



# NELA BULLETIN

## AUGUST 2011

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### Note from the President

Planning is underway for the NELA National Conference which will be held in either late 2012 or early 2013. The National Executive is working towards identifying a host city, venue and theme for the Conference and more information will be made available in the near future - so watch this space!

NELA's networking activities are continuing. Immediate Past President Robyn Glindemann met with the American Bar Association and Canadian Bar Association earlier this year and Danyelle Kelson, NELA Vice President, represented NELA at the 2011 EIANZ Environmental Planning Policy Law and Practice Alliance Convocation which was recently held in Brisbane. A report from the EIANZ Convocation is included in this Bulletin.

I was fortunate to attend the Australian Committee for IUCN 59<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting which was held in Canberra in April. The meeting discussed a number of significant issues including the EPBC Act Review, World Heritage and ocean and marine policy. These are matters that NELA has been exploring with its members and were covered at the 2010 National Conference. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for NELA to engage with like-minded organisations and IUCN is to be commended on unifying a diverse range of interests and view points.

I look forward to NELA's ongoing relationship with the IUCN.

**Kathryn Barras**  
President

### NELA WA State Conference

NELA WA is holding its State Conference on Friday 23 September 2011.

The Hon Chief Justice Wayne Martin will be delivering the keynote address.

More details including the full program will be released shortly.

**NELA 2011**  
WA STATE CONFERENCE



NELA WA invites both Members & Non Members to join us for this years WA State Conference to be held at

Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth  
Friday 23 September 2011 8:00am – 5:00pm

Don't forget to join us for our social function after the conference.



Conference Program and Registration Details  
will be available shortly.

[www.nela.org.au/view/WA\\_Conferences\\_and\\_Seminars](http://www.nela.org.au/view/WA_Conferences_and_Seminars)

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NELA is committed to reducing their carbon footprint. Help us by registering online, making use of public transport to attend the conference and consider the environment before printing this conference material.



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## EIANZ Convocation

### 2011 EIANZ Environmental Planning Policy Law and Practice Alliance Convocation

Danyelle Kelson, NELA Vice President, attend the EIANZ Environmental Planning Policy Law and Practice Alliance Convocation on 15 June 2011 in Brisbane.

The convocation was attended by representatives from EIANZ, the Planning Institute of Australia, Australian Society of Soil Science, Environment Management Systems Association, Australian Contaminated Land Consultants Association, Australian Green Infrastructure Council, Society for Sustainability and Environmental Engineering, Australian Land and Groundwater Association and NELA.

The delegates present discussed the qualitative issues faced by those working in the environmental field and in particular in the preparation of environmental impact statements. Key issues in this regard were: professional accountability; scientific rigour; "lack of trust" due to a perception that EIS were essentially prepared to get a project across the line and the lack of standards or requirements on who can "sign off" an EIS. It was determined that the core elements for accreditation were ethics and standards.

In concluding this part of the discussion it was determined that in going forward the organisations would seek input from their committees as to what would be taken forward as a package on this issue for potential advocacy initiatives; and a second round table of interested parties would be organised to discuss the matters further. This second round of discussions would involve defining the issues and targeting advocacy efforts.

## Resource Management Law Association Conference 2011

### Early Bird Registrations are open!

The Resource Management Law Association of New Zealand (RMLA) Conference for 2011 is to be held in Hamilton, at the SKYCITY river-side conference centre from 6 – 8 October 2011. The Conference theme "Our place in the world - hei whakapae ururoa" intends a broad theme that reflects the diversity of the Waikato Region, together with the local and global influences on resource management issues in the 21st century.

Speakers include Kevin Roberts, CEO Worldwide of Saatchi & Saatchi, one of the world's leading creative organizations; Nick Smith, NZ Minister for the Environment, Minister for Climate Change Issues and Minister for ACC and Dr Meredith Gibbs, Special Counsel, Blake Dawson Lawyers, Melbourne and NELA Member.

Early-bird registrations are open. For the full program and to register, visit [www.rmla.org.nz/events](http://www.rmla.org.nz/events)

## 2011 NELA Environmental Law Essay Competition

### *Are we headed in the right direction?*

Submit your essay by 1 November 2011 and you could win \$1000 and free NELA Membership.

The NELA Essay Competition is open to any student enrolled at an Australian tertiary institution (including undergraduate and postgraduate programs). Essays that have been submitted for assessment in a unit on environmental law are eligible (and encouraged).

Essays are to be 3000 to 5000 words and may be on any topic in the discipline of Environmental Law and should broadly relate to the theme "are we headed in the right direction?"

The author of the winning essay will receive AU\$1000 and one year of free membership of NELA commencing from 1 July 2012.

The winning essay will be published in the National Environmental Law Review.

More information can be found on the NELA Website at [www.nela.org.au](http://www.nela.org.au)

## What's New

### **1 August 2011: Industry Consultation on the draft GEMS Bill**

The Australian Government has commenced consultation with industry on the draft Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) Bill, which will streamline the process by which minimum energy and performance standards (and labelling requirements) are set for a range of residential, commercial and industrial equipment.

To assist industry in this process, a Consultation Paper has been released that summarises the key points and outlines what industry can expect once the Bill comes into effect.

For further details on the consultation process and to download a copy of the Consultation Paper visit [www.climatechange.gov.au/government/submissions/draft-gems-bill.aspx](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/submissions/draft-gems-bill.aspx)

### **7 August 2011: Historic agreement provides certainty for Tasmania's forests and forest industry**

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Tasmanian Premier Lara Giddings have signed a landmark agreement that will provide certainty for Tasmania's forestry industry, support local jobs and communities, and protect the state's ancient forests. The agreement will help the forest industry adapt to market changes while protecting the communities and families that rely on the sector to survive.

Under the agreement a total of \$276 million, including \$15 million from the State Government, will be provided to support contractors and their families affected by the downturn in the industry; to facilitate protection of new areas of high conservation value forests; to identify and fund appropriate regional development projects and to manage new reserves.

To view a copy of the full announcement visit [www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/](http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/burke/)

### **Henbury Conservation Project**

An Australian company is grasping the opportunity of the emerging carbon economy to fund nature conservation.

The Henbury Conservation Project is all about 'learning by doing'. For the first time a business is attempting to establish a model for carbon farming - and at the same time meet international benchmarks for long-term biodiversity conservation of a rare and under-protected arid Australian environment.

The property is Henbury Station and the project is the brainchild of Australia's R.M. Williams Agricultural Holdings.

Henbury will now be protected forever as part of Australia's National Reserve System. With the removal of grazing pressures, the company will actively manage the former pastoral property to control fire, water, weeds and feral animals to support the regeneration of native vegetation. Income from the resulting biodiverse carbon credits will fund Henbury's long-term conservation.

For more information on this project visit [www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/getting-involved/case-studies/henbury.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/getting-involved/case-studies/henbury.html)

## **New NELA Website Coming Soon!**

The final work is being completed to the design of the new look NELA Website.

The new website will provide a fresh, revised format which will include more information for both NELA members and interested parties.

One of the key aspects of the new website will be improved functionality to ensure its easy to use and meets our members' needs.

If you are interested in contributing to the new website, please contact the NELA Secretariat.

## News from the Secretariat

### 2011/2012 Membership Renewals Reminder

Thank you to all those NELA Members that have renewed their NELA subscription.

A reminder notice to those that have not renewed has been sent out with the recent mail out of the latest NELR. If you have not renewed, please do so as soon as possible to ensure that you continue to receive NELA material.

A reminder that NELA has introduced a new Corporate Membership. This new membership category is open to associations, incorporated or not, and government agencies.

Corporate membership includes full membership of NELA for five employees of the organization. Organisations taking out the Corporate Membership will be eligible for one vote in accordance with NELA's Articles of Association. Organisations interested in taking up Corporate Membership are asked to contact the NELA Secretariat at [nelaust@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nelaust@ozemail.com.au) or to download a membership form from the NELA website.

## Upcoming Events

### 2011 EIANZ Annual Conference

The Environment Institute Australia and New Zealand is holding its annual conference at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland from 27 – 30 September 2011.

The Conference theme, *Facing the Future, Actions for the Environment Profession*, will challenge and explore the key issues we are confronted with in our jobs and our lives.

For more information visit [www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org)

### 14<sup>th</sup> International Riversymposium

The 14th International Riversymposium, 26-29 September 2011 in Brisbane, QLD will explore the multiple reasons that rivers are valuable ranging from economics through to cultural and spiritual values. There will be a prominent focus throughout the conference on natural disasters and their value to rivers and waterways, due to the recent events that are being felt across the globe and specifically in Queensland.

For more information and to register, visit [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com).

### 2011 Government Sustainability Conference

The 2011 Government Sustainability Conference is being held from 31 August – 1 September in Melbourne. The Conference will provide local and state government professionals and representatives of government agencies with comprehensive analysis and advice about how to ingrain environmentally sustainable policies and practices within their organisations and the communities they serve.

For more information and to register, visit [www.halledit.com.au/leadsustaingov2011](http://www.halledit.com.au/leadsustaingov2011)

### 2nd Annual Sustainable Planning & Development Queensland Conference 2011

2nd Annual Sustainable Planning & Development Queensland Conference 2011 will be held in Brisbane on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 August. Hear from leading industry experts and government about current sustainable development and planning practices, the implementation of the Sustainable Planning Act in its first year of operation and the direction of sustainable planning and development in the face of the recent devastation caused by natural disasters.

For more information visit [www.connectconferences.com.au/](http://www.connectconferences.com.au/)

### Legalwise Seminars

Legalwise is running a series of seminars on Water Law and BioBanking in a number of states. Legalwise is offering a 10 per cent discount off the registration fee for NELA members.

For more information and to register visit [www.legalwiseseminars.com.au](http://www.legalwiseseminars.com.au)