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EDO NSW EBULLETIN – December 20, 2017: Number 1037

A free weekly bulletin that includes news, events, notices and opportunities for public comment, which are also listed on our website in [Have Your Say](#).

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EDO NSW News and Events

Season's greetings and Snapshots 2017

This is our final eBulletin for 2017. We wish all our readers a happy and safe holiday period.

It's been an eventful year for the EDO. In an end-of-year blog post, David Morris reflects a little on his first months as CEO and provides a snapshot of just some of the critical legal work undertaken by the EDO NSW team during the year.

[Read the blog >>](#)



New Rural Land Clearing fact sheet



If you're interested in the new land clearing laws, check out our latest plain-English fact sheet. It describes the new regulatory framework governing the clearing of vegetation in rural areas of NSW and how this interacts with other environmental laws, including those protecting threatened species and native animals and plants.

This fact sheet will be useful for landholders who wish to clear land in rural areas and anyone concerned about land clearing activity.

[Read more and download the fact sheet >>](#)

Marine biodiversity: Beyond national jurisdiction



Findings from an expert forum in early 2017, organised by Humane Society International (HSI), the Australian Committee for IUCN and EDO NSW, have now been collated and published as a short report. The forum looked at the challenge of protecting marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. EDO NSW is working on oceans law reform with HSI, work that will continue in 2018.

[Find the report here >>](#)

2017 has been a big year for us – 2018 will be even bigger!



2018 is shaping up to be a busy year for EDO NSW.

We'll continue our vital work across the spectrum of environmental law for a range of clients – providing direct support, legal advice and education; gaining access to information; forensically examining environment and planning laws; facilitating expert scientific evidence; and bringing rigorously researched cases to court.

We need your help to continue this important litigation, policy and law reform and community legal education work.

If you have already donated, thank you! If not, please consider making an end-of-year gift to our Environmental Defence Fund or joining our monthly giving group Friends of the EDO.

[Please make a tax-deductible donation to our Defence Fund >>](#)

[Join the Friends of the EDO >>](#)

Court and Compliance Watch

EPA hands Solo \$30,000 in fines for breaches at Gateshead facility

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has fined Solo Waste Pty Ltd a total of \$30,000 after a number of waste management shortcomings were discovered at their Gateshead facility.

During a routine inspection of the site in November, EPA officers observed poor waste storage practices and pollution control mechanisms.

The EPA directed the company to take immediate action to improve the management of waste on site and issued two fines of \$15,000 each.

[Read more >>](#)

Steggles convicted and fined \$84,000 after ammonia leak

The Land and Environment Court has convicted and fined Steggles Foods Mt Kuring-gai Pty Ltd \$84,000 after a fault with the company's refrigeration system led to an ammonia gas leak which caused harm to two company employees in December 2015.

Steggles holds an environment protection licence, issued to it by the EPA, to process livestock and produce general animal products at their Mundowi Road Kuring-gai factory.

Steggles entered a guilty plea in April 2017 after co-operating with the EPA's investigation.

[Read more >>](#)

Law Reform and Policy Watch

Recent EDO submissions and reports

- [Draft Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Marine diversity: Beyond national jurisdiction](#) – HSI, EDO NSW, Australian Committee for IUCN
- [Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan](#) – EDO NSW submission to Greater Sydney Commission
- [Community Engagement Strategy Crown Land Management Act 2016](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Review of Environmental and Planning Assessment Regulation 2000 \(Issues paper\)](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Proposed adjustment to Sustainable Diversion Limit \(SDL\) Adjustment Mechanism](#) – EDO Australia submission
- [Protected Plant Sustainable Management Plans 2018-22](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Inquiry into the Integrity of the Water Market in the Murray-Darling Basin](#) – EDOs of Australia submission
- [Draft Technical Notes supporting Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Draft Crown Land Regulation 2017](#) – EDO NSW submission

- [Draft management plans for Australian Marine Parks that are managed by Parks Australia – EDOs of Australia submission](#)

Find all our law reform submissions and briefing papers [on our website](#).

New legislation introduced to Parliament

[Australian Parliament](#)

- *No new relevant bills have been introduced into Parliament since the last eBulletin.*

[NSW Parliament](#)

- *No new relevant bills have been introduced into Parliament since the last eBulletin.*

Local Environmental Plan tracking

- *No new listings have been placed on exhibition since the last eBulletin.*

To access the LEP tracking system, visit the Department of Planning and Environment [website](#), go to *Current Proposals* and search for 'On Exhibition'. Read more about LEPs in our [Fact Sheets](#). Visit your [local council's website](#) to see if there are any planning proposals or LEP changes open for public comment.

Have Your Say Alerts – Opportunities to Comment

The eBulletin gives alerts for opportunities to comment on changes to law and policy and activities that may impact the environment in your area. For a comprehensive list of current opportunities to have your say on a range of environment and planning matters, visit our [Have Your Say site](#).

This online resource [also helps the community to effectively engage](#) with decision-makers and [request a workshop](#) for your community. We are always trying to improve our community resources and seek your feedback on the effectiveness of Have Your Say. You can help us by [checking out the site](#) and [completing a short three-question survey](#).

Consultations

- **Review of regional forest agreements**

The NSW and Australian governments are required to review the Regional Forest Agreements every 5 years to assess progress regarding ecologically sustainable forest management. The review provides an assessment of progress against established milestones.

Submissions are invited until 23 February 2018.

[Read more and have your say >>](#)

- **Primary Production Planning Reforms**

The Department of Planning and Environment is seeking feedback on planning reforms to support sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and rural development.

Submissions are invited until Monday 15 January 2018.

[Read more and have your say >>](#)

- **Sirius building Sydney**

The Department of Planning and Environment has prepared zoning, height and Gross Floor Area controls for this site in advance of a sale process by landowner Property NSW.

The proposal aims to change the planning controls prior to the sale.

[Read more and have your say >>](#)

- **Review of seven existing State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)**

The Department of Planning and Environment is seeking feedback on reforms to update planning instruments and a new draft SEPP.

The proposed new SEPP is State Environmental Planning Policy – Environment.

Changes are proposed to the following planning instruments:

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011
- Greater Metropolitan Regional Environmental Plan No. 2 – Georges River
- Sydney Regional Environmental Planning Policy No. 20 Hawkesbury Nepean River (No.2-1997).
- State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas
- Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005
- State Environmental Planning Policy No. 50 – Canal Estate Development
- Willandra Lakes Regional Environmental Plan No.1 – World Heritage Property

Submissions are invited until Wednesday 31 January 2018.

[Read more and have your say >>](#)

- **Border Rivers Valley Floodplain**

The Department of Industry – Water invites feedback on the draft Floodplain Management Plan for the Borders Rivers Valley Floodplain. This Plan seeks to manage the development of flood works.

Submissions are invited until Friday 9 March 2018.

[Read the notice >>](#)

- **Bellinger Water Sharing Plan Reviews**

The Natural Resources Commission invites submissions to its reviews of the water sharing plans of the Bellinger Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2008 and Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources 2008.

Submissions are invited until Friday 16 February 2018.

[Read more and have your say >>](#)

Threatened Species and Endangered Ecological Community Listings

- *No new listings have been placed on exhibition since the last eBulletin.*

For a full listing of threatened species and endangered ecological community listings currently open for public comment, visit the [NSW Office of Environment and Heritage website](#) and the [Australian Department of the Environment website](#).

Fisheries assessments

- *No new assessments have been placed on exhibition since the last eBulletin.*

For a full listing of fisheries assessments currently open for public comment, visit the [NSW Department of Primary Industries website](#) and the [Australian Department of the Environment website](#).

Plans of Management: Invitation to comment

- *No new plans have been placed on exhibition since the last eBulletin.*

The full listing of plans of management for protected areas can be viewed on the [Office of Environment and Heritage website](#). To learn more about the Plans of Management, see our [Fact Sheet on Protected Areas](#).

Major Project proposals: Invitation to comment

- [Wellington](#) – This project seeks to develop a 174 megawatt solar farm and associated infrastructure.

- [Fairfield West](#) –Alterations and additions to Fairfield High School, including construction of new several storey classrooms.
- [Yelgun](#) – The Cultural Events Site in North Byron Parklands is proposing to change their event capacity and type to reflect a permanent cultural events site. A [second application](#) is then presented to allow for changes of patron size to up to 50,000 patrons.

For a full listing of major project proposals currently open for public comment, visit the Department of Planning and Environment's [website](#). To learn more about the planning process for major projects, read our [Fact Sheet](#) on State Significant Development and State Significant Infrastructure.

EPBC Referrals: Invitation to comment

- [Inverell, NSW](#) –Sapphire Solar Farm Project, including solar arrays, battery-based storage facilities, power conversion units, as well as other elements.

Referrals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) can be viewed on the Australian Environment Department's [website](#). To learn more, read our [Fact Sheet on the EPBC Act](#).

New Coal and Petroleum Exploration Licence Applications

- *No new coal or petroleum exploration licence applications have been listed since the last eBulletin.*

To view current coal and petroleum (including CSG) exploration licence applications and approvals, visit the Minerals and Petroleum [website](#). The [NSW Government Gazette](#) also contains a list of all exploration and mining lease applications and determinations. Public comment can be made on coal and petroleum (including CSG) exploration licence applications on the Minerals and Petroleum [website](#). To learn more, read the EDO NSW publication [Mining Law in NSW: A guide for the community](#).

Community News

NSW North Coast Koala Study

This survey is part of a research project to identify where koalas are seen in the North Coast region and to learn your preferences for future koala management and conservation.

[Read more >>](#)

Law Society of NSW Women's Mentoring Program 2018

The Law Society is looking for mentees and mentors for the Women's Mentoring Program 2018.

The program connects women in the profession with experienced law practitioners and leaders to support, encourage and promote their career progression through a mutually beneficial mentoring relationship. Applications close Wednesday 17 January 2018.

[Read more »](#)

2018 Environmental Law Symposium

The Legal Practice Section of the Law Council of Australia will be hosting the 2018 Environmental Law Symposium at the NSW Law Society. The event will include a special presentation honouring the contribution of Justice Murray Wilcox AO QC to environmental jurisprudence in Australia.

When: Thursday 19 April 2018 11:45am – late (dinner)
Where: NSW Law Society 170 Phillip St Sydney

[Read more »](#)

2018 Mahla Pearlman Oration

The Legal Practice Section and the Environment and Planning Law Association of NSW will be co-hosting this event. The oration will be delivered by former Chief Justice of the High Court, the Honourable Robert French AC, who will be introduced by Justice Pepper.

The oration will also include the presentation of the Mahla Pearlman Australian Young Environmental Lawyer of the Year Award.

When: Thursday 19 April 2018 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Where: Federal Court of Australia, Sydney

[Read more >>](#)

Support EDO NSW

We need your help to keep defending our environment

EDO NSW has been providing critical legal support to communities for 30 years. We are the only legal centre in NSW specialising in public interest environmental issues. As a not-for-profit, non-government organisation, we rely on your support to help fund our programs and services.

Your help is vital to ensuring that community groups and individuals across Australia and the South Pacific have access to environmental justice.

[Find out more here »](#)

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