

Global and regional environmental issues

Dear Readers,

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development closed on 4 September with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan stating 'This Summit will put us on the path that reduces poverty while protecting the environment, a path that works for all peoples, rich and poor, today and tomorrow.'

These thoughts have been echoed by the Australian Government. The Minister for the Environment, Dr David Kemp has stated that Australia has made contributions to important global outcomes, namely sustainable development in developing countries. (Media Release 5 September 2002) Australia is reported to be contributing \$355 million in the 2002-2003 FY to address governance in developing countries as part of a billion dollar aid program.

Whilst acknowledging many environmental issues have now attained global prominence, the aim of the NELR 2002 Conference is to refocus attention on regional environmental issues in Australia. Entitled *Environmental Law in Australia ~ Empowering the Community* the conference will run from Thursday 31 October to Saturday 1 November in Lorne, Victoria.

The National Executive encourages all members to attend to support the work of NELR in promoting discussion about environmental laws within Australia. Details of the conference topics are on the back cover.



Rachel Baird
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