



Environmental Defenders Office

Solicitor / Senior Solicitor - Healthy Environment and Justice - Position Description

EDO relies on our people to use their skills and experience to provide the best possible support to our clients and other staff. While this job description aims to outline the fundamental reason the role exists, the role may evolve as EDO evolves.

If you see a way to play to your strengths in a way that achieves EDO outcomes, please don't be limited to this list. We have important work to do and need everyone to be operating at their best.

Job title: Solicitor / Senior Solicitor

Reporting to: Managing Lawyer – Healthy Environment and Justice, ACT

Key responsibilities

- Provide legal advice, representation and education to EDO communities on a broad range of public interest environmental law issues and disputes, particularly regarding climate justice.
- Engage in litigation, policy and law reform, and outreach to achieve EDO's strategic outcomes.
- Comply with EDO's policies and procedures, and legal obligations.
- Deliver legal services in a culturally competent manner and work with clients from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- Supervise the work of volunteers who undertake tasks such as legal research, document preparation, etc.

Duties

- Provide legal advice and representation to the public on a wide range of legal matters relevant to the environment.
- Have carriage of litigation undertaken in the relevant jurisdiction.
- Undertake public education and outreach, including developing online resources and fact sheets, and the conduct of workshops or seminars with a focus on outreach for vulnerable communities.
- Engage in law reform related to environmental law and policy, including participating in government policy processes and by developing and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.
- Comply with professional obligations.
- Participate in and support EDO fundraising.
- Other reasonable requests made by the Managing Lawyer or Director, Healthy Environment and Justice from time to time.

General

All staff have a responsibility to:

- develop and maintain a good knowledge of the EDO's role and policies
- represent the EDO in a positive and effective manner
- attend, and contribute actively and constructively at staff meetings
- maintain appropriate records, assist with office administration, such as files, computer and precedent systems
- seek opportunities for personal and professional development, particularly related to the team and position's specific areas of responsibility
- respond to requests by clients and fellow staff in a knowledgeable, professional, constructive and respectful manner
- provide accurate and timely data and information for reporting, fundraising and communications purposes.

Note: Senior Solicitors will be expected to work closely with the Managing Lawyer to develop and implement planning for each program, and work with a higher level of autonomy and self-direction. This may include leading on media work, seminars, publications, as well as having carriage of litigation, law reform and advice work.

EDO Values

Commitment – We are committed to a united organisation, to each other, to collaboration, to justice, to our communities and to creating a world where nature thrives.

- We are committed to providing excellent legal services and resources, informed by the best available science, in order to empower clients and communities
- We are committed to improving our planet and society
- We care for EDO's clients and stakeholders
- We are fearless in the face of adversity, and care for each other as we face this adversity

Diversity – We are respectful of and welcome diversity of staff, volunteers, environmental regions, communities and stakeholders.

- We respect First Nations Peoples' knowledge and experience, and work with them to protect their country and culture
- We acknowledge that the law has not always been just
- We dedicate ourselves to understanding the diversity of our people and culture
- We welcome and respect our own differences and learn from them, and collaborate to achieve our greatest potential
- We are great lawyers and great people, with open hearts and open minds
- We respect the different places our stakeholders come from and strive to help them, even if their worldviews don't align completely with ours

Integrity – We work effectively, efficiently, strategically, professionally and ethically: “justice is in our nature”.

- We are truthful with ourselves and others
- We are nonpartisan and inspire trust in our clients, stakeholders and government
- We respect the world's resources and make maximum productive use of the resources entrusted to us

Vision – We lead change and environmental empowerment through innovation, creativity and courage.

- We expand the boundaries with creativity and skill, pioneering new legal pathways to a healthier, safer world and inspiring others
- We are inquisitive, curious and persistent: exploring new ideas and embracing change
- We boldly challenge the status quo while providing solutions to our most pressing challenges