



**12th Frontiers in Environmental Law
Colloquium 2026**



MONASH
University



National
Environmental
Law Association

**12th Frontiers in Environmental Law Colloquium 2026
4-6 February 2026**

hosted in Naarm/Melbourne by:

**University of Melbourne - Melbourne Law School (4-5 February)
Monash University - Faculty of Law and Faculty of Business & Economics (Business Law &
Taxation) (6 February)**

in association with the National Environmental Law Association

FINAL PROGRAM, 3 February 2026

DAY 1: Wednesday, 4 February 2026

Location: Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham St, Carlton

Room: Woodward Conference Centre, Level 10

8.30-9.00	Coffee and registration
9.00-9.30	Welcome to Country Welcome to the Conference – Introduction from conference organisers
9.30-10.00	Keynote Trav Lovett, Executive Director, Centre for Truth Telling and Dialogue, University of Melbourne
10.00-11.00	Session 1: <i>Indigenous Governance and Legal Pluralism in Environmental Law</i> Chair: Alice Palmer, University of Melbourne <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lee Godden and Marcus Stewart, Melbourne Law School, <i>Environmental Law, Treaty Law, and Legal Pluralism</i>● Karisma Karisma, Asia School of Business, <i>Indigenous Voices and Wisdom in Climate Policymaking: Towards Co-Governance and Legal Pluralism</i>● Trevor Daya-Winterbottom, University of Waikato, <i>Sunset for Indigenous Biodiversity Protection in Aotearoa New Zealand</i>
11.00-11.30	Morning tea

*****Note: The remainder of Day 1 will run in two parallel streams*****

	STREAM 1	STREAM 2
11.30-12.50	<p>Session 2A: Panel - Feminist Approaches to Environmental Law</p> <p>Co-chairs: Rowena Maguire and Katherine Keane, QUT</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rowena Maguire, QUT, <i>Feminist Tools for Critiquing Environmental Law</i> ● Katherine Keane, QUT, <i>The Trouble with Toilets: Women's Rights in the Work Environment in Australia</i> ● Monica Taylor, QUT, <i>Burning Inequality - Legal Responses to the Gender Dimensions of Extreme Heat</i> ● Fleur Kingham, Chair Queensland Law Reform Commission, and Steph Payne, Queensland Law Reform Commission, <i>The Decision Maker and the Crocodile: Integrating Ecofeminist Perspectives for a New Approach to Climate Change</i> 	<p>Session 2B:</p> <p>Panel - Constitutional Law and Environmental Problems</p> <p>Chair: Lael ('Lulu') Weis, Melbourne Law School</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lulu Weis, Melbourne Law School, <i>Greening Australian Constitutional Law</i> ● Liz Hicks, Melbourne Law School, <i>Environmental Democracy and Popular Sovereignty in Australia</i> ● Sam Bookman, Melbourne Law School, <i>A New Agenda for Environmental Constitutionalism: Thinking Beyond Rights</i> ● Cecile Bester, Nicola Silbert, Environmental Justice Australia, <i>Has the apple fallen too far from the tree? Questioning the constitutional foundations of the EPBC Act</i>
12.50-1.50	Lunch	
1.50-3.10	<p>Session 3A: Foundations for Transformative Environmental Governance: Rights, Obligations and Judicial Approaches</p> <p>Chair: Alice Bleby, Monash University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peter Lawrence, UTAS, <i>Integrating the rights of nature and human rights: Lessons from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Advisory Opinion</i> 	<p>Session 3B: Evolving Legal Doctrines for Climate Accountability: Courts, Constitutions, and International Law</p> <p>Chair: Liz Hicks, University of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sam Bookman, University of Melbourne, <i>A Common Law Climate Canon?</i> ● Hannah Leoni Stahl, University of Heidelberg, <i>Separation of powers for climate protection? What constitutional law and</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roanna McClelland, Melbourne Law School, <i>Water and climate litigation: conflict or confluence?</i> ● Kathleen Birrell, La Trobe University, <i>Legal Obligations as Ecological Norms</i> 	<p><i>climate litigation in Germany and Australia can tell us about the role of administrative review in protecting the climate.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hossain Mohammad Reza, Melbourne Law School, <i>The Promise and the Paradox of Standing Rules in Climate Change Litigation.</i> ● Agnes Chong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, <i>Reframing Climate Protection as Systemic Integration and Progressive Development of International Law</i>
3.10-3.40	Afternoon tea	
3.40-4.40	<p>Session 4A: Investment, Economic Interventions and the Environment</p> <p>Chair: Fia Hamid-Walker, University of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Margherita Feleppa, University of Wollongong, <i>Greening the Australian Consumer Law: how better repair rights can advance Australian consumers' participation into the circular economy</i> ● Elizabeth Sheargold, Monash University, <i>Is international investment law really capable of integrating climate change considerations?</i> 	<p>Session 4B: Norms and Regulation for an Equitable Climate Transition</p> <p>Chair: Sam Bookman, University of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Astrid Milena Bernal Rubio, Melbourne Law School, <i>The Just Energy Transition as an Emerging Normative Framework in International Law</i> ● Annas Akbar Sultansyah, Monash University, <i>Carbon Taxation as Environmental Law: Fiscal Architecture for Durable Decarbonisation in Coal-Exporting Nations</i> ● Rebekkah Markey-Towler, Melbourne Law School, <i>Climate action starts at home: Regulatory mixes for mortgage lending in a changing climate</i>
4.40	Close – Day 1	

<p>5.45-8.00</p> <p>Drinks & canapes from 5.45pm; formal event from 6.30pm</p>	<p>Book Symposium (canapes and drinks) - Is All Law Environmental Law? Melbourne Law School</p> <p>Room: Woodward Conference Centre, Level 10</p> <p>Chair: Michelle Foster, Dean and William Hearn Professor of Law Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne</p> <p>Authors and books to be launched:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lauren Sakae Nishimura, <i>Climate Change, Human Rights, and Adaptive Mobility</i> (Oxford University Press, 2025) ● Rebecca L Nelson, <i>Regulating a Thousand Cuts: Global Law and Policy Solutions to Cumulative Environmental Problems</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2025) <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tamara Wood, Senior Lecturer, La Trobe Law School and Visiting Fellow, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW ● Cameron Holley, Professor, School of Law, Society and Criminology, UNSW Law & Justice
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DAY 2: Thursday, 5 February 2026

Location: Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham St, Carlton

Room: Woodward Conference Centre, Level 10

*****Note: Day 2 will run in two parallel streams*****

8.30-9.00	Coffee and registration	
	STREAM 1	STREAM 2
9.00-10.40	<p>Session 5A:</p> <p>Panel - Past, present and future: <i>The evolving role for covenants in private land management</i></p> <p>Chair: Vic Marles, Chair, Australian Land Conservation Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Benjamin Richardson, UTAS, <i>Can restrictive covenants aid private land conservation?</i> ● Mat Hardy, NRM Regions Australia, <i>Conservation covenants in Victoria, practical insights with predictions for the future</i> ● Sarah Brugler, UTAS, <i>Delivering 30 x 30 on private land in Australia: What's the difference between covenants and environmental markets and why does it matter?</i> ● Phillipa McCormack, The University of Adelaide, <i>Update: Conservation covenants and their potential role in climate adaptation in Australia</i> ● Nate Camatta, The University of Adelaide, <i>Update: Conceptualising climate-adapted restoration governance principles</i> 	<p>Session 5B: <i>From Ecocide to Civil Penalties: Rethinking Penalties in Environmental Law</i></p> <p>Chair: Joanna Kyriakakis, Monash University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Melissa Strydom, UWA, <i>Criminal Law as Environmental Law: Reflections to Make Sanctions Work</i> ● Kellie Toole, Adelaide University, <i>Considering Australia's Readiness for a Domestic Ecocide Offence</i> ● Hamish McNamara and Kellie Toole, Adelaide University, <i>Exploring the Rationale for Criminal Law Penalties for Environmental Crime Offences in the South Australian Context</i> ● Marie Beillevert, Adelaide University, <i>Global trends for Ecocide and their Lessons for Australia</i> ● Sarah Wright, University of Wollongong, <i>Reconsidering Purpose, Consistency and Approach in the Enforcement of Environmental Law: The Proposed Introduction of Civil Penalty Proceedings in NSW.</i>
10.40-11.10	Morning tea	

<p>11.10-12.30</p>	<p>Session 6A: <i>Teaching and Regulating Our Legal Relationship with Nature</i></p> <p>Chair: Lael ('Lulu') Weis, University of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Margaret Castles and Alex Wawryk, Adelaide University, <i>The Biodiversity and Regional Australia Study Tour: Learning Environmental Law</i> ● Ed Couzens, University of Sydney Law School, <i>Implications from CITES CoP 20 globally and for Australia</i> ● Astrid Bernal Rubio; Melbourne Law School and Dr Bruce Lindsay, Environmental Justice Australia, <i>The Ramsar Convention as a living instrument for wetlands living through major anthropogenic changes: managing the Gippsland Lakes</i> 	<p>Session 6B: <i>Environment-related Law and Crises</i></p> <p>Chair: Lee Godden, University of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Belinda Reeve (University of Sydney Law School), Belinda Bennett (The University of Newcastle), Katherine Owens (University of Sydney Law School), Matthew Blundell (University of Sydney Law School), <i>Creating climate responsive public health law for Australia's states and territories</i> ● Fia Hamid-Walker, Melbourne Law School and Research associate for Natural Hazards Research Australia, <i>Is All Bushfire Law Environmental Law? Divergent Private Duties to Reduce Bushfire Fuel Loads in Australia</i> <hr/> <p>Session 6C: <i>Human Rights and the Environment</i></p> <p>Chair: Katherine Keane, QUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gillian Moon, Australian Human Rights Institute, UNSW, <i>State of Denial: The ICJ Advisory Opinion, human rights and Australia's fossil fuel exports.</i> ● Zhen Yu, Monash University, <i>Enforcing Corporate Accountability Beyond Borders: The Extraterritorial Effects of Mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (mHREDD) Laws in the Asia-Pacific Region</i>
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12.30-1.30	Lunch	
1.30-2.30	<p>Session 7A:</p> <p>Panel - <i>Climate harms and the future of the tort of negligence: Reflections on Pabai v Commonwealth</i></p> <p>Chair: Kathleen Birrell, La Trobe University</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Liz Hicks, University of Melbourne, <i>Separation of powers reasoning in climate litigation and the problem with the “core policy exclusion”</i> ● Joanna Kyriakakis, Monash University, <i>Time, Colonialism and Narrative in Climate Litigation</i> ● Maria Nawaz, UNSW, <i>Causation on trial: challenges and opportunities in climate litigation</i> 	<p>Session 7B: <i>Interrogating the assumptions of laws for nature</i></p> <p>Chair: Erin O’Donnell, University of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alice Palmer, Melbourne Law School, <i>Are photographic images in judgments environmental law?</i> ● Alice Bleby, Monash Business School, <i>Empirical evidence of a constitutional function in laws recognising nature as a legal subject</i> ● Emille Boulot, University of Tasmania, <i>Reimagining Nature Positive Law Reform</i>
2.30-3.00	Afternoon Tea	

3.00-4.20	<p>Session 8A:</p> <p>Panel - <i>Is all law climate law?</i></p> <p>Chair: Jackie Peel, University of Melbourne</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roanna McClelland, Melbourne Law School ● Andrea Furger, University of Melbourne ● Ella Vines, Monash Business School ● Rohan Nanthakumar, Melbourne Law School 	<p>Session 8B: <i>Governing Seas under International and National Laws</i></p> <p>Chair: Liz Sheargold, Monash University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shushmita Ahmed, UTS, <i>Beyond the Horizon: Rethinking Deep Seabed Mining and the Expanding Boundaries of Environmental Law</i> ● Yulu Liu, National University of Singapore, <i>Where to situate the discussions on small-scale fisheries in the future global plastic treaty</i>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kate Jama, Melbourne Law School, <i>Constructions of the sea in the Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973 (Cth) and beyond</i> ● Elizabeth Macpherson, University of Canterbury, <i>Blue Carbon Laws in Aotearoa New Zealand: Centering Rights, Justice, and Equity in marine and coastal law and policy</i>
4.20	Close – Day 2	
6.00-7.30	<p>Drinks hosted by Clayton Utz and National Environmental Law Association Boardroom, Level 18, 333 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000</p> <p>Panel: The EPBC Act - reflections on recent reforms and implementation</p> <p>Robert Stilling, Clayton Utz (Chair) Nicola Silbert, Environmental Justice Australia Justine Bell-James, University of Queensland Mark Beaufoy, King Wood and Mallesons, and NELA</p>	

DAY 3: Friday, 6 February 2026

Location: Ground floor plenary and seminar rooms 4 and 6 (upstairs), Monash University Law Chambers, 555 Lonsdale Street, Naarm/Melbourne CBD

Time	
8.30-8.55	Coffee and registration
8.55	Introductory remarks – Dean and Professor, Steven Vaughan, Monash University Faculty of Law
9.00-9.30	Keynote: Erika Techera, Law School, University of Western Australia <i>Doing better with what we have: Compliance strategies in environmental, natural resources and cultural heritage law</i>
9:30-10:30	Session 9 Panel: <i>Climate Conscious Lawyers</i> Chair: Ed Couzens (University of Sydney) Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Julia Dehm, La Trobe● Nicole Graham, Sydney Law School● Zoe Nay, University of Melbourne
10.30-11.00	Polar law conference invitation, and Morning tea
11.00-12.00	Session 10: Panel: <i>Implications of the ICJ advisory opinion on climate change for Small Island Developing States and climate finance</i> Chair: Rohan Nanthakumar, University of Melbourne Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Nina Araneta, University of Melbourne● Dylan Asafo, University of Melbourne● Alofipo So'oalo Fleur Ramsay, Barrister, Victorian Bar

*****The middle part of Day 3 will run in two parallel streams*****

	STREAM 1	STREAM 2
12.00-1.00	<p>Session 11A: Legal Tools for Ecological Networks: Canopy, Verges and Corridors</p> <p>Chair: Christine Parker, University of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emma Scaife, UWA, <i>Australia's urban tree canopy is under threat, creating a legal and environmental dilemma: how do we reconcile a landowner's right to develop their property with the public's need for vital green infrastructure?</i> ● Alexandra Scott, UWA, <i>Biodiversity Corridor Regulation in Western Australia - How can legal history inform future landscape-scale regulation?</i> 	<p>Session 11B: Practising Environmental Justice: Supporting Communities and Country</p> <p>Chair: Kate Jama, Victoria Legal Aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inshani Ward, Environmental Justice Australia, <i>Community lawyering to achieve environmental justice - case studies from a public interest environmental law centre.</i> ● Ally McAlpine and Connor Wright, Environmental Justice Australia, <i>Climate justice in remote communities: in the face of climate change, how do we support remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to protect cultural heritage and country?</i> ● Elena Aydos and Sven Rudolph, The University of Newcastle, <i>Mitigation, Justice, and the Expanding Project of Environmental Law</i>
1.00-2.00	Lunch	
2.00-2.40	<p>Session 12A: Nature, Risks and the Law</p> <p>Chair: Nicole Graham, University of Sydney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anita Foerster, Monash Business School, <i>Nature-related risks and the Australian real estate sector - one step forward, two steps back?</i> 	<p>Session 12B: Navigating Climate Regulation - Practical Insights</p> <p>Chair: Bek Markey-Towler, University of Melbourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Liz Hicks, Guy Baldwin, Sam Bookman, Lauren Nishimura, Melbourne Law School, <i>Accountability for downstream emissions in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom: Lessons for</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Justine Bell-James, UQ, <i>When all regulators are environmental regulators - quantifying risk perception in restoration permitting</i> 	<p><i>constitutional climate democracy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ella Vines, Monash Business School, <i>Compliance in Transition: Early Corporate Responses to Australia's Safeguard Mechanism</i>
2.40-3.10	Afternoon tea	
3.10-4.50	<p>Session 13:</p> <p>Panel - Is AI Law Environmental Law?</p> <p>Co-chairs: Christine Parker, University of Melbourne, and Cameron Holley, UNSW</p> <p>Paper presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sonia Qadir, UNSW, <i>AI lifecycle' approach to 'supply chain capitalism of AI'</i> ● Lina Przhedetsky, Melbourne Law School, <i>Governing AI for Environmental Impact: An Overview of Current Approaches and Their Limitations</i> ● Anna Huggins, QUT, <i>Is algorithmic regulation environmental regulation?</i> ● Cameron Holley and Carley Bartlett, UNSW, <i>Whither risk regulation? Unpacking the potential impacts of AI imaginaries in environmental regulation.</i> ● Lev (Leo) Bromberg (La Trobe University) and Christine Parker (University of Melbourne), <i>Multispecies Justice for Wildlife AI</i> 	
4.50-5.00	Frontiers 2027 and Closing remarks	
5.00	Conference close	