate change plan* (Table 8 on p.107).

Temporary and long term CERs (tCERs and ICERs) are already excluded from being eligible for surrender under the carbon pricing mechanism.

As part of the exposure process, the Department is seeking submissions on the draft regulations. Submissions should consider the practical operation and application of the draft regulations.

Submissions should be sent by email to the Department

(ce.regulations@climatechange.gov.au) by close of business, Monday, 12 November 2012.

For more information, [click here](#).

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Environmental Law Policy Developments

EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) Environmental Offsets Policy (the policy) and the accompanying Offsets Assessment Guide (the guide) have been released as part of the National Environment Law Reform agenda.

The policy provides guidance on the role of offsets in environmental impact assessments and how the department considers the suitability of a proposed offset. The policy seeks to improve environmental outcomes through the application of best practice offset principles, provide more certainty and transparency, and encourage advanced planning of offsets.

The Offsets Assessment guide has been developed to give effect to the policy's requirements with a 'balance sheet' to quantify impacts and offsets. It applies where the impacted protected matter is a threatened species or ecological community. It is to be used as a tool for expert

users in the department when assessing the suitability of offset proposals and/or proponents when planning and estimating future offset requirements.

For more information, [click here](#).

See also [ANEDO's submission](#) on the draft EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy 21 Oct 2011.

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Murray-Darling Basin Plan

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has released modelling of the relaxation of operational constraints in the southern connected system in response to the NSW Ministerial Council's request for a model of a 3200 GL/y environmental water recovery scenario assuming that several river operating constraints were removed or relaxed. The Authority had previously completed modelling of three different amounts of water recovered for the environment (2400, 2800 and 3200GL/y). During this work it became clear that river operating constraints impact on achieving certain environmental outcomes, particularly for mid and high floodplain environments in the southern Basin.

The key constraints that were relaxed in this model include the amount of water that can be released from the Hume dam down the Murray River, from Menindee Lakes down the Darling River, and changes to peak flows from the Murray's other main tributaries, the Murrumbidgee and Goulburn Rivers.

For more information and to download the full report, [click here](#).

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EVENTS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Carbon farming conference and expo – carbon farming week 2012

The Carbon Farming Conference and Expo will be held in Dubbo, 23-25 October 2012.

Workshops include Carbon Farming 101 to help participants get up to speed with the language, terms and basics of the Carbon Market, also Profiting from the Carbon Farming Revolution and an ***Advanced Carbon Farming Workshop***. The latest advances in Carbon Farming and Sequestration technologies will be on display and presenters and exhibitors include experts in advanced Carbon Farming techniques and Government representatives.

For more information or to register, [click here](#).

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Be Natural Landcare Grants Program

20 grants of up to \$2,500 are up for grabs for volunteer community groups to work on projects such as building local community gardens or creating indoor edible gardens within community centres. The Program's aim is to get volunteers involved across community oriented environmental projects so if you're interested in getting a local environmental project off the ground, like a community garden, greening an urban space or inner-city veggie patch, [click here](#).

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30th anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act 1982

This anniversary shall be celebrated on the morning of the 27th of November 2012 at the National Portrait Gallery, Parkes Place, Canberra. The event will provide an opportunity to reflect on the historic role of freedom of information in our government and society. It will also provide a chance to hear leading speakers in the field discuss their thoughts on freedom of information and open government in Australia.

Places are limited and registration is essential. Contact corporate@oaic.gov.au by 15 November 2012.

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Water Law and Policy Conference 2012

The Australian Centre for Environmental Law, ANU College of Law will hold the Water Law & Policy Conference 2012, *The State of National Water Resources Management* on 7 December 2012. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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Australian Sustainable Cities Awards 2012

The Keep Australia Beautiful National Association is hosting the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards 2012 on Thursday 29 November from 2:00pm – 8:30pm. The event will include a workshop, awards, and dinner. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Registration closes 15 November 2012.

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2012 ACCEL Conference

On Monday 10 December 2012 from 2:00pm – 5:30pm, the Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law (ACCEL) at the Sydney Law School is hosting the 2012 ACCEL Conference, *Climate Change, Catastrophic Risk and Disaster Law*. This conference provides the latest scientific evidence on climate change and potential disasters. It discusses how the risk of such disasters should be spread between government, insurers and civil society and provides a framework for thinking about the evolution of Climate Disaster Law in the context of climate justice. For the conference program and to register, [click here](#).

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EDO NSW Workshop in Canberra: Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc. National Conference

EDO NSW lawyers will be presenting a workshop on private conservation as part of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc. National Conference which will be held on 29 October – 2 November 2012. The workshop will be held on Thursday 1 November 2012 and will examine the various options available to landholders with regards to conserving their land and discuss some of the legal issues that landholders should be aware of.

For more information, to view the program, and to register visit the [click here](#).

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National Cool Streets Lunch

Total Environment Centre is hosting the National Cool Streets Lunch on Monday 29 October to discuss how to cool our cities. Hear Michael Mobbs, author of Sustainable House and the new Sustainable Food, and Jeff Angel, Executive Director of Total Environment Centre, talk about the value of cool streets and the initiatives they are working on to help you turn your street into a cool one. For more information, [click here](#).

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2013 NELA National Conference

The 2013 NELA National Conference will be held from 7-9 March in Melbourne and focuses on Delivering a Clean Energy Future. The Conference brings together different aspects of clean energy law, including environment and climate change lawyers and those at the forefront of environment protection, resources and energy regulation & planning, carbon and biodiversity credits and emissions trading. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EDO TAS – Part-time Solicitor

The EDO TAS is looking for a part-time Environmental Lawyer to assist with advice, casework and community legal education activities. This is an excellent opportunity for someone with a strong interest in social justice to use their skills to help protect the environment. Experience in planning or environmental law is preferred, but not essential for the position. The successful applicant will need good legal skills, an understanding of policy and law reform issues, excellent communication skills and be able to work confidently with media.

For more information about this position, contact Jess Feehely on (03) 6223 2770 or jess.feehely@edo.org.au.

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EDO WA – Principal Solicitor

EDO Western Australia is seeking an experienced and committed environmental lawyer eligible to hold an unrestricted practicing certificate in WA, for the position of Principal Solicitor. The Principal Solicitor has overall responsibility for the legal practice and organisational management of EDO WA.

This position will not become vacant until 3 February 2013. Applicants are encouraged to apply by **26 October 2012**, however applications may continue to be accepted, in the discretion of the Management Committee, until a suitable candidate is offered and accepts the position. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

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Positions Available

EDO WA – Administration Assistant

EDO Western Australia is seeking an enthusiastic part time Administration Officer, with strong administrative, organisational and communication skills to support the work of the Coordinator and Solicitors. Applications must be received by **12 October 2012**. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

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EDO Northern Queensland – Principal Solicitor

EDO Northern Queensland is seeking a Principal Solicitor to provide advice and casework services, law reform and legal policy work, community education, and management of operations in its Cairns office. Applications close **19 October 2012**. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

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Positions Available at Conservation Council ACT

The Conservation Council are looking for enthusiastic and motivated people with an interest in and knowledge of environmental issues to fill the following positions:

Assistant Director - Policy and Communications

Full or part-time. Support the organisation in the key areas of policy and advocacy and communications and event management.

Bush on the Boundary Coordinator

Full or part-time. Engaging the community and designing policy for urban-environment interface issues.

Positions Available

Treasures Project Officer

Co-ordinating the publication and launch of our Treasures booklet series. Managing events at the 2013 Heritage Festival.

For position descriptions and selection criteria, visit the [click here](#) or contact Robyn Coventry on (02) 6229 3200 or at finance@consact.org.au.

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Environmental Defenders Office

The Environmental Defender's Office is a non-profit community legal centre based in Canberra.

We advise on environmental and planning law and aim to increase public awareness of environmental laws and remedies.

We advise on questions of Commonwealth and Australian Capital Territory law.

We offer a free telephone advice service on environmental-law questions.

Appointments with our solicitor are also available.

Office	Level 1/14 Childers Street (opposite the Street Theatre) Canberra City ACT 2601
Post	GPO Box 574, Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone	(02) 6243 3460
Fax	(02) 6243 3461
Email	edoact@edo.org.au

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