

LAWYER – ECOSYSTEMS

Position description

Are you a lawyer with a passion for environmental justice? We are seeking a lawyer with 2–5 years' post-graduation legal experience to work with us on nature protection cases and projects.

The position is a full-time fixed-term position for 12 months, with the possibility of extension beyond this date depending on funding.

The candidate must be admitted to practice or eligible for admission to practice in Australia. Litigation experience is required, and an understanding of environment or public law and environment issues is preferred.

Applications close Sunday 20 June 2021 at 11.59pm (AEST).

About us

Environmental Justice Australia is a leading public interest legal organisation. Our lawyers act on behalf of people and community organisations to safeguard health; protect magnificent forests, rivers and wildlife; and tackle the climate crisis. We partner with communities and other social justice organisations because we are stronger together.

Using innovative approaches, we find the best legal solutions to climate and environmental issues. Our team works inside and outside the courtroom to make the system fair and just for all. We work on issues and in areas of Australia where we can have the most impact.

Responsibilities

- Under the direction and supervision of senior lawyer/s, provide high quality legal advice (both written and oral) and representation in matters related to biodiversity conservation and threatened species protection:
 - Develop, launch and run litigation matters – including briefing barristers, initiating proceedings, preparing evidence, file management, correspondence and instructing in court.
 - Build relationships with community and NGO clients, obtain instructions, identify legal issues, research applicable law and prepare advice.
- Conduct detailed legal research in the area of public or environment law on matters relevant to the EJA ecosystems program, and draft reports and legal analysis for publication.
- Contribute to legal advocacy on nature protection issues in partnership with community groups and NGOs.
- Work with the Communications Director and Development Manager to ensure our work is communicated effectively to multiple audiences.
- Effectively use practice management and office management software.
- Contribute to the EJA team and the running of the organisation and office, including volunteer supervision, and participate in all relevant aspects of EJA planning, review and reporting.

Selection criteria

Essential

- Commitment to environment or social justice issues.
- Currently admitted or eligible for admission to practice law in Australia, with post-graduation legal experience of 2+ years in Australia, including in working on complex litigation (in any area of law).
- Experience briefing barristers and experts in litigation matters.
- Demonstrated ability to manage legal practice files, subject to supervision.
- An enthusiasm to work closely with local communities and NGOs to support their campaigns and legal needs.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills including demonstrated ability to communicate legal concepts in clear language and prepare written legal advice.
- Initiative, energy, self-motivation, and ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a collaborative team environment, and to work to tight deadlines.

Desirable

- Experience as the instructing solicitor on public interest, environmental or public law litigation.
- Prior experience working within an integrated legal, human rights or environmental justice advocacy organisation as a lawyer, or of working on campaigns for legal change.
- Knowledge of environment or public law and environmental issues.
- Knowledge or training in environmental science or similar discipline.

Terms and conditions

Terms and conditions for this role will be negotiated based on the following:

- The position is full time.
- The role is based in Melbourne at our office in Carlton, with travel outside Melbourne required occasionally. Other locations will be considered for an exceptional candidate.
- Out of hours work is required occasionally.
- Terms and conditions of employment are based on the Community Legal Sector Multi-Business Agreement with over-agreement salary and conditions. Salary range for full-time work is \$75,250 to \$93,605 plus super depending on experience. (Please note: This role is being advertised across two EJA employment levels and an offer will be made at the relevant level depending on the candidate's experience.)
- Please note that unfortunately salary sacrificing is not available.

Environmental Justice Australia is an equal opportunity employer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTQI people and people with a disability are encouraged to apply.

How to apply

Interested? Send us a brief application comprising:

- your resume; and
- a statement of no more than 2 pages detailing why you want to work with us and addressing the selection criteria outlined above.

Email your application to recruitment@envirojustice.org.au.

Enquiries: Co-CEOs Elizabeth McKinnon or Nicola Rivers on 03 8341 3112.

Closing date: Sunday 20 June 2021 at 11.59pm (AEST).