

# SENIOR LITIGATION LAWYER – CLIMATE CHANGE

## Position description

Are you concerned about climate change, and the failure of governments and corporations to respond with policies and practices that reflect the science?

If you are a senior litigation lawyer interested in working on climate litigation, this is your unique opportunity to make an important difference in mitigating the climate crisis. We are seeking a senior lawyer with five years or more post-graduation legal experience to work with us on climate litigation, legal research and legal advocacy.

The position is full time or 0.8FTE, fixed-term for 12 months, with the possibility of extension beyond this date depending on funding.

The candidate must be admitted to practice in Australia. At least five years of litigation experience in Australia in an area of public or administrative law is required. A demonstrated understanding of climate law and climate science is preferred.

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.

**Applications close Monday 30 November at 5pm (AEDT).**

## 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

- Provide high quality legal advice (both written and oral) and representation in matters related to climate and environmental law:
  - o obtain instructions, identify legal issues, research applicable law and prepare advice;
  - o casework and file management – including corresponding with clients, opponents, barristers and courts;
  - o manage litigation matters – including briefing barristers, initiating proceedings, preparing evidence, document management, and instructing in court.

- Conduct detailed legal research in the areas of climate, environmental and corporate accountability laws on matters relevant to the climate program, in particular, thermal coal mining in Australia.
- Draft legal analysis on matters relevant to the climate program, for publication.
- In consultation with the climate program manager, manage your own time and supervise others, in particular volunteer lawyers and law students.
- Effectively use practice management and office management software.
- Contribute to the EJA team and the running of the organisation and office, and participate in all relevant aspects of EJA planning, review and reporting.

## **Selection criteria**

### **Essential**

- Currently admitted or eligible for admission to practice law in Australia.
- Post-graduation legal experience 5+ years in Australia, specialising in litigation in an area of public or administrative law.
- Experience briefing experts in litigation matters to provide expert evidence.
- Knowledge of climate law and climate issues.
- Commitment to climate justice and social justice issues.
- Familiarity with Federal or Supreme Court civil practice and procedure, and administrative or public law litigation experience in one or more of these jurisdictions.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills including demonstrated ability to communicate legal concepts in clear language and prepare written legal advice.
- Good file management skills, including the capacity to run files with minimal administrative support.
- Initiative, energy, self-motivation, and ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a collaborative team environment.
- An ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines.
- An enthusiasm to work closely with local communities to support their campaigns and legal needs.

### **Desirable**

- Experience as the instructing solicitor running public interest litigation matters.
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- Experience briefing counsel and experts who are acting pro bono or for reduced fixed rates in public interest litigation matters.
- Experience briefing scientific experts in litigation matters. .
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain strong relationships with colleagues, community members, partner organisations, and other professionals.
- Experience in designing and executing a program of work, including budgeting, funding applications and program management.

## **Location**

Melbourne.

Note that all EJA staff are working remotely until such time as COVID-19 restrictions allow Melbourne legal practices to return to the office.

## Terms and conditions

Terms and conditions for these roles will be negotiated based on the following:

- The position is either a full-time position or four days per week.
- The role is based in Melbourne at our office in Carlton, with travel required occasionally.
- Out of hours work is required occasionally.
- Terms and conditions of employment are based on the Community Legal Sector Multi-Business Agreement with competitive over-agreement salary and conditions. Salary range for full-time position \$88,100 to \$98,000 plus compulsory superannuation, depending on experience, and pro rata for the 0.8EFT option.

## How to apply

Send us your brief application comprising:

- your curriculum vitae; and
- a statement of no more than 3 pages detailing why you want to work with us on climate litigation and addressing the selection criteria outlined above.

Email your application to [ariane.wilkinson@envirojustice.org.au](mailto:ariane.wilkinson@envirojustice.org.au)

Enquiries: Ariane Wilkinson – Senior Lawyer and lead on EJA's climate work – 03 8341 3105

**Closing date: Monday 30 November at 5pm (AEDT)**