

Australian Peoples' Tribunal For Community and Nature's Rights



2018 Citizen's Inquiry into the Impacts of Industrial Scale Agriculture on the Rights of Nature and Local Communities

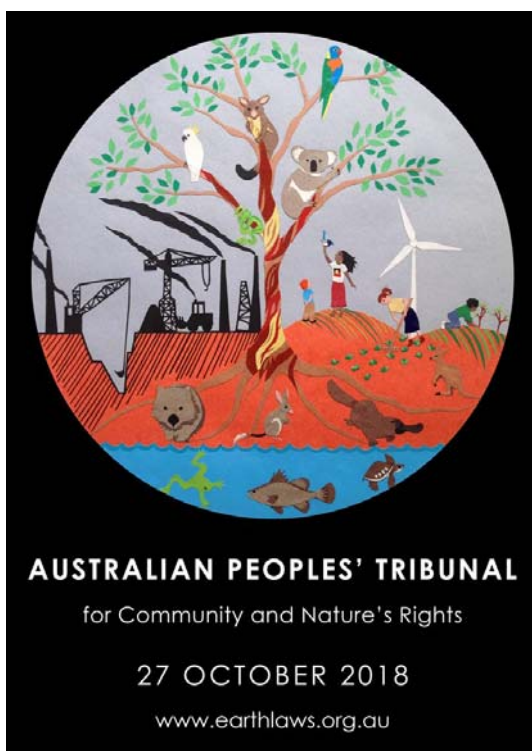
SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER 2018, BRISBANE

The 2018 Australian Peoples' Tribunal is a citizen's inquiry into the impacts of industrial scale agriculture (food, fibre and livestock production), on ecosystems and local communities across Australia. In many places, industrial scale agriculture has had a significant impact on forests, native vegetation, biodiversity, soils and the water supplies of local communities.

The primary focus of the Tribunal is to hear about impacts, solutions and positive ways forward that restore biodiversity, soil and water systems, embrace compassionate farming practices and support indigenous knowledge systems and ongoing cultural practices. The 2018 Citizen's Inquiry is non-adversarial and is solutions focussed.

As climate change increases the severity of droughts, heat waves and water shortages, we need to examine the real cost of current agricultural practices and find effective ways to grow food and fibre in Australia, which don't destroy the foundations of our ecosystems and communities.

The key issues the Inquiry will examine include: What impact has industrial scale agriculture had on First Nations Peoples' Food Systems since colonisation in 1788 and how can these systems be restored? What impact has industrial scale agriculture had on the continent's ecosystems? How can we change modern agricultural practices so that they support, rather than destroy, Australia's ecosystems and biodiversity? How can we build human food systems that fit within our ecological limits?



HOW TO ATTEND

Everyone is welcome to attend the Tribunal.

ADDRESS: Banco Court, Level 3, Supreme Court Building, 415 George Street, Brisbane

Tickets are \$10 for the whole day

To book: <https://www.trybooking.com/THSY>

SUPPORT THE TRIBUNAL

Become a Tribunal supporter and help us bring indigenous elders, scientific experts and community representatives to the Tribunal. Every dollar helps! Donate via our secure GiveNow page:

<https://www.givenow.com.au/ronatribunal2018>

MORE INFORMATION

www.earthlaws.org.au

The Australian Peoples' Tribunal is an initiative of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance—www.earthlaws.org.au



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27 October 2018 - Brisbane



DRAFT PROGRAM

The Australian Peoples' Tribunal for Community and Nature's Rights acknowledges that the sovereignty of the First Nations Peoples of the continent now known as Australia was never ceded by treaty nor in any other way. The Tribunal proceedings acknowledge and respect First Nations Peoples' laws and ecologically sustainable custodianship of Australia over tens of thousands of years through land and sea management practices that continue today.

- 8.00am Registration opens
- 8.40am Welcome to Yuggera Country by Nunukul Yuggera Dancers
- 9.10am Tribunal opens** - Opening remarks by Tribunal Chairperson, Dr Michelle Maloney
- 9.30am International Context—Global Impacts of Industrial Scale Agriculture
- 10.00am Australian Context—First Nations Food Systems and Impacts of Post-1788 Agricultural Systems on the Australian Continent
- 11.00am Morning tea (can be purchased from coffee shops next door to Banco Court)
- 11.30am Case Study 1—Impacts of Agriculture on the Brigalow Belt Bioregion in Queensland
- 1.30pm Lunch (can be purchased from coffee shops and restaurants nearby Banco Court)
- 2.15pm Case Study 2—Impacts of Agriculture on the Murray-Darling Basin—with a special focus on the Darling River and Menindee Lakes
- 4.15pm Initial Statement and Recommendations by Tribunal Panel
- 4.45pm Tribunal Closes**
- 5-8pm Invitation to view Rights of Nature National Art Exhibition, Spring Hill Reservoirs**

Rights of Nature National Art Exhibition, Spring Hill Reservoirs, Spring Hill, Brisbane

After the Tribunal, join us for a 'wind down' evening of art and great conversations at the Rights of Nature National Art Exhibition, at the Spring Hill Reservoir, Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill, Brisbane. To find out more about the National Art Exhibition, visit: www.eartharts.org.au

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EXPERT WITNESSES



International Context—Global Impacts of Industrial Scale Agriculture

- Eric Holt-Gimenez, Food First, USA
- Charles Levkoe, Lakehead University, Toronto, Canada
- Cormac Cullinan, Lawyer, Wild Law Institute, South Africa



Australian Context—First Nations Food Systems and Impacts of Post-1788 Agricultural Systems on the Continent

- Charles Massy, author of 'The Call of the Reed Warbler'
- Eva Peroni, Independent Researcher
- Michael Croft, Food Systems Expert
- Carol Richards, QUT
- Emma-Kate Rose and Rob Pekin, Food Connect



Case Study 1—The Impacts of Agriculture on the Brigalow Belt Bioregion in Queensland

- Warren Saunders, Gunggari First Nations People
- Martin Taylor, Ecologist, UQ and WWF
- Revel Pointon, Lawyer, Environmental Defenders Office Qld
- Carolyn Suggate, Organic & Regenerative Investment Cooperative
- George Wilson, ANU Fenner School of Environment



Case Study 2—The Impacts of Agriculture on the Murray Darling Basin, with a focus on the Darling River and Menindee Lakes

- Fred Hooper, Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations
- Sarah Moles, Lifeblood Alliance
- Katharine McBride, Farmer, Darling River
- Bruce Lindsay, Lawyer, Environmental Justice Australia
- Fran Sheldon, Ecologist, Australian Rivers Institute

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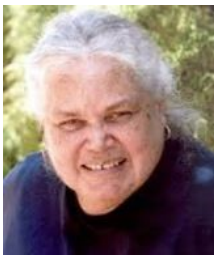
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TRIBUNAL PANEL



Dr Michelle Maloney is a lawyer and Co-Founder/National Convenor of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA). She has a Bachelor of Arts/Law (Hons) from the Australian National University and a PhD from Griffith Law School. Michelle has 25 years' experience managing climate change, environmental justice and cross-cultural projects in Australia, the UK and the United States. She is on the Executive Committee of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN) and Ecological Law and Governance Association (ELGA).



Mary Graham, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Queensland, is a Kombumerri person through her father's heritage and Wakka Wakka clan through her mother's heritage. With a career spanning more than 30 years, Mary has worked across several government agencies, community organisations and universities. Mary has been a dedicated lecturer with the University of Queensland, teaching Aboriginal history, politics and comparative philosophy. Mary has also lectured nationally on these subjects, and developed and implemented the core university subjects of 'Aboriginal Perspective's', 'Aboriginal Approaches to Knowledge' and at the post-graduation level 'Aboriginal Politics'.



Ross Williams is of the Bindal People in the region now known as Townsville. Ross has three decades' experience working to support indigenous people's engagement with natural resource management programs for the Queensland State government, as well as working with his own and other indigenous communities on economic development and caring for country projects. Ross is motivated by a strong desire to help indigenous groups, especially young indigenous people, create their own economic futures through local community development and economic projects.



Gill H. Boehringer is a former Dean of Macquarie University School of Law. He is a member of the Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers of the International Association of People's Lawyers. He has served on People's Tribunals in Australia, the Philippines, and New York City, and as an Observer at a People's Tribunal in Washington, DC. As a member of the Judges Panel of the Permanent People's Tribunal, he sat on tribunals in Cambodia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka on the Asian garment industries, and in Mexico on the social crisis in that country. He has published over two hundred book chapters, articles and conference papers, and co-edited a monograph, *Critique of Law*.



Dr Gwynn MacCarrick has had a career as international counsel, principal lawyer and university lecturer and academic with the University of Tasmania. Gwynn was admitted as a legal practitioner in 1997 and has a doctorate in international law. She was *Amicus Curiae* to the recent International Monsanto Tribunal (IMT) advising on the question of Ecocide (Environmental Crime). The IMT was a Peoples Tribunal, a civil society initiative established to support the efforts of communities world-wide seeking justice by referencing the legal advisory opinion of jurists who made determinations about the environmental impact of this agro-chemical and bio-technology multinational corporation.



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ABOUT THE TRIBUNAL

The Australian Peoples' Tribunal (APT) for Community and Nature's Rights is a unique forum for ecological and social justice in Australia. It has been created as a permanent civil society institution to enable people to share their concerns about the destruction of the environment, articulate their vision for ecological justice and law reform, and work collectively to develop their ideas for building a socially just, Earth centred society. The Tribunal aims to respond to situations where the current legal system is perceived as failing to support community and nature's rights.

The Tribunal holds Public Inquiries and hears Ecological Justice Cases, brought on behalf of flora, fauna, ecosystems, bioregions and local communities around Australia.

As a 'citizen's tribunal' the Peoples Tribunal is not a government endorsed activity nor do any of its activities, decisions or recommendations have the force of government-sanctioned law.

The Tribunal provides an educative and culturally transformative forum in which to present a positive, alternative process to address environmental justice and Caring for Country. A Tribunal Panel made up of First Nations Peoples, lawyers, community representatives and eminent scientists, hears Inquiries and Cases, and makes recommendations for restorative justice, innovative law reform and socio-political reforms that will Care for Country and protect the Rights of Nature.

For more information, please visit: www.tribunal.org.au



Above—photos from the 2016 Peoples' Tribunal

Left: Tribunal Panel Hearing Public Testimonies in 2016
Centre: Valentine Nona, of the Djiru People, giving expert testimony about the health of the Great Barrier Reef
Right: Nunukul Yuggera Dancers, opening the Tribunal