

e-Bulletin

No. 1 of 2018, 8 February 2018

The environment's legal team since 1992 - protecting the public interest - evening the odds

The EDO is an independent community legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law. We provide legal advice and assistance, engage in law reform and participate in legal education activities for the South Australian community.

If you are seeking advice on any environmental or planning issue please visit our website <http://www.edosa.org.au/> or email edosa@edo.org.au

Our services are only possible with the support of the South Australian community. The need for community support to keep the EDO's services going is stronger than ever. Your donation will enable us to continue our fight to defend the environment using the law. Please consider a tax deductible donation - all amounts over \$2 are tax deductible.

Click here to [join us](#) or [make a tax-deductible donation](#).

We are also on [Facebook](#).

Please feel free to share this eBulletin with your networks.

What has the EDO been up to?

In the last fortnight we have been working on our Environmental Law Reform Priorities Paper for the upcoming State Election. We are seeking all parties and candidates to commit, as a priority, to improving SA's environmental laws, with a strong focus on creating more transparent, engaging and rigorous environmental planning and assessment processes. This will soon be up on our website and do look out for our regular facebook posts as the election date draws nearer.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

South Australia

[EDO Fundraiser – Film Night – “Finding Your Feet”](#)

The EDO will be hosting a film night fundraiser at the end of this month, screening 'Finding Your Feet' at the heritage listed Art Deco Capri Theatre on Goodwood Rd.

'Lady' Sandra Abbott (Staunton) finds the courage to reinvent herself after she flees a broken marriage to stay with her bohemian sister in London. Starring Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie, Timothy Spall and Joanna Lumley, Finding Your Feet is a hilarious and heartwarming comedy proving it's never too late to start again.

Join us at 5.30pm for 6.30pm screening - enjoy free nibbles and a cash bar, catch up with friends and support this great cause. We will also have a raffle and a silent auction on the night.

When: Tuesday, **27 February 2018** at 5:30pm - 9:30pm

Where: Capri Theatre, 141 Goodwood Rd, Goodwood

Bookings: http://www.edosa.org.au/film_night

[Five pumped hydro storage proposals backed by SA Government](#)

The South Australian Government has made available \$9 million in grants for five pumped-hydro storage facility proposals to be located within the state. Should they all be constructed, this would represent over 1000 MW of additional capacity to SA's electricity network, available for up to 8 hours straight before requiring a recharge.

To put that in perspective, South Australia's current generating stock comprises approximately 3000 MW of fossil fuel plant, and 3500 MW of renewables, when all operating at full capacity. Typical peak demand for the year is around 3000 MW; average demand about 2000 MW.

Pumped hydro generally requires the construction of two artificial lakes, one higher and one lower. During periods of low electricity demand, excess electricity being generated (for example by wind turbines at night) can be used to pump water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir where it is stored. When electrical demand rises again, the water can then be released downhill to the lower reservoir via a hydroelectric turbine to generate electricity as required. The whole system thus effectively operates as a battery.

These pumped hydro proposals, however, would dwarf the reserve capacity of the recently completed Tesla battery at Hornsdale, which is only capable of providing 100 MW for about 80 mins.

The proposed projects are to be located at:

- Goat Hill, 12km west of Port Augusta;
- the existing Baroota Reservoir, north-east of Port Germein;
- Cultana, north of Whyalla;
- the Iron Duchess mine site in the Middleback Ranges; and
- the disused Highbury quarry, in Adelaide's northeast.

Little further detail is currently available, although the Goat Hill project is currently being assessed as a crown development by the State Planning Commission. More detail can be found on that project [here](#).

[South Australia: Our Future - Election Forum](#)

The 2018 South Australian state election comes at a critical moment, both for nature protection and making the transition to clean energy.

Come and hear the leaders of the major parties put forward their case for why they deserve your vote on the most pressing environmental issues in our state.

Speaking:

- Premier Jay Weatherill
- Mark Parnell
- Opposition Leader Steven Marshall (invited)
- Nick Xenophon (invited)

The forum will be chaired by Lisa McAskill

When: Tuesday, **20 February 2018** at 11:30am – 1:00pm

Where: The Science Exchange, 55 Exchange Place, Adelaide, SA 5000

Register: [Here.](#)

[Valuing Our Heritage Forum](#)

With the State Election looming, the National Trust of South Australia is convening a panel of election candidates to debate the risks and opportunities ahead for South Australia's heritage.

Christine Trenorden, former judge and Senior Judge of the Environment, Resources and Development Court, will lead a Q&A session with a panel of politicians responding to your questions about the future of our heritage and presenting their own views on heritage policy.

Possible issues for discussion include:

- innovative adaptive reuse of heritage places
- economic value of heritage
- heritage tourism
- threats to heritage protections
- relaxation of planning controls
- loss of community input to development decisions
- You can submit a question in advance by email to heritagewatch@nationaltrustsa.org.au no later than 11 February

Confirmed panel members include:

The Hon Mark Parnell MLC, Parliamentary Leader of the Greens SA

Mr David Speirs MP, Shadow Minister for Environment, Member for Bright

The Hon Ian Hunter, MLC, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

The Right Hon The Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Martin Haese
The Hon Robert Brokenshire, MLC, Australian Conservatives
Ms Karen Hockley, SA-Best candidate for Davenport
The Hon John Darley, MLC, Advance SA

Find out from these candidates for election in 2018 how they will ensure that our unique heritage is protected, preserved and utilised.

When: Thursday, **15 February 2018** at 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Where: Allan Scott Auditorium, Hawke Building, [UniSA City West Campus](#)

Register: [Here.](#)

NOTICES AND INQUIRIES

South Australia

Regular SA Government Consultations

Below are links to a number of SA Government agencies and bodies who undertake regular environmental audits or assessments open for public consultation. Whilst there are too many such consultations for us to list them all fully in the e-Bulletin, the links are included here as they may nevertheless be of interest to readers. The e-Bulletin will publish consultations in these categories where we deem them to be of wide public importance.

[Current Crown Developments and 'Category 3' Developments before the DAC](#)

[Current Ministerial Development Plan Amendments](#)

[Current YourSAy consultations](#)

[Current EPA license applications](#)

[Current DSD mining proposals](#)

[Current DSD petroleum proposals](#)

Commonwealth

[Senate Inquiry – Selection process for a national radioactive waste management facility in South Australia](#)

On 6 February 2018, the Senate referred an inquiry into the selection process for a national radioactive waste management facility in South Australia to the Senate Economics References Committee for inquiry and report.

This proposed nuclear waste dump is not the same facility that was proposed – and then discarded – by the South Australian Government to create a commercial nuclear waste dump that would attempt to profit from storing nuclear waste from all over the world. This proposal is a Federal initiative seeking to permanently store Australia’s low-level nuclear waste as well as temporarily store the medium-level waste that comes primarily from Sydney’s Lucas Heights reactor.

Heading the terms of reference for the inquiry is the question of the appropriateness and thoroughness of the site selection process for the proposed nuclear waste facility at Kimba and Hawker in South Australia, whilst noting the Government has stated that it will not impose such a facility on an unwilling community.

More details can be found at the Inquiry home page link above.

No specific due date for public submissions has yet been set.

[Draft Revision of Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy – consultation open](#)

On 25 November 2016, Australian, State and Territory Environment Ministers agreed to revise “Australia’s Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: 2010 – 2030” based on the findings of a review into the first five years of the Strategy’s implementation. During 2017 a working group of officials from Australian, state and territory governments, and the Australian Local Government Association has worked together to prepare a revised Strategy.

The Federal Department of Environment and Energy says that the Strategy has been revised to improve its ability to drive change in biodiversity management priorities, and its alignment with Australia's international biodiversity commitments.

Called “*Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2018-2030: Australia’s biodiversity conservation strategy and action inventory*”, the draft revised Strategy is open for public comment.

Submissions are due by **16 March 2018**.

[EPBC Act determination - Port Adelaide Outer Harbor Channel Widening Project](#)

In September last year, the Federal Environment Minister received a referral made under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* from Flinders Ports Pty Ltd in regard to their Port Adelaide Outer Harbor Channel Widening Project. Flinders Ports operates the Flinders Adelaide Container Terminal in the Outer Harbor, which is currently configured for use by vessels up to Panamax class in size.

The company argued that there is a global trend towards larger ships - called Post Panamax – which are not able to safely operate within Outer Harbor. The company is seeking permission to widen the existing 130m channel to 170m, in order to accommodate these larger vessels. This would involve the removal of 1.55 million cubic metres of material, which the company proposes to dispose of 30km offshore in Gulf St Vincent.

The referral listed 11 listed threatened species and 13 listed migratory species which may potentially be impacted by the proposed project.

The Minister has now determined that the project is not a controlled action under the EPBC Act if it is carried out in a particular manner. The conditions of which may be accessed at the link above.

[Regular Commonwealth Government Consultations](#)

Below are links to Federal Government agencies and bodies who undertake environmental audits/assessments that may be open for public consultation. Whilst there are too many such consultations for us to list them all in the e-Bulletin, the links are included here as they may nevertheless be of interest to readers. The e-Bulletin will publish consultations in these categories where we deem them to be of wide public importance.

[EPBC Act Public Notices and Invitations to Comment](#)

[Department of the Environment and Energy - Public Consultation Notice Board](#)

PREVIOUS NOTICES: REMINDERS

[Senate Inquiry - United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

- Submissions due by **29 March 2018**.