



Disaster in the Murray Darling Basin: Explanations & Consequences



When
THURSDAY 9 MAY 2019
6.30-8PM

Where
Old Geology Lecture Theatre,
Camperdown, The University
of Sydney

More information
Law.events@sydney.edu.au

Registration
Complimentary, however
essential.

To find out more, visit
sydney.edu.au/law

This event is presented
by [Australian Centre for
Climate and Environmental
Law](#) (ACCEL) and the [Sydney
Environment Institute](#).

About the seminar
In 1994, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a major reform of water resource management, a key component of which was the principle of ecologically sustainable development. This recognised the fact that past practices of over-allocation had impacted heavily on species, river health, ecosystems and wetlands. The instrument which COAG adopted to achieve these goals was the water trading market. The reform project has been reinvigorated each decade including by the Commonwealth government intervening to take control of the Murray Darling Basin in 2007 under the Water Act 2007 (Cth). The 2012 Murray Darling Basin Plan is a consequence of that. How is it then that after 25 years of so-called reforms the Murray Darling Basin is in such a state of crisis – as evidenced by the Menindee Region Fish Kill in the summer of 2018-19? What strategies are in place to deal with the existing ecological crisis

while meeting the growing challenges of climate change?

This forum examines the origins of the challenges and the state of the rivers, the legal frameworks and socio-economic ramifications.

Chair: Professor Rosemary Lyster, Professor of Climate and Environmental Law and Co-Director of the Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law, The University of Sydney Law School

Professor Richard Kingsford (UNSW) *"Fixing the state of ecosystems in the Murray-Darling Basin - are we on track?"*

Dr Emma Carmody (EDO NSW) *"When nature revolts: advocating for an environmental rule of law in the Murray-Darling Basin."*

Professor Sarah Wheeler (University of Adelaide) *"What are the Facts about the impacts of Water Recovery on Rural Communities in the Murray-Darling Basin?"*