



Protecting Groundwater and other Ecosystems: US experiences in creating legal frameworks for Rights of Nature

Public Lecture - Friday, 4th October 2013 - 6pm to 7.30pm (Refreshments 7.30-8.30)
City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth 6005

Join us for a public presentation about innovative developments in environmental governance and groundwater protection, that protect communities and their natural environments. This presentation will be of interest to community activists, farmers, regulators, legal practitioners, academics, students and anyone interested in the future of their communities, environment and health.

Communities around the world are seeking to stop CSG mining, shale gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing or “fracking”, recognizing the severe impacts on groundwater and human and natural communities of these ‘unconventional’ mining practices. The USA’s Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) - a non-profit public interest law firm and grassroots organizing group – has assisted the first municipalities in the US to ban fracking and other hydrocarbon extraction, and put in place new laws which establish a right to a sustainable energy future. These laws also establish the rights of nature, including the rights of aquifers and other water ecosystems, placing the highest societal value on these natural systems. With these laws, for the first time residents and local governments possess the authority to defend the rights of water and other ecosystems against activities, such as fracking, that will interfere with the ability of those ecosystems to exist and thrive.

In Western Australia, many harmful activities are being planned that pose threats to land, water, air and human health, without any public consultation. Fracking has already commenced in WA, with fifteen wells already sunk and industry gearing up for full scale commercial production. Join us for this timely lecture and discussion.

Guest Speakers

- Thomas Linzey and Mari Margil, CELDF, the USA’s Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (www.celdf.org)
- Alex Gardner, Associate Professor, University of Western Australia Law School and National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (www.uwa.edu.au/person/alex.gardner)

With introductions by

- Piers Versteegen, Conservation Council of Western Australia (<http://ccwa.org.au/>)
- Michelle Maloney, National Convenor, Australian Earth Laws Alliance (www.earthlaws.org.au)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This public lecture will be of interest to community groups, farmers, regulators, academics, legal practitioners, students and anyone interested in the future of environmental governance

HOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

Please book by 30 September by using our online booking system:

www.trybooking.com/DLSV

Cost: \$5 donation at the door

For more information email:
convenor@earthlaws.org.au



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<http://www.earthlaws.org.au/events/celdf-tour/perth>