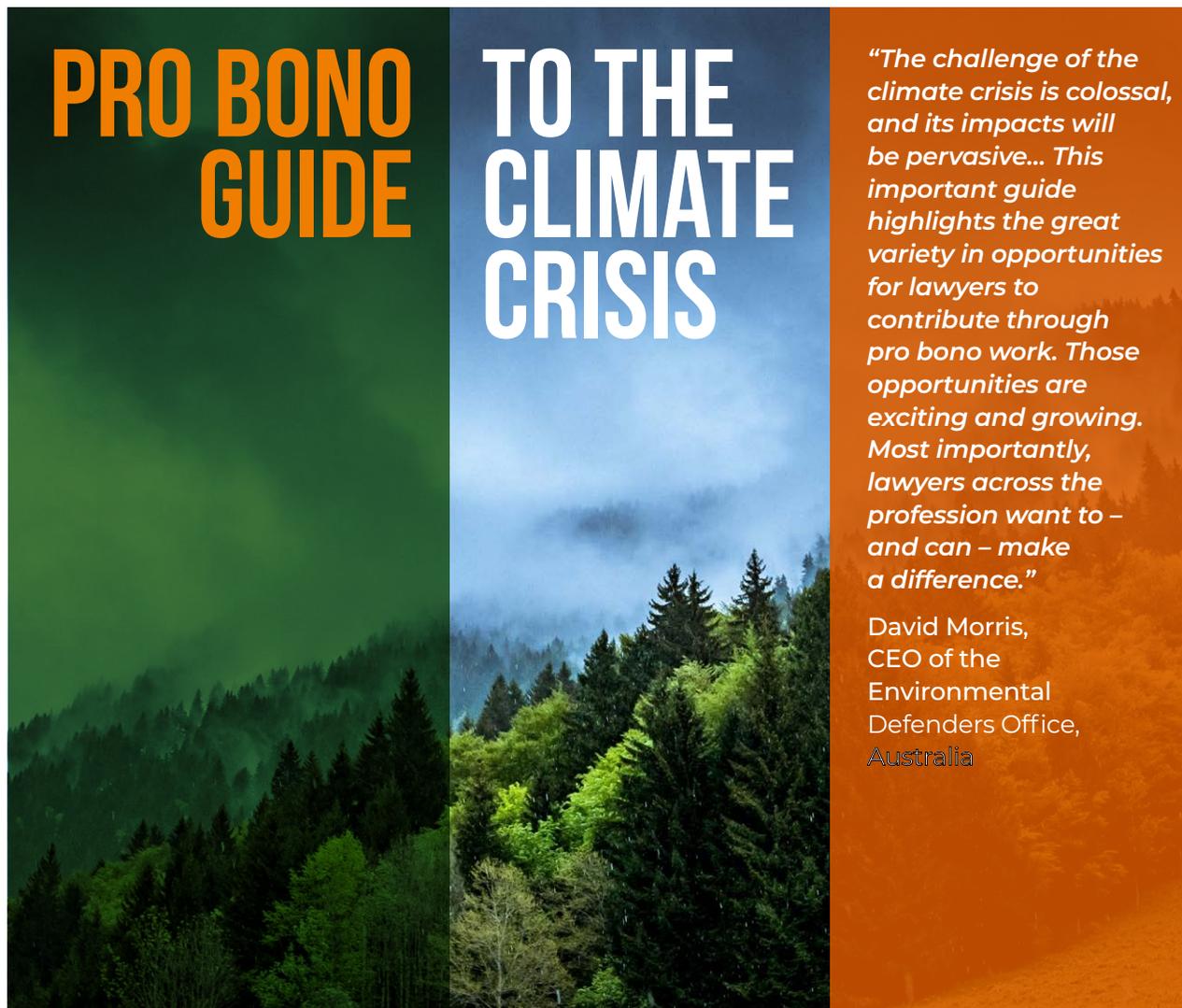




Pro Bono Guide to the Climate Crisis: The Centre's new resource tackling the impacts of climate change crisis



Climate change is one of the defining issues of the 2020s. The actions we take now will affect the world for generations to come. Lawyers have the skills, opportunities, and resources to tackle this challenge. While our individual actions may seem small, collectively the legal profession is already demonstrating the substantial impact it is and can have on addressing climate change.

To encourage the global legal profession to get involved in climate pro bono work, the Australian Pro Bono Centre has recently released a *Pro Bono Guide to the Climate Crisis*. This guide, the first of its kind in the world, aims to inform and inspire lawyers across the globe.

It includes:

- descriptions of 15 different ways that lawyers can get involved in pro bono work to help combat the climate crisis
- a range of compelling case studies from around the world
- suggestions on how to get started
- advice for lawyers dealing with concerns about commercial conflicts of interest in climate-related pro bono work.

The guide emphasises that lawyers with a wide range of skills and experience can get involved – this is not just an opportunity for lawyers with knowledge of environment and planning law. The guide sets out many ways that lawyers can use their existing skills and resources to work towards climate justice, including:

1. **RUNNING STRATEGIC CLIMATE LITIGATION**
2. **WORKING ON LAW REFORM ACTIVITIES**
3. **OFFERING COMMERCIAL LEGAL ADVICE TO NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**
4. **ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE JUSTICE CLINIC IN COLLABORATION WITH A UNIVERSITY**
5. **PROVIDING A SECONDEE TO A CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION WORKING TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE (OR, FOR INDIVIDUAL LAWYERS OR LAW STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERING AT SUCH AN ORGANISATION)**
6. **PROVIDING LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHO ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS**
7. **CONDUCTING LEGAL RESEARCH ABOUT THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
8. **PROVIDING LEGAL ADVICE, INFORMATION, AND ADVOCACY TO THOSE FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE**
9. **PROVIDING LEGAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY A NATURAL DISASTER**
10. **OFFERING IMMIGRATION LAW ADVICE TO PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
11. **GIVING LEGAL SUPPORT TO NGOS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY DELEGATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS**
12. **PROVIDING COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION**
13. **PROVIDING LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS**
14. **DELIVERING TRAINING TO COMMUNITY LAWYERS**
15. **EXPANDING THE ROLE OF THE PRO BONO LAWYER — EMBEDDING CLIMATE TRANSITION AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN COMMERCIAL DECISION-MAKING.**



“This informative and inspiring publication describes the many ways that lawyers and the legal profession can dedicate their extensive expertise, experience and resources to tackling the climate crisis... Ultimately, climate change is not just about science or technology. It’s about justice. The legal profession has a moral obligation to stand up and join the movement for a cleaner, greener, healthier future.”

Dr. David R. Boyd,
United Nations Special Rapporteur on
human rights and the environment

“The impacts of climate change represent the greatest threat to our national security, our economy, our health and our environment. Legal professionals are integral to solving the climate crisis, from assisting Indigenous groups, working on law reform activities to running strategic litigation. As a lawyer and Member of Parliament, I warmly welcome this guide and initiative to encourage more lawyers to contribute their skills and expertise to the most pressing issue of our time.”

Zali Steggall OAM, Federal Member of
Parliament for Warringah, Australia

The guide has garnered significant international interest and, on request, has been translated into Persian. You can read the guide [here](#). ■

*By Sally Embelton, Centre Senior Policy and
Project Officer and Climate Guide project lead.*