

The Hon. Barry O'Farrell
Premier
NSW Government
Level 37 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier O'Farrell;

Re: Funding cuts to the EDO NSW.

The NSW Wildlife Council (NWC) is dismayed by the prospect of funding cuts to the EDO. We urge the NSW Government to ensure that Public Purpose Funding and Government funding are not withdrawn from the EDO and that the Government makes clear its support for such funding to be ongoing.

It is of further concern that the EDO has been attacked and wrongly accused of engaging in political advocacy/activism while in receipt of taxpayers' money, by members of parliament and in "The Australian".

The NWC believes that the EDO has always acted with integrity and honesty and that EDO staff are conscientious and hard-working. Their professionalism and propriety is exemplary. The advice and support which environmental groups and wildlife rehabilitation groups have received over many years has been invaluable.

There is no other community service available to give expert independent legal advice and as such EDO is indispensable to organisations such as the NWC. Several of our members have attended EDO workshops and we have had occasion to seek advice on various issues. We cannot afford to lose this service.

The NSW public *must* have access to a community legal centre which specializes in public interest environmental law. The EDO must continue to be supported financially from the Public Purpose Fund of the Law Society of NSW and from the NSW Government.

Sincerely
Ilona Roberts
For Audrey Koosmen NWC Chair
8 December 2012