



**EDO** Qld.  
Environmental Defenders Office

## News

### **New Acland coal expansion to be considered again excluding groundwater**

The Queensland Supreme Court ordered on 28 May 2018 that the proposed Stage 3 expansion of the New Acland Coal (NAC) mine be remitted back to Queensland's Land Court for limited further consideration, excluding groundwater impacts. EDO Qld is representing Oakey Coal Action Alliance Inc (OCAA) in the matter. Our banner image (above) shows EDO Qld solicitor Kate Grudzinskas with client Oakey Coal Action Alliance (OCAA)'s Sid Plant on a site visit to Oakey in April 2018. You can read more about the case history [here](#).



*Caption (l-r): EDO Qld solicitor Kate Grudzinskas and barrister Dr Chris McGrath, with Paul King from client Oakey Coal Action Alliance (OCAA), outside the Queensland Supreme Court.*

### **Anti-corruption laws passed by Queensland Parliament**

Laws designed to restrict local government corruption were passed by the Queensland Parliament on 17 May 2018. Electoral donations to state and local government by property developers are now banned. We congratulate the State Government on the reforms. Read more [here](#).

### **Linc Energy fined record \$4.5million**

Linc Energy has been issued with a record fine of \$4.5 million for causing serious environmental harm as a result of its underground coal gassification project near Chinchilla. Read more [here](#).

### **ADR panel created by Land Court**

Not all disputes need be heard in a court. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is often a more cost effective and timely resolution to simple disputes. Read more [here](#).

## Spotlight on...

### No celebration for the ‘champagne flutes’

A three-year long battle to curtail a development comprising three high rise towers and 555 units, in Brisbane’s riverside suburb of Toowong has ended with a significant decision for communities in the Queensland Supreme Court. Read more [here](#)

## Opportunities to comment

### New Bill open for public submissions: Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill

A private member's Bill seeking to expand the ban on political donations to all for-profit corporations has been introduced to Queensland Parliament. Member Michael Berkman introduced the the [Electoral Legislation \(Political Donations\) Amendment Bill 2018](#) on 16 May 2018. This Bill has been referred to a parliamentary committee for consideration and is currently **open for submissions until 12 noon, Friday 15 June 2018**.

See the parliamentary committee inquiry page for the Bill [here](#).

## EDO Activities



### Calling all volunteers to help us celebrate turning 30

2019 will mark EDO Qld’s 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, and we are asking past volunteers to contact us to help us celebrate. Read more [here](#).

## Volunteer spotlight



Nick Lichti, Senior Associate at MinterEllison Gold Coast, volunteered with EDO Qld off and on from 2008-2015 to gain legal experience. Read more about his memories [here](#).

### **Work with EDO NSW**

Our colleagues in EDO NSW are advertising for a Senior Solicitor to help run their international program. Read more [here](#).

