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QLD polities call on NSW Govt to cut subsidies to environmental lawyers

Queensland beachgoers' safety is now at risk because of a NSW-funded environmental law group also helping anti-Adani protesters

Renee Viellaris, Federal Political Editor, The Courier-Mail

 Subscriber only | October 12, 2019 12:00am



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SYDNEY-based green warriors – partly bankrolled by the NSW Government – funded the land mark court case that led to shark drumlines being ripped out of the water by green and community warriors, but might risk the state's tourism industry.



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'Biggest heart': Dad killed in home invasion identified

The NSW Government is now being pressured by federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan and state Fisheries Minister Mark Furner to cut its taxpayer subsidies to the NSW Environmental Defenders Office, which is also representing anti-Adani protesters arrested in Queensland.

['Come to the table': Mayor sides with Qld govt over shark drumlines saga](#)

[Shark concern: 'Didn't have to pull drumlines out'](#)

The NSW community legal centre this year provided its resources and expertise to Humane Society International, which challenged the Queensland Government's shark drum line program in the Federal Court.



Baden-Clay's brother making name for himself



This is not the way to win public support



📷 On a shark control contractors boat, deck hand Josh Pols baits a shark drum line off the Gold Coast as Queensland's shark control program continues to be the centre of political debate. Picture: Lyndon Mechielsen

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Last month, the Federal Court ruling sparked

the Palaszczuk Government to roll out 173

drum lines at 27 beaches in the Great Barrier

Reef Marine Park

Senator Canavan told *The Courier-Mail* it was

completely inappropriate for a NSW

Government-funded legal body to be interfering

in the safety of Queensland beaches.



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“This is why the NSW Government should defend the EDO,” Senator Canavan said.

“They do not seek to protect the environment but instead advance a radical agenda that has more in common with the superglue protesters than Australian families that want secure jobs and safe beaches.”

Mr Furner said: “The last time I checked the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park did not stretch in to New South Wales.”



Fisheries Minister Mark Furner

NSW Attorney-General Mark Speakman told *The Courier-Mail* he this year approved \$540,000 in funding over three years to EDO NSW, which also receives donations from the

The Courier Mail

“From 2019/20, all community law centres funded through the process were required to agree that these services were provided for people within NSW only,” the spokesman said.


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An EDO NSW spokesman said no NSW

Government funding went to their work in Queensland.



Minister for Resources Matt Canavan. Picture: Brendan Radke

When asked why Legal Aid Mackay this month told Mackay Magistrates Court it was acting as town agent for EDO NSW in regard to two Queensland defendants charged over anti-mine protests, the spokesman said: “The funding EDO NSW receives from Legal Aid NSW goes to providing the NSW community with expert legal assistance and access to justice on planning and environmental laws.”

The spokesman defended EDO NSW’s role in taking on Humane Society International as a client.

Asked how it could justify a position that could put beachgoers at serious risk, he said: “There is

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no evidence that lethal drum lines are more effective than a nonlethal alternative.”

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