

# Environmental Justice Symposium

Friday 23rd November 2012, 9am to 5pm

QUT Gardens Point, Brisbane - D Block, Room 101



## Is there Environmental Justice in Queensland?

‘Environmental justice’ refers to equality and fairness in the distribution of environmental harms and benefits (**distributive justice**), and to the rights of affected communities to participate in decision-making regarding these distributions (**procedural** or **participatory justice**). The term ‘environmental justice’ originated in the USA, and the concept is now used in many countries and in international environmental law. The term has not historically been widely used in Australia, but there is growing interest among civil society groups and some government agencies in the concept.

The aim of the symposium is to bring together academics, activists, legal practitioners, students and regulators, to explore the relevance of environmental justice in Queensland and to identify opportunities for future collaborative projects. The symposium will examine the origins and evolution of environmental justice; the relationship between environmental justice, ecological justice and Earth jurisprudence; climate justice internationally and locally and the relevance of environmental justice to current issues in Queensland such as coal seam gas mining.

### SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Professor David Schlosberg, University of Sydney
- Professor Douglas Fisher, QUT Law School
- Professor Brendan Mackey, Director, Griffith Climate Change Response Program
- Associate Professor Afshin Akhavari, Griffith University Law School
- Dr Rowena Maguire, QUT Law School
- Jo-Anne Bragg, Principal Solicitor, Qld EDO
- Drew Hutton, Lock the Gate Alliance
- Annette Maybon-Hutchins, Stop CSG Brisbane
- Michelle Maloney, Australian Wild Law Alliance
- Sean Ryan, Senior Solicitor Qld EDO
- Dr Wendy Steele, Griffith University
- Evan Hamman, Project Manager, Qld EDO



Aerial photograph of coal seam gas wells, south of Chinchilla—courtesy of ABC News

## Symposium Program

8.30-9.15am Registration, tea and coffee

9.15-9.30am Opening remarks and welcome - Professor Douglas Fisher, QUT Law School

9.30-11.00am **Environmental and ecological justice**

- Keynote Address: “Environmental justice: origins and evolution” – Professor David Schlosberg, Sydney University
- Justice and the natural contract in the Anthropocene epoch – Associate Professor Afshin Akhavari, Griffith University
- Earth jurisprudence and wild law – Michelle Maloney, Australian Wild Law Alliance (AWLA)

11.00-11.15am Morning Tea

11.15-12.45pm **Climate justice**

- How bad can it get? The implications for justice of future climate - Professor Brendan Mackey, Director, Griffith Climate Change Response Program (GCCRP)
- Theories of climate justice in the international climate regime – Dr Rowena Maguire, Qld University of Technology (QUT)
- What does climate justice mean in Australia? - Dr Wendy Steele, Griffith University
- Climate change litigation – can it achieve climate justice? - Sean Ryan, Senior Solicitor, Environmental Defender’s Office

12.45-1.30pm Lunch

1.30-2.45pm **Case Study: Coal seam gas**

- Civil society perspectives: social and environmental impacts of CSG – Annette Hutchinson, Stop CSG Brisbane
- The legal framework for coal seam gas projects: opportunities for community influence – Evan Hamman, Project Manager, Mining and Coal Seam Gas Handbook, Qld EDO
- When the law can’t help: the role of civil disobedience – Drew Hutton, Lock the Gate Alliance

2.45-3.15pm Afternoon Tea

3.15-4.45pm **Making environmental justice happen**

- Judicial activism in environmental governance – Professor Douglas Fisher, QUT
- Environmental and climate justice in Queensland: access to justice and funding challenges – Jo-Anne Bragg, Principal Solicitor, Environmental Defender’s Office
- Landholder compensation - speaker to be confirmed
- The role of government and civil society – Michelle Maloney, Australian Wild Law Alliance

4.45-5.00 **Conclusions and next steps**

Michelle Maloney, AWLA and Dr Rowena Maguire, QUT

### HOW TO REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE

Attendance is free, but space is limited. Please RSVP by 20 November by emailing:

[convenor@wildlaw.org.au](mailto:convenor@wildlaw.org.au)

Lunch, morning and afternoon tea will be provided

### Brought to you by

Australian Wild Law Alliance  
Qld University of Technology  
(QUT)

Qld Environmental Defender’s  
Office (Qld EDO)

<http://www.wildlaw.org.au/environmental-justice-symposium/>