

Free advice returns for environment issues

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FAR Northerners can access free environmental and planning legal advice for the first time in nearly two years after funding was restored to a non-profit organisation.

The Environmental Defenders Office of Northern Queensland was forced to sack

three solicitors when public funding was cut to EDOs across the country in 2014.

The community legal centre has survived on community goodwill and volunteer efforts, but has now been thrown a lifeline by the State Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

The funding has allowed EDO NQ to hire a principal solicitor and an office co-ordi-

nator on a part-time basis.

In her new role, Tania Heber will take the lead in the centre's work around planning and environment litigation, legal advice, law reform and community legal education.

She has worked as an environment and planning lawyer since the mid-1990s, mostly in Victoria, representing govern-

ment departments and agencies, as well as nonprofits such as the Australian Koala Foundation.

"I'm very excited to be able to apply the law to help protect the incredible range of environmental values and biodiversity in flora and fauna in Northern Queensland from Mackay to Torres Strait, including the Great Barrier Reef

and Wet Tropics World Heri-

tage Area," she said.

"I see working at EDO NQ as giving me an opportunity to not only deal with local and regional environmental and planning issues but to also help protect globally important ecosystems."

For advice, contact EDO NQ via (07) 4031 4766 or edonq@edonq.org.au.



LEAD ROLE: Tania Heber.