

BOOK REVIEW**ENVIRONMENTAL & PLANNING LAW IN NEW SOUTH WALES
(2ND EDITION)**

**ROSEMARY LYSTER, ZADA LIPMAN, NICOLA FRANKLIN, GRAEME WIFFEN AND
LINDA PEARSON
THE FEDERATION PRESS, 2009: 727 PP**

As environmental problems grow and new problems continue to emerge and demand our attention, governments have been attempting to respond legislatively. In many areas these responses have been at an increasingly frenetic pace. This makes texts such as *Environmental & Planning Law in New South Wales* invaluable for practitioners, academics and students alike, helping them navigate through the waves of policy and legislative reform in environmental law.

The first edition of this text, published two years ago, has already been updated by the same panel of authors; Lyster, Lipman, Franklin, Wiffen and Pearson. Key updates contained in the second edition (current as of 20 February 2009) include analysis of the reforms effected by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Act 2008* (NSW), the *Contaminated Land Management Act Amendment Act 2008* (NSW) and the *Water Amendment Act 2008* (NSW).

The text also reflects the latest developments in climate law and policy at the international, national and state level (in Chapter 7). The book's slight re-structure, which devotes one chapter each to environmental assessment in New South Wales (Chapter 5) and under the commonwealth regime (Chapter 6), enhances its clarity in these areas of environmental law. Similarly, the expansion of the previous chapter on waste, contaminated land and dangerous goods into two separate chapters (Chapters 14 and 15) also assists the reader. The other major change in this edition is the addition of a new chapter, 'Managing Environmental Conflict' (Chapter 2). This chapter expands on previous coverage of the relevant appeal and review processes, the jurisdiction of the specialist Land and Environment Court and the challenges that environmental litigants face, such as costs orders in public interest litigation.

Overall, the second edition of *Environmental & Planning Law in New South Wales* continues to provide an up-to-date commentary on vast areas of environmental law, and not just in NSW. In future editions, one way it may be improved upon is by the introduction of numerical headings and sub-headings. This may aid the reader to locate information faster and allow for more effective cross-referencing. Aside from this formatting issue, it is an accessible yet comprehensive text. Such an ongoing high standard marks out this book as an indispensable companion for followers of NSW and Australian environmental law developments.

**Elise Trask
B Soc Sc/ LLB
Macquarie University**