

EDO ACT Newsletter



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ACT Environmental News

ACT NEWS

Public launch of the Australian Centre for Corporate Responsibility

The Australian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) was formally launched at the Legislative Assembly on 29 May 2013. The ACCR is a not-for-profit association with a mission to promote ethical investment. In particular the association aims to facilitate informed shareholder engagement and advocacy to promote just and sustainable corporate activity. The ACCR has the potential to encourage people to explore what the companies they own are doing to the poorest peoples of the world.

Tim Costello AO chaired the event and ACT Members from each party spoke at the event, namely, Minister Joy Burch MLA (ALP), Minister Shane Rattenbury MLA (Greens) and Brendan Smyth MLA (Liberal) making the ACT the first jurisdiction where MPs have provided cross-party support for this initiative and in doing so have set an influential bench-mark for other States.

The ACCR is a not-for-profit organization. For more details go to their website [here](#).

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2013 ACT Landcare Awards

Nominations for the 2013 ACT Landcare Awards are open are open till Sunday **30 June 2013**.

Download an application form from the Landcare Australia [website](#).

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Important information for painters

The Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate has released some important information for people who work in this industry. Paint and painting related pollutants can poison aquatic animals and plants if they enter the storm water system without treatment. Information on how to protect the environment is available [here](#) and we recommend anyone to send this link on to anyone who may be involved in paint related industries.

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Wood Heater Replacement Program

This Program offers subsidies for replacing a wood heater or fireplace with a mains-supplied natural gas heater. The subsidy is offered to eligible householders for reducing Canberra's air pollution by replacing old wood heaters. For more information please visit the ACT Government [webpage](#).

If you don't want to replace your wood heater but are looking for advice on minimizing smoke emissions, please read the following advice on [wood heaters and their emissions](#).

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News from Around the Nation

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

EDO Victoria: suing state government over threatened species.

Environmentalists have launched an action in the Victorian Supreme Court suing the state government for a failure to draw up plans for the survival of threatened species. The Environment Defenders Office allege the government is in breach of state environment laws because it has not prepared recovery plans for four threatened species including the Glossy Black Cockatoo, long-nosed potoroo, the eastern she-oak skink and the large brown tree frog. The state's endangered species laws – the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988* (Vic) – requires the secretary of the environment department to prepare as soon as possible an action statement for a species or ecological community after it is put on the threatened species list.

The glossy black cockatoo was first included on Victoria's threatened species list in 1995, meaning it has been waiting 18 years for an action statement.

The eastern she-oak skink was listed in 2000, the long-nosed potoroo in 2002 and the large brown tree frog in 2003.

There are over 300 species listed as threatened under the Act that are yet to have an action statement prepared for its recovery.

The EDO is acting on behalf of green group Environment East Gippsland. Principal lawyer with the Victorian EDO, Felicity Millner, has stated it will be a landmark case. For more information please visit the [EDO Victoria website](#).

EDO WA: challenge to the WA Environmental Protection Authority's assessment process

Despite Woodside and its Joint Venture Partners having walked away from the proposed gas hub at James Price Point, The Wilderness Society's Supreme Court challenge against its assessment and approval process will continue. EDOWA will be acting as junior counsel in the proceedings. The legal challenge concerns the WA EPA's decisions approving the \$35B LNG Hub at James Price Point in the Kimberley and its approval of Woodside Energy's derived proposal for an LNG facility.

Wilderness Society (WA) State Coordinator, Peter Robertson, said while the organisation would continue its legal fight against a seriously defective EPA assessment process, the battle had effectively been won."

Click [here](#) for more information.

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Mining Law in NSW: A guide for the community

This booklet is a plain-English guide to the law on mining in NSW. The publication is aimed at mining and CSG affected communities and offers landholders a step-by-step legal guide to dealing with mining companies, and understanding their rights and obligations under the law.

EDO NSW has prepared this guide in consultation with the NSW community and key government departments. It has been produced with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust. It is our hope that that the guide will help the people of NSW to understand their rights and obligations with regards to CSG developments and assist them to use the law to the fullest extent possible to protect their interests and those of the environment.

Click [here](#) for your copy of the Guide.

Other Guides may be found [here](#).

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Humane Society International seeks benefits for conservation and animal welfare in Queensland cattle grazing debate.

On May 16, the Humane Society International (HSI) congratulated Minister Burke for standing up to the Queensland Government over grazing in National Parks.

HSI, the largest animal protection not-for-profit organization in the world, expressed alarm at the environmentally damaging proposals put forward by the Queensland Government. With an aim of achieving a better solution for both stakeholders, HSI Senior Program Manager, Alexia Wellbelove stated that *“Queensland’s cattle are in severe need of food resources...[however] it is vital that the conservation values in the National Parks are not severely compromised, and the welfare of cattle should be dealt with by sensible and separate measures – such as through food drops or other assistance packages.”*

HSI urges the minister to further examine the impacts of cattle grazing in the National Parks to listed threatened species and ecological communities.

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Recycling Grants

Apply now for a local community grant to increase beverage container recycling. Applications are now open for community grants of up to \$10,000 to help increase the recycling of beverage containers.

The Keep Australia Beautiful grants, funded by Coca-Cola, are open to community groups, local associations, small to medium enterprises and local councils.

Grants will be awarded to groups with a proven ability to implement, measure and report on a

measurable increase in beverage container recycling in local communities.

For more information and to apply please click [here](#).

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UTS hosts Australia's Environmental Challenges Discussion Panel

Senior academics from the UTS Faculty of Law and UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures will speak about Australia's most pressing environmental challenges and how their research will contribute to addressing those issues. A Q&A session will be held after the panel discussion.

This event is being held as a compliment to the 2013 IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium. Representatives from the Colloquium will be attending, presenting an excellent opportunity to network with other environmental law specialists from around the world. Drinks and canapés will precede the panel discussion.

Welcome by Professor Lesley Hitchens, Dean, UTS:Law.

Speakers include Jonathan La Nauze (Chair), Acting Healthy Ecosystems Program Manager, Australian Conservation Foundation; Dr Sophie Riley, Senior Lecturer, UTS:Law; Dr Angela Dwyer, Senior Lecturer, UTS:Law; Professor Natalie Stoianoff, Director, Intellectual Property Program, UTS:Law; Joanne Chong, Research Director, UTS: Institute for Sustainable Futures; and Dr David Leary, Senior Lecturer, UTS:Law.

When: Monday, 1 July 2013 6:00-7:30pm.

Where: UTS Faculty of Law, Cnr of Quay St & Ultimo Rd, Haymarket

Cost: Free.

RSVP: Click [here](#) to register online by **25 June 2013**.

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Commonwealth Environmental News

COMMONWEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Water Trigger Bill

Announcement of the EPBC Amendment Bill 2013: Water trigger bill

On 14 May 2013 the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 was introduced to the Senate. This Bill seeks to introduce a ninth matter of national environmental significance, a 'water trigger' under the EPBC Act. The amendment will ensure the federal government retains control of this matter particularly in relation to impacts coal seam gas activities have on Australia's water resources.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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News from Around the World

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Supreme Court of India rules in favour of Asiatic Lions

Only 400 Asiatic Lions are left in the world. They all live in and around Gir National Park in the State of Gujarat, India. With all the lions living in one place, an epidemic could wipe out the entire population.

In May, the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide ([ELAW](#)) announced terrific news on a landmark Supreme Court ruling that will help save the lions. The Court ordered the government to re-locate part of this lion population to the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forest in the State of Madhya Pradesh.



ELAW partner Ritwick Dutta said that the ruling not only directs the translocation of the Asiatic Lion from the state of Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh, but expands the meaning of the right to life to include the protection and conservation of wildlife. The judgment also calls for the reinterpretation of the Principle of Sustainable Development "in a manner which is more eco-centric."

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Whaling in the Antarctic before the International Court of Justice

Conference hosted by ANU College of Law, Centre for International and Public Law

This conference seeks to review the background to *Whaling in the Antarctic* case, the Australian application before the International Court of Justice with respect to Japan's conduct of its JARPAII whaling program in the Southern Ocean, the proceedings to dates and the possible implications of the case for the International Whaling Commission.

Speakers at this conference include ANU College of Law Associate Professor Don Anton, ANU College of Law Associate Professor Donald R. Rothwell, Sydney Law School Associate Professor Tim Stephens and International Fund for Animal Welfare's Mathew Collis.

When: Friday 7 June, 9am-1pm

Where: Innovations Theatre, corner of Eggleston and Garran roads ANU, Canberra ACT

Please register for this event before 6 June 2013 at the [event website](#).

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Glacier protected in Chile

The Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) has shared some wonderful news that plans by Barrick Gold to remove a glacier in the Andes to make way for a gold mine have been shelved by a Chilean court.

In a press release, ELAW partners at the Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA) in Cordoba, Argentina wrote:

"This confirms what communities and regulators having been saying for months: Barrick Gold is impacting glaciers, destroying high mountain wetlands, contaminating precious waterways with heavy metals, and ignoring regulations and official demands to clean up its act."

The gold mine that would have straddled Chile and Argentina was proposed for a site at the headwaters of the Estrecho River, under three glaciers that feed irrigation systems for 70,000 small farmers in the Huasco Valley, 660 km north of Santiago. Olive, grape, and vegetable farmers feared the project would harm local water supplies.

Congratulations to [CEDHA](#) and [FIMA](#) and everyone else who worked on the challenge!

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Law Reform and Policy

LAW REFORM AND POLICY

EDO ACT Submissions

- EDO (ACT) Submission to Budget Consultation Process 2013 — April 2013. Click [here](#).
- Submission on the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Draft Reports — April 2013. Click [here](#).
- Submission on the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Amendment Bill 2013* — May 2013. Click [here](#).

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Submissions from the National EDO network (ANEDO)

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the impacts on health of air quality in Australia, 8 March 2013 – Click [here](#).

Submission on Productivity Commission Issues Paper – Major Project Development Assessment Processes, 25 March 2013 – Click [here](#).

Opportunities to Comment - ACT

Heritage Amendment Bill 2013

Following the review of the *Heritage Act 2004* in May 2013 the ACT Government tabled a draft Amendment Bill in the Legislative Assembly. The Government is seeking the views of stakeholders and the community and has invited written submissions until **14 June 2013**.

The Amendment Bill can be found [here](#).

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Opportunities to Comment - Commonwealth

Climate Change Authority Caps and Targets Review

The Climate Change Authority has commenced a review of Australia's emissions reduction targets. This review will recommend emissions reduction targets for Australia and report on how we are tracking towards these targets. The Climate Change Authority has released an Issues Paper on the proposed approach to the Caps and Targets Review.

*Submissions on the matter raised in the Issues Paper closed on **30 May 2013** however if you wish to make a submission the website will remain open. For more information or to have your say go the [website](#).*

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Events and Community News

EVENTS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Biodiversity Offsets Forum - 11 June

While other States have had offsets schemes in place for quite some time, and the Commonwealth adopted its own policy in 2012, the ACT is yet to adopt a policy on offsets. This is despite offsets being employed by the ACT Government as a major tool to compensate for impacts on biodiversity from ongoing development and urban expansion in Canberra and the ACT region, including for example in North Gungahlin. The Conservation Council is hosting a members and experts' forum specifically on the development of biodiversity offsets policy in the ACT.

Dr Phil Gibbons from the Australian National University Fenner School of Environment and Society, who played a major role in the development of the Commonwealth Offsets Policy, will be our guest speaker.

When: 11 June, 12:00 – 1.30pm

Where: Alan Barton Forum room, Level 2, ANU College of Business and Economics Building.

A light lunch will be provided.

RSVP to Julie Melrose: campaign@conservationcouncil.org.au

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Neil Hobbs and the World Landscape Art Exposition in China

Open Gardens Australia invites you to a talk by one of Australia's leading Landscape Architects

China is staging a huge exposition between May and October this year. The site covers an area 3 kilometres x 1 kilometre in the new Jinzhou City on the edge of the Bohai Sea.

Only 20 leading landscape architects from around the world were invited to design gardens for the exposition and Neil's landscape practice Harris - Hobbs has created the only Australian garden - The Garden of the Southern Cross.

Neil will talk about the huge site and inspiring scheme, the individual gardens, his own creation, and the challenges of working in China, all fully illustrated with photographs.

National Museum, Canberra

Thursday 20 June 2013, 5.30pm - 7.30pm

\$25 per person includes talk and post event canapés/drinks

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Green Drinks Canberra – 11 June 2013

Green Drinks Canberra is a monthly event for socialising and professional networking, created for those interested in environmental sustainability and eco-efficiency. The next Green Drinks Canberra event will be held Tuesday 11 June 2013. Click [here](#) for more details.

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Do the Math

Following publication of his Rolling Stone article, **Global Warming's Terrifying New Math**, Bill McKibben - documentary maker, award-winning author and environmentalist - and 350.org hit the road to build a movement strong enough to change the terrifying math of the climate crisis by getting people, colleges and governments to take their cash out of coal investments. Bill McKibbin is in Australia in June talking about global warming and why our country's planned expansion of coal mining really counts when you 'do the math'. As McKibben explains, we can emit 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide and stay below 2°C of warming. Anything more than that risks catastrophe for life on earth. The 'inconvenient' problem is that the burning of fossil fuels that corporations now have in their reserves would result in emitting 2,795 gigatons of carbon dioxide – five times the safe amount. The massive coal expansion planned by Australian companies and governments is one of a handful of projects in the world that would take the planet beyond the point of no return if they were to go ahead.

For further information about the documentary, to host your own screening and other events, click [here](#).

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Power Shift 2013 – 13 – 15 July

[Power Shift 2013](#) is Australia's largest ever youth climate summit. This July, 2,000 young people will come together in Melbourne for a 3-day summit about climate change, sustainability and campaigning. The focus of the summit will be the Federal Election. Young people will be putting climate change front and centre on the political agenda.

The three days will include:

- Speakers (e.g. James Hansen NASA, Tim Flannery, Paul Gilding, Bill McKibben, more)
- A political Q&A with all major political parties
- Valuable skill workshops

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

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ACT and Region Annual Australian Heritage Partnership Symposium 2013

A centenary of celebrating heritage – the centenary of Canberra 2013

The Symposium will present Canberra's heritage, past & present, through a range of media.

Date: Saturday 20 July 2013

Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm

Venue: Sir Roland Wilson Building Theatre, Bldg 120, ANU Campus

Cost: \$70 full, \$50 members of the host organisations, \$30 concessions & full-time students

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Positions Available

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EDO NT position vacant

Principal Lawyer/CEO Position at EDO Northern Territory

Senior Education Lawyer

Are you a lawyer who wants to make a difference and be inspired by what you do? The Environmental Defenders Office (NT) Inc. is looking for a Principal Lawyer/CEO to manage the legal practice at the EDO NT office in Darwin and a Senior Education Lawyer to deliver and access to justice in an environmental law project.

Click [here](#) for more detail.

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EDO VIC position vacant

Solicitor

EDO Vic is seeking a solicitor to join its legal advice and litigation team. The successful candidate will work under EDO Vic's Principal Solicitor as part of a collaborative team of lawyers.

Applications close Friday 14 June 2013. Click [here](#) to find out more.

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Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)

General Counsel

- High profile, leading environmental organisation.
- Full time permanent role with flexible working arrangements.
- FTE salary of \$105,484 including 10% superannuation.

Applications close **3 June 2013**. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

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Environmental Defender's Office

The Environmental Defender's Office is a non-profit community legal centre based in Canberra. We advise on environment and planning law and aim to increase public awareness of environmental law and available 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.

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