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MEDIA RELEASE

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NQCC calls on AG to fund EDOs

North Queensland Conservation Council today appealed to the Queensland Attorney-General to reconsider the withdrawal of funding to the Environmental Defenders Offices in Cairns and Brisbane.

“This withdrawal of support is a devastating blow for the environment. The EDO educates and enables landholders, individuals and community groups to exercise their legal rights to defend the environment - not for personal gain but in the public interest. We are talking about groups of landowners concerned about the impact of mining on agricultural properties, community groups concerned about urban development and individuals concerned about how human activities affect species, and the like”, NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman said.

“We know that from our massive loss of diversity to the threats on the Great Barrier Reef, our environment is at serious risk of permanent damage – and that damage is overwhelmingly related to human development.

“The EDO assists government to monitor and protect the environment. It plays a vital role, and the loss of funding will massively limit the EDO’s ability to assist, advise and stand up for those defending the environment, often against developers with bottomless pockets. The EDO effectively redresses the imbalance between big business and the voiceless environment.

“Without the EDO our world will be a poorer, a less healthy and a less sustainable place to pass on to future generations.

“We are talking about a really miniscule amount of money versus the potential loss of significant parts of our world.”

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