

# NELA National Conference

3 November 2023, The University of Melbourne

*Intersecting crises of climate change and biodiversity loss – where to next for Australian environmental law?'*

1st Session

Environmental Policy Agenda – Federal & Victoria

2nd Session

Environmental Law in Australia: How the Past Informs Possibilities

3rd Session

Nature Positive Laws: What Does It Mean & How Do We Get There?

4th Session

The Climate Action Challenge: Race to Net Zero

5th Session

International processes & the enforcement of environmental law, in particular in relation to the rights of Indigenous peoples

*Speaker lineup includes:*



MARK BEAUFOY  
NELA NATIONAL PRESIDENT



DEAN MATTHEW HARDING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



DR REBECCA NELSON  
MELBOURNE LAW SCHOOL



HON TANYA PLIBERSEK MP  
FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTER



HON JUSTICE JAGOT  
HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA



SIMON MOLESWORTH AO KC  
VICTORIAN BAR



DR GERRY BATES  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



JUSTICE BROMBERG  
AUS LAW REFORM COMMISSION



DP TERESA BISUCCI  
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT, VCAT



PROF BRENDAN WINTLE  
BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL



DR JACK PASCOE  
BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL



DR PHILLIPA MCCORMACK  
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



JEREMY THOMAS  
DCCEEW



KATE GAVENS  
VIC DEECA



DR JAMES FITZSIMMONS  
NATURE CONSERVANCY



RACHEL WALMSLEY  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE



DR ANDREA VECCHI  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



DR JUSTINE BELL-JAMES  
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



CLAIRE SMITH  
CLAYTON UTZ



PROF SAMANTHA HEPBURN  
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY



DAVID HERTZBERG  
EQUITY GENERATION LAWYERS



DR ARJUNA DIBLEY  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



BRENDAN SYDES  
AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION



DR JUDITH PRESTON



HON JUSTICE DR SARAH PRITCHARD  
LAND & ENVIRONMENT COURT NSW



PROF PHIL DUNCAN  
UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA




TIPHANIE ACREMAN  
VICTORIAN BAR



EMRYS NAKEPVILL SC  
VICTORIAN BAR

 **DATE: Friday 3 November 2023**

 **THEME: Intersecting crises of climate change and biodiversity loss – where to next for Australian environmental law?**

 **VENUE: Melbourne University, Law School, Woodward Conference Centre**

8am - 9am

## Arrival & Registration

9am - 9.30am

## Welcome to Country

Wurundjeri

## Opening

Mark Beaufoy, President of NELA

Dr Rebecca Nelson, Melbourne Law School

1st Session

## Environmental Policy Agenda - Federal

An outline of what government has been doing, the Federal policy agenda, and the role of environmental law and lawyers

9:30am - 9:40am

Matthew Harding, Dean of Melbourne Law School to introduce Minister

9:40am - 10am

Federal Environment Minister, The Hon Tanya Plibersek, MP

10:00am - 10:30am

## Morning Tea

2nd Session

## Status of Australia's Environmental Laws

Environmental law in Australia: The history and future of environmental law, how the past informs possibilities, and the role of courts

10:30am - 12.00pm

Format: Keynote followed by moderated Q&A panel of speakers

Keynote: Hon Justice Jagot, High Court of Australia

Panel chair: Simon Molesworth AO KC

Panel moderated discussion: Dr Gerry Bates, The University of Sydney, Justice Bromberg, President, Australian Law Reform Commission, Deputy President Teresa Bisucci, Head of the Planning and Environment Division, VCAT

12:00pm - 1:00pm

## Lunch

3rd Session	<b>Nature Positive Laws: What Does It Mean &amp; How Do We Get There?</b> Biodiversity (EPBC reforms) – The complexities of nature positive
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Format: Keynote followed by moderated Q&A Panel of speakers Keynote: Prof Brendan Wintle (Biodiversity Council) & Dr Jack Pascoe (Biodiversity Council) Panel chair: Dr Phillipa McCormack (University of Adelaide) Panel moderated discussion: Jeremy Thomas (DCCEEW), Kate Gavens (DEECA), Dr James Fitzsimons (Nature Conservancy), Rachel Walmsley (EDO),
2:30pm – 2:45pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
4th Session	<b>Climate Change – What’s Next for Climate Law in Australia?</b> Climate litigation & human rights
2:45pm – 4:15pm	Format: Keynote followed by moderated Q&A Panel of speakers Keynote: Dr Andrea Vecchi, University of Melbourne Panel chair: Dr Justine Bell-James (University of Queensland) Panel moderated discussion: Claire Smith (Clayton Utz), Prof Samantha Hepburn (Deakin University), David Hertzberg (Equity Generation Lawyers), Dr Arjuna Dibley (University of Melbourne), Brendan Sydes (ACF)
5th Session	<b>International Processes Relating to Enforcement of Environmental Law</b> In particular in relation to the rights of Indigenous peoples
4:15pm – 5:15pm	Chair: Dr Judith Preston Keynotes: Hon Justice Dr Sarah Pritchard, Land and Environment Court NSW & Professor Phil Duncan, University of Canberra
5:15pm – 5:30pm	<b>NELA President Closing Speech</b> Mark Beaufoy, President of NELA
5:30pm – 7:00pm	<b>Interval Drinks sponsored by ACF</b>
7pm	<b>Post-Conference Dinner</b> <i>Presentation of NELA lifetime membership</i> Tiphonie Acreman, NELA Treasurer Guest speaker: Emrys Nekvapil SC

*NELA are grateful for the support of our partners in bringing this conference together.*

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