

# New developments in the legal status of rivers

Friday 11th August - 2-5pm, Melbourne Law School, Room GM17  
*This workshop is part of the "Exploring the Legal Status of Nature" Series*



Researchers, legal practitioners and students are invited to a workshop at Melbourne Law School on Friday 11 August 2017, for an update about fascinating developments in the legal status of rivers and to discuss a new research and publication project, called 'Exploring the Legal Status of Nature'.

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. *Exploring the Legal Status of Nature* is a workshop, publication and symposium series that 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.

Presentations at the Melbourne workshop will include:

- *An overview of the "Exploring the Legal Status of Nature" project* - Dr Michelle Maloney, AELA
- *Legal Rights for the Whanganui, Ganges and Yamuna Rivers* - Erin O'Donnell and Julia Talbot-Jones
- *Rights of Nature: Columbia's Rio Atrato* - Lisa Caripis
- *The Yarra River: a new statutory process* - Nicola Rivers and Bruce Lindsay

For more information, please email:  
[convenor@earthlaws.org.au](mailto:convenor@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.

## TO BOOK YOUR PLACE AT THE MELBOURNE WORKSHOP

<https://www.trybooking.com/QPHB>

## WEBSITE

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

## EMAIL LIST

To express interest in the project and join our email list, please contact:

Erin O'Donnell, Melbourne Law School, [oe@student.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:oe@student.unimelb.edu.au)

Dr Michelle Maloney  
Australian Earth Laws Alliance  
[convenor@earthlaws.org.au](mailto:convenor@earthlaws.org.au)



# Exploring the Legal Status of Nature

## Workshop, publication and symposium series—2017 and 2018

The project will see small workshops held in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, and Perth between June and November 2017. The workshops will facilitate discussion about the project and build a community of thinkers and writers interested in the topic.

A major symposium will be held in Brisbane in September 2018, to bring participants together to share their research. An edited collection of papers from the project will be published in late 2018 or early 2019.

This research and publication series will be of interest to people who are currently researching, or plan to conduct research, on any of the following topics:

- Existing legal mechanisms for creating rights of nature and legal personhood for nature in Australia, including laws relating to individual animal or plant species
- Critical analysis of whether changing the legal status of nature improves the protection and management of ecosystems and the non-human world
- Critical analysis of the economic, cultural and social impacts of changing the legal status of nature
- Normative proposals about how rights of nature, legal personhood or other legal approaches — including changes to constitutional, property, intellectual property, criminal and other fields of law — could be created at the Federal, State or local level, to change the legal status of nature in Australia
- Administrative and institutional structures needed to support rights of nature, legal personhood status and other legal approaches
- Issues within broader governance and ecological regulation scholarship relevant to the legal status of nature

To express interest in the project and join our email list, please contact:

Dr Michelle Maloney, Australian Earth Laws Alliance  
convenor@earthlaws.org.au

### KEY DATES FOR THE ELSN PROJECT

- June to December 2017— ELSN workshops around Australia (see website for details)
- 1 December 2017 - call for abstracts opens
- 19-20 February 2018 - *'Rethinking Sovereignty for the Earth'* Symposium, UTS, Sydney
- 28 February 2018 - call for abstracts closes
- July 2018 - full papers due
- September 2018 - papers presented at International Symposium, Brisbane
- Publication of collected edition— late 2018/early 2019

### WEBSITE

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

