**Coal Seam Gas, Fracking and Earth Jurisprudence: is alignment possible?**

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Abstract

Coal seam gas mining and the associated technique of fracking have become sites of tension and disquiet in the Australian community. While they are sometimes billed as having favourable, green credentials, oppositional forces condemn both CSG mining and fracking for the potential damage they may cause to land, water and eco-systems. In this climate, the manner in which these activities are regulated and governed assumes great significance. Therefore, this paper examines key aspects of the present regulatory and governance framework, using one state (NSW), as a case study. It then explores whether the existing framework is in harmony with the tenets of Earth Jurisprudence and if not, what kind of reform may be necessary to achieve a better alignment.

Speaker Biography

Janice has published nationally and internationally in the fields of water law, property law, equity and native title. She is the lead author of Property Law in New South Wales, now in its 3rd edition (2012) and one of three co-authors of Water Resources Law (2009), the second edition of which is presently being commissioned. She is particularly interested in the governance of natural resources; has sat on the Property Law Committee of the NSW Law Society, holds a current practising certificate as a solicitor in the State of NSW and is the Editor-in-Chief of the Australasian Journal of Natural Resources Law and Policy, an Editor of the Human Rights Defender and on the international advisory board of the Canadian Journal of Native Studies. In 2012, she was part of a research team which won a NSW Green Globe Award for its project on sustainable sanitation.