



The Sustainable Engineering Society

...engineering in harmony with ecology

Sustainable Engineering Society
Engineering House
11 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

info@seng.org.au

28 January 2014

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment
PO Box 6022
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

RE: Environmental Defenders Office Funding Cut

The Sustainable Engineering Society understands that the Federal Government has cut all funding to Australia's network of Environmental Defender's Offices (EDOs).

Environmental engineers and other environmental professionals complete and contribute to many environmental assessments and value the work of the EDO in defending the community's interests in the assessment process.

The Government must be aware that without an independent avenue to review projects and make professionally informed submissions, it is promoting a significant gap in the assessment process for matters of national significance.

The Sustainable Engineering Society requests that the funding decision be reviewed, as the EDOs around Australia are vital in providing legal support to the community to properly review and comment on the environmental impact of projects, in the public interest.

In addition to continued support for EDOs, I urge the Government to consider establishing a regulatory regime that ensures independent professional environmental review by Environmental Engineers and other recognised environmental professionals to strengthen the technical and administrative processes associated with environmental assessment and approval.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the benefits of EDOs to the Environmental Engineering profession and offer constructive input to development of a process for Environmental Engineers to certify the quality of environmental assessment on matters of national significance.

Yours sincerely

Alice Howe
SENG National Board Chair
On behalf of the SENG National Board