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EDO NSW EBULLETIN – 18 May 2018: Number 1056

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

EDO News & Events	Court & Compliance	Law Reform & Policy Watch
Have Your Say Alerts	Community News	Support EDO NSW

EDO NSW News

FOI legal win on NSW offsets policy



After a three year legal battle, our client Humane Society International (HSI) obtained more than 60 documents that revealed that the Australian Government decided to accredit the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects despite concerns it failed to meet national environmental standards.

This is an important victory for freedom of information and much more.

[Read more about the case >>](#)

EDO NSW position: Senior Solicitor - International Program



We have an opportunity for a tenacious and ambitious litigator to work strategically with international and regional players to take on some of the biggest environmental issues facing our Pacific Island partners: illegal logging, deep sea bed mining and climate change.

Applications close on 11 June 2018.

[Find out more >>](#)

Reforming Water Law and Governance



Dr Emma Carmody at a recent meeting of the [RAMSAR secretariat](#) in Geneva.

Our Senior Policy and Law Reform Solicitor, Dr Emma Carmody, has had a chapter published in a significant new Australian book on water law. *Reforming Water Law and Governance, From Stagnation to Innovation in Australia* is available as an e-book.

Emma's chapter, *The Unwinding of Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin: A Cautionary Tale for Transboundary River Systems*, can also be bought as a stand-alone chapter.

[More detail on the book >>](#)

EDO NSW in the news

- [Federal government approved flawed NSW environment policy](#)
- [Land-clearing policy failed to stack up but approved anyway](#)
- [Australia's biggest river is running dry despite plans to save it](#)

Help us defend communities on the frontline



Right now, we are preparing two new climate litigation cases for community groups in Gloucester and on the Central Coast as they defend their land, water, farms, towns and wild places against mine projects that will not only have serious social and environmental impacts locally, but also contribute to dangerous climate change.

[Make a tax-deductible donation to help EDO get the best outcomes for the communities we serve >>](#)

Updated Privacy Policy

We've updated the EDO NSW Privacy Policy.

[Please take a look at our updated policy here >>](#)

Court and Compliance Watch

Court orders – use of land without consent

In 2016, the Inner West Council brought proceedings against a resident of Marrickville for conducting an unlawful “boarding house”. The resident entered an early guilty plea to an offence against s125 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Land and Environment Court of NSW has now given orders that the resident pay \$115,500 as well as the Prosecutor's costs.

[Read more >>](#)

Fine for misuse of pesticides

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has issued a \$1500 fine to a White Cliffs landowner for misuse of pesticides.

In September 2017 the EPA received reports that a number of “poisonous sausage baits” were seen around White Cliffs in the Central Darling Shire. The EPA and Local Land Services-Western Region (LLS) commenced an investigation.

While the source of the baits found in the township could not be identified, the investigation confirmed that the owner of Glen Hope Station had not complied with some of the regulatory requirements relating to the use of 1080 baits on their property.

[Read more >>](#)

Law Reform and Policy Watch

Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill

The NSW *Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill* is now up on the NSW Parliament website, along with the second reading speech from the Minister for Lands and Forestry.

[Find out more >>](#)

Fifty amendments to the list of threatened species

The Assistant Minister for the Environment has approved the inclusion of 41 species, transfer of six species and removal of three species on the list of threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The amendments are effective from 11 May 2018.

[Further information on each species >>](#)

Recent EDO submissions and reports

- [Inquiry into the management and use of Commonwealth environmental water](#) – EDOs of Australia submission
- [NSW Water Reform Action Plan](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Murray-Darling Basin Plan: 5 year assessment](#) – EDOs of Australia submission
- [Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2018 \(NSW\)](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Draft Revision of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy](#) – EDOs of Australia submission
- [NSW Regional Forests Agreements \(Renewal\)](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Ancillary rules for use of mine site ecological rehabilitation as an offset](#) – EDO NSW submission
- [Improving Mine Rehabilitation in NSW](#) – EDO NSW submission

- NSW [Regional Forests Agreements \(Review\)](#) – EDO NSW submission

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

Local Environmental Plan tracking

- *No New LEP Proposals have been listed 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 – 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](#).

Our online resource [also helps the community to effectively engage](#) with decision-makers and [request a workshop](#) for your community.

Consultations

- **Water Amendment Bill 2018**

The *Water Amendment Bill 2018* has been referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee of the Australian Senate for inquiry and report.

The committee invites individuals and organisations to send in their opinions and proposals by 25 May 2018.

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

- **Timber harvesting in NSW coastal forests**

The Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOA) set the rules for how forestry operations can be carried out on State forests and Crown timber lands in NSW. The NSW Government now invites the public to have their say on the draft Coastal IFOA and seeks feedback on the new rules proposed for native forestry on public land in NSW.

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

- **Management of commercial harvesting of protected flora in Western Australia**

The public is invited to comment on the proposed Wildlife Trade Management Plan, which would set out the protected status for native flora in Western Australia and the licensing and reporting requirements for harvesters.

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

- **Registration of a herbicide**

Public comment is invited on the registration application for a herbicide to be used to control weeds in sugarcane.

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

- **Proposed acreage release optimisation (offshore petroleum)**

Comments are invited on the proposal to optimise the way that the annual acreage release is handled. The release provides offshore petroleum explorers with a selection of new areas for investment each year.

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

WestConnex: traffic solutions for Alexandria, Erskineville and St Peters

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The City of Sydney council has commissioned an independent review on how to protect local streets from increased traffic coming from the St Peters Interchange, part of WestConnex. The City now proposes an integrated traffic plan and seeks community feedback until 1 June 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 of Management listed 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

- [Narrabri South Solar](#) – Development of a 60 megawatt solar farm and associated infrastructure.
- [Marsden Park Amended Stockland Planning Agreement](#) – Development of required Road Improvement Works Contribution.
- [South Jerrabomberra Planning Agreement](#) – Planning Agreement for dedication of Education Land and monetary contribution.

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

- [Parramatta NSW](#): Proposal to erect overhead cover for historic vehicle fleet. This will involve an extension of the existing vehicle concrete hard standing and the erection of structures on the extended hard standing.
- [Bunbury WA](#): Proposed expansion of existing Greenbushes Lithium Mine to increase production of lithium mineral concentrate. The expansion will require up to 385ha of clearing.

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](#). [Common Ground](#) is the NSW Government's online tool to help you find information about current exploration and mining activity in your area. 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

Volunteer Librarian /Archivist

The Pacific Calling Partnership team of the Edmund Rice Centre is seeking a Librarian/Archivist to assist in the safe keeping of records and historically valuable documents.

This is a part time volunteer position with flexible working days and times. If you would like to join a small dynamic team working in this exciting area, please submit a brief CV together with a covering letter by 15 June 2018 to Jill Finnane, Program Coordinator PCP at jillf@erc.org.au

Including Health in Land-Use Planning Policy-Making: People, Ideas, Systems and Politics

Dr Patrick Harris of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy will present a lunchtime seminar on a four year research program investigating the inclusion of health at multiple levels of the NSW land use planning system: legislative reform, strategic city planning, and environmental assessments of mega-infrastructure (transport and mining) projects.

When: Tuesday 22 May 12noon – 1:00pm

Where: Seminar Room Level 6 Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney

[Find out more >>](#)

Logging our Wildlife Away – public forum

Alix Goodwin, CEO of National Parks Association of NSW will outline key failings of the logging laws, the current state of play and better alternatives for public native forests. Noel Plumb, Convener of the South East Forest Alliance and President of Coastwatchers, will share his experiences over decades of fighting for the protection of our globally significant forests.

When: Wednesday 23 May 6:45pm – 8:30pm

Where: Margaret Whitlam Recreation Centre, Waverley Park, Bondi

[Find out more >>](#)

Parliamentary debate on the effect of coal mining on Sydney's water catchment

Ahead of the debate at 4:40pm on Thursday 24 May, Battle for Berrima and other groups from across the catchment will be rallying outside Parliament.

[Find out more >>](#)

Comment [JH1]: Not sure about this one

An afternoon with Centre for Air Pollution, Energy and Health Research

Interested in how air pollution and new forms of energy affect our health? Want to have input into CAR research?

When: Wednesday 13 June 2pm – 5pm

Where: Level 5, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, Glebe

[Find out more >>](#)

Narratives of Climate Change Symposium

This will be an interdisciplinary collaboration inspired by the possibility that the gap between scientific knowledge and effective political, legal and social action can be bridged by alternative forms of narrative, including fiction, social and other media, performances of all types, visionary planning and innovative litigation.

When: Thursday 5 – Friday 6 July 2018

Where: Newcastle Law School, 409 Hunter St, Newcastle

[Read more »](#)

Just Futures – National Community Legal Centres conference

Explore and develop a shared vision for the community legal sector, the justice system and our communities beyond 2020.

When: Tuesday 28 – Thursday 30 August 2018

Where: SMC Conference and Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney

[Find out more >>](#)

Professional Obligations in an Age of Climate Change

Is it possible to be an ethical professional while also providing advice that supports fossil fuel companies? How are professional standards and codes of ethics shifting in response to the catastrophic threat posed by climate change? How have certain professionals been implicated in perpetuating and legitimising environmentally destructive acts?

This outstanding panel convened by the Sydney Environment Institute will consider these and other profound questions facing all professionals in the age of global warming.

When: Monday 24 September 2018

Where: Law School Foyer, Sydney University

[Find out more >>](#)

Support EDO NSW

We need your help to keep defending our environment

EDO NSW has been providing critical legal support to communities for over 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 »](#)

[Make your donation online here »](#)

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