Environmental law is undergoing a period of profound and alarming change. The drivers of environmental decline continue apace, while the legal regimes established to address them are either under-resourced or being watered down. These imperatives are forcing environmental law to look beyond its traditional borders to new disciplinary, jurisdictional and geographical frontiers.

Environmental law academics are passionate about exploring these new frontiers, yet many have little or no opportunity to discuss their research or teaching practices with others. You may be the only environmental law researcher at your institution, or the pressures of teaching, student supervision and research productivity limit your interaction and engagement with others.

To address this need for a national conversation about new directions in environmental law, the University of Tasmania Faculty of Law and the National Environmental Law Association invite you to participate in the inaugural Frontiers in Environmental Law Colloquium.

Colloquium aims
The aims of this colloquium are:

* to provide a collegial forum in which to present and debate your research – participant’s own research interests will drive the agenda
* promote an inclusive and supportive network of environmental law scholars
* identify opportunities for research synergies and collaboration
* share and learn about innovative approaches to teaching environmental law.
Program

Day One will consist of paper presentations and roundtable discussion. At this stage we do not wish to limit or direct topics or subject matter beyond the over-arching theme of “legal, disciplinary or geographical frontiers in environmental law”. Sessions will be streamed based on common themes among submitted abstracts.

Day Two Recognising the importance of the research-teaching nexus, Day Two will be a half-day workshop on Innovation and Best Practice in Teaching Environmental Law. This will be a great chance to benchmark your own teaching practice, as well as gaining useful insights into the experiences of other colleagues.

Publication

Participants will have the opportunity to publish Colloquium papers (4000-1000 words) in a special issue of the University of Tasmania Law Review, to be published in 2015 (subject, of course, to peer review procedures) (http://www.utas.edu.au/law/centres/university-of-tasmania-law-review).

Cost

The cost of the event will be $100 to cover catering for both days. Dinner on Monday 9 February will be held at a local restaurant (at the expense of individual participants) – venue to be determined once numbers are confirmed. On-campus accommodation is available during this summer period, ranging from $65pp/pn (single room with ensuite) to $90 (double room with ensuite).

Abstract submission

Abstracts/proposals are invited for both the research and teaching components of the program. We welcome paper proposals on any topic relating to local, national, or international environmental, climate change, or natural resources law and policy. While we expect that many of the papers will address current challenges for environmental law and policy in Australia, abstracts will also be considered from academics based overseas.

Please submit abstracts of 300 words or less to: jan.mcdonald@utas.edu.au by 26 September 2014.

Presenters will be notified by 9 October and we would like to receive draft papers for circulation to participants by 29 January 2015.

Of course, if you do not wish to present a paper you are still very welcome to participate.

Join us

We hope you can join us to enjoy stimulating discussion and the gorgeous Hobart summer, to energise and inspire you for the start 2015 academic year.

Professor Jan McDonald, Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania
Amanda Cornwall, NELA President