

# Centre for Comparative Water Policies and Laws

The CCWPL is recognised as one of Australia's leading national and international research centres and is the only team engaging in comparative water law and policy research in Australia. The Centre is a multi-disciplinary endeavour comprising lawyers, engineers and scientists and aims to engage with, and be a focal point for, research into the legal, economic, social and cultural evaluation of Australian and International water policies and law.

The Centre was established in 2004 replacing the University of South Australia's Water Policy and Law Group, in operation since 1998. The team employ a variety of research methods from law and social science, especially policy analysis, legal institutional analysis and are skilled at questionnaire design and analysis. CCWPL members form research teams to tailor centre expertise to individual project requirements.

## People you can work with

The CCWPL comprises three Professors, five lecturers and senior lecturers and six PhD students\*. The Centre has research affiliates in twenty countries and has assisted State, Federal and International governments on water policy and law issues. Centre members have an extensive list of publications in national and International journals, with research and projects carried out across the globe. The Centre also has a network of leading water, legal and economic researchers with the skills and expertise that can contribute directly to the management and implementation of research projects. Strategic research partnerships exist with the SA Water Centre for Water Sciences and Systems as well as the CSIRO, two CRCs, Australian Water Association, International Water Association, and the International Water Law Association known as Aida.

\*For contact details please refer to the centre website.

## Research Themes

### **Comparative Law; Corporate Governance; Policy Analysis; Professor Jennifer McKay**

This theme draws together literature from the three areas and combines it with empirical research with stakeholders to make suggestions to improve the institutional arrangements to achieve sustainable for water supply and use.

### **Water Engineering and Comparative law; Dr John Pisaniello**

This theme seeks to apply engineering skills to water problems in order to develop innovative design and review mechanisms that deliver consistency and uniform standards, determine appropriate government policy by comparative analysis of international legal systems with similar issues, and then goes on to consider the responses of the landholders and policy makers to the solutions.

### **Water Finance and Public Private Partnerships; Professor Mervyn Lewis**

This is an essential aspect of water supply provision and many lessons can be drawn from experiences all over the world.

### **Planning and Environmental Law; Dr Simon Marsden**

Environmental law has been a part of Australia's legal system since approximately the 1970's, as developed from sources such as the law of tort, land law and administrative law. Today, as with planning law which precedes it, it comprises a complex suite of statutory provisions and case law, in many instances enforced by specialist courts. Environmental and planning law is designed to promote ecologically sustainable development by ensuring that environmental protection is fully considered in decision making.

### **International Water Law; Mr Duncan Hartshorne**

There are numerous examples of well established treaties and indeed the Murray Darling basin agreement that can provide lessons for establishing new regimes to equitably and sustainably manage water.

## Collaborative research projects

- > Dam safety assurance policies for surface water national and international funded by LWRDCC, RIRDC, ARC
- > Corporate Governance of Australian irrigation water providers. CRC for Irrigation Futures (IF), NSW, Vic agriculture
- > Recycled water and community responses on the dimensions of use type and price. CRC WQT
- > Comparative water laws – India and Australia. ACIAR
- > Social justice in water allocation plans. CRC IF
- > Sustainable Groundwater management policies CRC IF
- > Comparative water regulatory regimes for potable and recycled water quality. CRC WQT
- > Water trading. LWRDCC ARC
- > Private water markets. CRC IF



## Our Expertise

### **Project: Water cycle management system for the major urban development at Mawson Lakes, South Australia.**

This project examined the existing legal frameworks in Australia in relation to recycled water use and suggested reforms. The project also considered the legal implication of customer attitudes to recycled water, its quality and price and in relation to its attributes of salt, colour and odour. The CCWPL conducted three consumer surveys pre and post the reticulation of the water through the third (lilac) pipe system.

### **Project: Farm Dam Water Sharing and Safety**

The project aims to further develop an engineering model for cost-effective innovative flood safety design / review for private dams located in South Eastern Australia and integrate this new model with a community impact assessment of changes to water allocation plans which will impact on the seasonality of the amount of water able to be stored.



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