



edotasmânia

using the law to protect the natural and built environment

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Important win for the Tarkine, 12 months after funding cuts to EDO Tasmania

The Supreme Court has today ruled that the EPA Director's decision to amend permit conditions for Shree Mineral's Nelson Bay River Mine was unlawful.

Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) Tasmania represented Save the Tarkine in the application challenging the issuing of the EPN which permitted above ground storage of acid forming waste material from the mine. Shree asked the EPA to amend the permit conditions after it became clear the mine would produce 20x more acid-forming waste than originally approved. The original permit only permitted below-ground storage as the EPA Board concluded it was the only environmentally sound way to manage the waste.

The court decision comes exactly twelve months to the day since Federal Attorney-General George Brandis announced the end of all federal funding to the small Tasmanian EDO office, without warning or prior consultation.

Jess Feehely, Principal Lawyer at EDO Tasmania said: "In Tasmania, the EDO helps people navigate through onerous legal frameworks, ensuring that the legal process is followed and enabling the community to participate in decisions that impact the places they love."

"Today's decision demonstrates the role of legal advice in securing environmental outcomes, and in holding government to account for decisions which affect the environment.."

Earlier this month the [Productivity Commission](#), in its Access to Justice Arrangements report, recognised the value of environmental advocacy and recommended funding be [restored to EDOS](#).

Since funding was terminated, EDO Tasmania has been reliant on public donations and philanthropic grants.

"EDOs have never been more important. The Federal and State governments are pushing ahead with efforts to 'streamline' development approvals and cut third party rights. The EDO is here to make sure the community gets a say and that governments implement the laws to protect, not just exploit, the environment," said Ms Feehely.

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