

# Exploring the Legal Status of Nature

Workshop, Publication and Symposium series - 2017 to 2018



Climate change, biodiversity loss and the global ecological crisis are forcing many people to rethink the legal, economic and governance structures underpinning modern industrial societies.

Lawyers around the world are exploring innovative ways to use the law to better support the health of the non-human world. One area receiving growing attention is the use of western legal constructs such as legal personhood and rights based approaches, to shift the legal status of nature from human property, to subjects of the law. Examples include: the constitution of Ecuador, national legislation in Bolivia, local ordinances in the USA and recent court decisions in India which recognise the legal rights of nature; developments in New Zealand under the Treaty of Waitangi, which have seen several ecosystems granted legal personhood and in Australia, the creation of 'environmental water managers' in domestic law has seen legal rights allocated to environmental water flows.

*Exploring the Legal Status of Nature* aims to bring academics, legal practitioners, First Nations People and animal and environmental protection advocates in Australia together, to explore innovative laws from around the world, Earth centred laws within the legal systems of First Nations Peoples and new legal approaches in Australia. The goal is to create an accessible analysis of existing laws and create normative frameworks and proposals, about how the legal status of nature could be transformed in Australia.

The project will see a series of workshops held in Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth between June and December 2017. The workshops will facilitate discussion about the project and build a community of thinkers and writers interested in the topic. There will be a Call for Papers in December 2017, for an edited collection and International Symposium in 2018.

For more information: [www.earthlaws.org.au](http://www.earthlaws.org.au)

## WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Academics, legal practitioners, First Nations Peoples, animal and environmental protection advocates, law students and anyone interested in exploring issues relating to the current and future legal status of the non-human world.

## KEY DATES

- June to December 2017—workshops around Australia (see website for details)
- 1 December 2017 - call for papers opens
- 31 January 2018 —call for papers closes
- July 2018 - full papers due
- September 2018 - papers presented at International Symposium
- Publication of collected edition—late 2018/early 2019

## WEBSITE

<http://www.earthlaws.org.au>

## EMAIL LIST

To express interest in the project and join our email list, please contact:  
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australian earth laws alliance