



ACCEL Environmental Law Seminar Series: *Extinction Rebellion: why and what does law have to do with it?*



SPEAKERS:

- Associate Professor Nicole Graham, The University of Sydney Law School
- Dr Astrida Neimanis, The University of Sydney
- Dr Piero Moraro, Charles Sturt University

CHAIR: Professor Rosemary Lyster, The University of Sydney Law School

When

**WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER
2019**

6-7.30PM

Where

**Sydney Law School,
Common Room, Level 4
New Law Building F10,
Eastern Avenue
Camperdown**

Registration

Complimentary, however registration is essential.

**For more information, visit
Sydney.edu.au/law**

The ACCEL Environmental Law Seminar Series is organised by the [Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law](#) and the [Sydney Environment Institute](#) at The University of Sydney

CPD Points = 1.5

About the Event

Extinction Rebellion (XR) is a socio-[political movement](#) which is using [civil disobedience](#) and [nonviolent resistance](#) to protest against the [climate emergency](#), [biodiversity loss](#), and the risk of social and [ecological collapse](#). In 2019, two major scientific reports have been released which support XR's concerns. The IPBES *Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* has told us that biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history with around 1 million species already facing extinction, many within decades, unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of drivers of biodiversity loss. Without such action, there will be a further acceleration in the global rate of species extinction, which is already at least tens to hundreds of times higher than it has averaged over the past 10 million years.

Meanwhile, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's *Climate Change and Land Report* states with high confidence that since the pre-industrial period, the land

surface air temperature has risen nearly twice as much as the global average temperature. Climate change, including the increased frequency and intensity of extremes, has adversely impacted terrestrial ecosystems while also contributing to desertification and land degradation in many regions. Yet around the world and in Australia, Extinction Rebellion activists are being met with police action, arrests, fines and the prospect of civil damages.

At this event, experts will talk about the many ways that legislation in Australia has been wound back to water down the protection of biodiversity and facilitate the accelerated clearing of land and native vegetation. Amnesty has even been proposed for those who have cleared land illegally. Given government reaction to Extinction Rebellion protests, the relationship between law and civil disobedience will also be addressed by a legal philosopher.