

# NELR editorial

Dear readers,

## *Impact assessment continues to be contentious*

With the recently completed Hawke Review of the *EPBC Act*, a current Senate Inquiry in Victoria into the *Environmental Effects Act 1978* (Vic), and a series of controversial major project approvals around Australia in recent years, impact assessment procedures continue to be highly contentious. In this issue Mark Cowan and Heidi Evans have described the alarming story of proposals for disposal of radioactive waste on aboriginal lands at Muckaty Station in the Northern Territory, Samitha Rao provides an article based upon the Victorian EDO submission to the *Environmental Effects Act* inquiry, and Adam Beeson reports on the backdown by Gunns in its litigation against environmental protesters.

We also have an update of Qld planning law procedures by Robert Quirk, and the text of the well publicised opinion of Counsel Brian Walters SC and Matthew Baird on the constitutional validity of the CPRS scheme.

## *National conference*

Please put the 2010 NELA national conference on 'The Politics of Biodiversity' in your diaries. The conference has secured an outstanding list of speakers and will be held in Canberra from 20-22 October 2010 and is likely to be in close proximity to the next Federal election. This is an event not to be missed. For more details see the backcover of this issue and the NELA website.

## *Editorship changes*

This issue also recognises a number of changes in the editorial team. Our sincere thanks go to departing State editors Elisa de Wit (Victoria), Scott Sellwood (Qld), James Sippe and Clara Bowman (WA), whilst we also welcome their replacements Patrick Vuleta (Qld), Joe Freeman and Ainsley Reid (WA) and also a new update section from the Northern Territories by Heidi Evans. This will also be my last issue as National Editor, but I will continue to be involved as Victorian editor and the Environmental Law Harmonisation Project. The new National Editor will be Dr Hanna Jaireth who comes to the position with excellent credentials in environmental law through her work in the government sector and academia.

Regards

Wayne Gumley