

## NEWS



### Adapting to Climate Change – Law and Policy Conference

Adapting to Climate Change, the first Australian conference devoted solely to the legal and policy dimensions of adaptation, was held on 19-20 June 2008 at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

In a multidisciplinary program, the conference explored the parameters of predicted climate change across sectors and stakeholders. Adaptation was a dominant theme of the sessions and was discussed as a measure that may lessen the detrimental impacts of climate change and enhance beneficial consequences. Distinguished international and Australian speakers such as Justice Brian Preston, Professor Jan McDonald, Professor Tim Bonhady, Professor Dan Farber and Marcus Lane addressed questions such as how much adaptation is enough and are current legal and policy frameworks capable of guiding Australia through the adaptation challenges that it could face in the 21st century?

Key topics covered at the conference included the likely impacts of climate change on Australian legal and policy frameworks, how urban and regional planning regimes need to account for climate change, the pressures on biodiversity and ways to shield Australia's biodiversity from some of the impacts of climate change, whether tort laws will play an important part in providing compensation for people adversely affected by climate change, and the role of insurance in adapting to climate change.

The conference, organised by the ANU Centre for Climate Law & Policy and the Griffith University Socio-Legal Research Centre and supported by Baker & McKenzie lawyers, was well received by around 90 attendees.

The papers from the conference will be published in an edited book, due out later this year.

For more details see: [The Centre for Climate Law and Policy](#)