

CHAIRPERSON

Position Description

Environmental Justice Australia is a passionate team of lawyers and campaigners supported by administrative, communications and fundraising staff. We work on issues across climate change, nature protection and healthy communities. Our mission is to use our legal expertise to be a powerful force for change, to empower communities to protect the environment, and to achieve a better legal system that delivers justice to people and the planet.

We aim to be a lean but high-impact organisation, supplying legal expertise to campaigns responding to the climate crisis, protecting communities from pollution and supporting nature conservation. Our current staff team comprises 16 staff members and annual revenue is approximately \$1.7 million from various sources, with donations and philanthropic support critically important to our work.

We are seeking a chairperson to lead the EJA board.

Environmental Justice Australia is a not-for-profit charitable organisation and a deductible gift recipient on the Register of Environmental Organisations. As a company limited by guarantee, the Board has responsibility for Environmental Justice Australia's governance, overseeing the development and implementation of the organisation's strategy, financial sustainability and fundraising, and the management of organisational risks.

The organisation has a history of stable and effective governance, and good systems, procedures and policies in place. Our new Chair will provide governance leadership, act as an ambassador for the organisation, and help us develop and maintain important funding relationships.

Key responsibilities

- Manage the board to ensure the strategic outcomes and purpose of EJA are achieved.
- Organise (with support from CEO and EJA staff) and chair the board meetings.
- Mentor and guide the CEO and ensure an excellent working relationship with the CEO.
- Manage the process of hiring and firing the CEO.
- Act as Board contact for EJA staff.
- Review performance of board members and devise and implement a Board succession plan.
- Manage the board member recruitment and induction process.
- Act as a key spokesperson for EJA and advocate for selected issues.
- Assist with retaining current donors and developing key donor relationships.

Skills, experience and attributes required

Our ideal candidate will bring the following skills, experience and attributes to the role:

- Leadership experience, and a good understanding of board responsibilities and good governance.
- An understanding of philanthropic relationships, and a preparedness to use your existing networks and develop new relationships important to our work.
- Public speaking skills and the capacity and willingness to act as an ambassador for the organisation.
- A passion for the environment and commitment to our mission, and a good understanding of current environmental and climate policy.
- Although we are a legal organisation, we do not require our chair to have legal qualifications or experience. However, a good understanding of public interest law and the value and the contribution of legal expertise to the environmental movement would be desirable.

Commitment required

This is an honorary position; however Environmental Justice Australia will cover travel and other expenses and can support an appropriate candidate with training and development opportunities.

The Board meets at the 60L Green Building in Carlton outside business hours six times per year, with at least two full day planning meetings each year in addition.

Other commitments anticipated include involvement working groups or subcommittees meeting between regular board meetings, meeting with and providing support to the CEO, and meeting with donors and other important stakeholders.

As with other board members, the Chair is appointed annually. The expected length of service is flexible, however we expect that the leadership responsibilities and relationships held by our Chair will require a commitment to continue in the role for at least two years.

Our Chair will be required to agree to Environmental Justice Australia's Code of Conduct.

How to apply

There is no formal application or selection process and the Board is pursuing a range of options with a view to appointing a new Chair from early 2020.

Interested candidates should discuss the role with interim Chair Chiara Lawry or CEO Brendan Sydes for more information.

Contact Brendan: brendan.sydes@envirojustice.org.au or 0439 355 747