

## CURRICULUM VITAE

---

### A. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

---

2014 **Doctor of the Science of Law (JSD)** (PhD equivalent for law), Stanford Univ, “Groundwater Wells Versus Surface Water and Ecosystems: An Empirical Approach to Law and Policy Challenges and Solutions”

2010 **Master of the Science of Law (JSM)**, Stanford Univ

2006 **Bachelor of Engineering, BE(EnvEng) (Hons1)/Bachelor of Laws, LLB (Hons1)**; Diploma of Modern Languages (German), Univ of Melb

### B. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER POSITIONS

---

2020-present **Associate Professor, Melbourne Law School**

2016-2019 **Senior Lecturer, Melbourne Law School**

2014-present **Fellow (Non-Resident), Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment**, Stanford Univ

2009-present **Independent lawyer and policy consultant** (water and environmental law and policy)

2015 **Senior Fellow (Melbourne Law Masters)**, Melbourne Law School

2010-2014 Research Associate, US Studies Centre at Univ of Sydney (as **Program Leader, Comparative Groundwater Law & Policy Program**, a joint initiative with Stanford Univ)

Pre-2014:

**Sessional Lecturer (LLM Water Law)**, MLS (various yrs, 2004-2014)

**Course Designer/Coordinator, Understanding Groundwater Law**, Flinders Univ (2013)

**Research Assistant** to Prof B Thompson Jr, Stanford Univ (2010, 2013)

**Lawyer** (natural resources & property), Blake Dawson (2006-2009)

**Congressional Intern** to EFH Faleomavaega, Washington DC (2004)

**Research Assistant** to Profs J Peel & L Godden, MLS (2003-2006)

### C. ACADEMIC AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

---

2025 **Distinguished Associate Award**, International Association of Hydrogeologists

2020 **Federal Scholar in Residence Award**, Eurac Research Inst for Comparative Federalism, Italy

2016 **Distinguished Lecturer**, Int Assoc of Hydrogeologists (Aust)/Natl Centre for Groundwater Research & Training (funded Australia-wide lecture tour)

2013-2014 **Mahla Pearlman AO Young Aust Environ Lawyer of the Year**, Law Council of Aust

2012 **Farvolden Award** from the Natl Ground Water Assoc (USA)

2010-2014 **Dow Sustainability Scholarship**, US Studies Centre at the Univ. of Sydney

2010-2014 Scholarship for JSD tuition and research expenses, Stanford Univ

2009 **General Sir John Monash Award** for full-time overseas postgraduate study

2005 **Gilbert Vasey Prize for the Top Student**, Final Year of Environmental Engineering

1999-2005 **Melbourne National Scholarship** (full scholarship to attend the Univ of Melbourne)

2005 **Fellowship, Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program**, Univ of Melbourne

2005 **Scholarship, U21 Summer School**, Lund, Sweden

2002 **German Exchange Scholarship, Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst**, Freiburg, Germany

Other prizes as top student: **Gerald Gunther Prize** for Foundations of Statistical Inference, Stanford Law School (2009); **Holding Redlich Prize in Environmental Law**, MLS (2002); **Deacons Prize for Issues in Chinese Law**, MLS (2004); **LexisNexis Butterworths Prize for European Civil Law**, MLS (2002)

## D. RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONSULTANCIES

---

My research and consultancies focus broadly on the regulation of natural resources, with a special focus on regulatory approaches to groundwater and cumulative environmental impacts. Both contexts present critical challenges to regulation stemming from scientific uncertainty and often low information availability, the heightened need for coordination between levels of government, and challenges related to regulatory intervention, compliance and enforcement.

2025-current **Consultant** (in collaboration with Integral Sustainability), Cth Dep't of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, *Regulating Cumulative Impacts of Renewable Energy under the EPBC Act*

2023-2024 **Principal Chief Investigator**, Watertrust Aust, *Water and Equity in Australian Law*

2023 **Principal Chief Investigator**, *Impact Booster and Communication Grant* (Melb Law School)

2022-2023 **Dyason Fellowship**, Univ of Melbourne (grant for travelling collaborative research)

2021-2022 **Consultant** (in collaboration with RMCG), Aust Water Partnership, *Water Security in the Proposal to Develop the Law on Water Resources (Vietnam)*

2021 **Consultant Reviewer**, United Nations Environment Programme, *Environmental Rule of Law: Tracking Progress and Charting Future Directions* (Nairobi, 2023).

2020-2021 **Co-Investigator**, Melb Sustain Soc Inst Seed Grant, 'Protecting Streams in Our Cities: Scoping the 'State of Knowledge' Relevant to the 'General Environmental Duty' and Stormwater Management'

2018-2021 **Discovery Early Career Research Award**, Aust Research Council, 'Regulating Cumulative Environmental Effects: Designing Global Best Practice'

2019-2021 **Chief Investigator**, 'Water Access for Aboriginal Economic Development in Victoria', Murray-Lower Darling Indigenous Nations and Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations,

2020 **Principal Chief Investigator**, 'South Central Water Markets Trial: Review and Foundations', Victorian Dept of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

2019 **Principal Chief Investigator**, 'Options for long-term security for groundwater-dependent ecosystems', Land and Water Resources Otway Catchment

2018-2019 **Chief Investigator**, Melb Sustain Soc Inst, 'Legal Dimensions of Climate Risk' (Co-Investigator)

2018 **Primary Chief Investigator**, Research consultancy, 'Legal and Policy Options for Melbourne Water Involvement in Cultural Flows' (Melbourne Water Corp)

2017-2018 **Early Career Researcher Award**, Univ of Melb, 'Regulating Cumulative Environmental Effects: Balancing Protection and Efficiency through Law'

2017 **Primary Chief Investigator**, Research consultancy, 'National Cultural Flows Research Project Component 5: Law, Policy and Institutions' (Natl Native Title Council)

2010-2014 **Dow Foundation & Alcoa Foundation**, grant to establish the Comparative Groundwater Law and Policy Program and run four international workshops

2009-current **Independent consultant (various)**, eg research re: Indigenous involvement in water planning (Environ Justice Aust); managing salinity in the Murray-Darling Basin (Jacobs); groundwater trading rules (Sinclair Knight Merz); reforming Californian groundwater laws (Natural Resources Defense Council (Cal, USA)); reforming groundwater quality standards (Geosciences Aust).

## E. TEACHING

---

JD, 1 <sup>st</sup> year: Principles of Public Law	Core, 5-7 streams	Teacher: 2016, 2017 (2 streams), 2021, 2022, 2023; Coordinator: 2023, 2024
JD, 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year: Projects & the Env Practicum	Elective	Teacher & Coordinator: 2022, 2023, 2024
JD, 3 <sup>rd</sup> year: Legal Research: Current Issues in Environmental & Natural Resources Law	Elective	Teacher & Coordinator: 2016
MLM: Water Law & Natural Resources Management	Elective	Co-teacher: 2016-2019, 2022, 2024 Coordinator: 2022, 2024

### Research training (thesis titles abbreviated)

PhD co-supervisor: K Garvey, 2024-present, Univ of Cal Santa Barbara Bren School of Environ Science & Mgmt  
PhD lead supervisor: N Akter, *Land Acquisition in the Era of Climate Change*, 2025-present, MLS  
PhD lead supervisor: HM Reza, *Developing Effective Strategies for Adaptation Litigation*, 2023-present, MLS  
PhD lead supervisor: I Jahan, *Protection for the Rivers of Bangladesh*, 2022-present, MLS  
PhD co-supervisor: M Okponu, *Ecocide Beyond International Criminal Law*, 2022-present, MLS  
PhD lead supervisor: R McClelland, *Right to Water or the Rights of Water?*, 2021-2025 (results pending), MLS  
PhD co-supervisor: MS Islam, *Sustainable Abstraction of Groundwater in Bangladesh*, 2017-2021, completed, MLS  
Masters research supervisor for 2 students (R Marks, MPA, Melb School of Govt 2019; S Rowan, JD/MSc Stanford Univ 2018); academic assessor for 5 PhDs (2019-2024); PhD examiner for 2 PhDs (UNSW 2023, Griffith Univ 2019)

### Other teaching and learning

Guest lectures in: federalism studies (Univ of Innsbruck, Austria, 2023); *Sustainable Water Resource Systems, Int River Basin Mgmt* (Univ of Melb/Tsinghua Univ) (various yrs, 2015-2019); professional training: *Aust Groundwater School & 'Understanding Groundwater Law'* (Flinders Univ).

## F. LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

---

### University (central) Leadership and Committee Roles

2025-present Research Cluster Lead and member of Executive Committee and cross-faculty working group, Melbourne Biodiversity Institute  
2022-present Member and regular contributor, Law and Litigation research group, Melbourne Climate Futures  
2021-present Represent Univ of Melb on 5-member Technical Advisory Group, Natl Centre for Groundwater Research & Training (based at Flinders Univ, MoU with Univ of Melb)  
2018-2021 Convenor, Future Cities Research Cluster, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute  
2016 Participant, workshop on the Aust Natl Development Index cross-University project

### Melbourne Law School (MLS) Leadership and Committee Roles

2023-present Director of Studies, Energy and Resources Law Masters, MLS  
2023-present Director, Melbourne Centre for Law & the Environment (formerly Centre for Resources, Energy and Environmental Law, CREEL), MLS  
2022 Program Director (Interdisciplinary), CREEL, MLS  
2017-present Student Equality & Wellbeing Committee, MLS  
2017-present Equal Opportunity Liaison, Later Law Students & Family Responsibilities, MLS  
2016-present Member, CREEL, MLS  
2018-2021 Early Career Network Advisory Group, MLS  
2016-17 Digital Strategy Working Group, MLS  
2017 Information Management Group, MLS

### Journal and conference organising committee (org com) roles

2026 Co-host (with Monash Univ.), *12<sup>th</sup> Frontiers in Environ Law Colloquium*, MLS  
2023 Co-host (venue, with Natl Environ Law Assoc, NELA), NELA Ann Conf, MLS  
2022 Co-editor (with B Hart, R Marsh), Murray-Darling Basin special issue, *Aust J of Water Resour*  
2018 Member, Program Com, *Quest for Sustainability of Heavily Stressed Aquifers at Regional to Global Scales* (Am Geophysical Union Chapman Conf), Valencia, Spain  
2019 Co-Chair, Org Com, *John Monash Scholars' Global Symp*, Univ of Melb  
2016-present Member, Editorial Panel, *Aust J of Water Resources*  
2016 Member, Org Com, *Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture*, Burlingame, California  
2009-2010 Member Editor, *Stanford Environ Law J*

### **Professional affiliations**

**Legal:** Int Soc of Public Law; Int Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Environ Law; Int Assoc for Water Law; Natl Environ Law Assoc (Aust); Law & Society Assoc of Aust & NZ

**Interdisciplinary:** Environ Inst of Aust & NZ; Int Assoc of Hydrogeologists; Int Assoc for Impact Assessment

### **Service to the broader academic community**

Peer reviewer for the *Australian Research Council* and *Brill* (book publisher)

Peer reviewer for **law journals:** *Rev of Eur, Comparative & Int Environ Law*, *Aust Resources & Energy Law J*, *J of Natural Resources Policy Research*, *Melb J of Int Law*, *Transnational Environ Law*

Peer reviewer for **interdisciplinary journals:** *Aust J of Water Resources*, *Conserv Sci & Practice*, *Ecology & Soc*, *Hydrogeology J*, *Hydrology*, *Proc of the Natl Academy of Sci (PNAS, USA)*, *Water*, *Water Alternatives*, *Water Resources Research*

Judge for the 2020 Law & Soc Assoc of Aust & NZ Publication Prize

Member of the Selection/Interview Panel for the General Sir John Monash Awards (Tas, Vic), 2012-2017

### **Service to government (all invited positions)**

2022-present Member, Social & Econ Community of Practice, Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA, a Commonwealth statutory agency), which has ~20 academic members

2020-present Member, Advisory Committee on Social, Economic & Environ Sciences of the MDBA, a statutory appointment to the MDBA's sole expert advisory group, comprising 7 prominent Australian water academics, of which I am the only law academic

2023-2024 Member, Social & Economic Advisory Group, MDBA (4 members, I was sole law academic)

2023-2024 Member, Sustainable Rivers Audit Advisory Group, MDBA (3 members, I was sole law academic)

2014-2019 Technical Review Committee, Zone of Benefit Study, Santa Clara Valley Water District, California

### **Service and leadership in the broader legal and environmental communities**

2021-present Member, World Commission on Environ Law (Int Union for the Conserv of Nature), a large international organisation, and active member of the 13-member Water & Wetlands Study Group

2018-present Expert (Waterways), Register of Experts, Aust Environmental Grantmakers Network

2014-2024 Board Director, Bush Heritage Aust, and committee member (Sci & Conserv Comm; Finance, Audit & Risk Comm)

2018 World Bank Local Expert, Water Law (Aust)

2008 Outstanding Achievement Special Acknowledgement, Murray-Darling Basin Commission

2007 Co-Founder and Co-Team Leader, Melbourne Environment Committee, Blake Dawson

2006-2008 Founding Member and Secretary, *Lawyers for the Marree Arabunna People* (South Aust)

2006-2008 Volunteer Lawyer, *Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic*, Melbourne

## **G. PUBLICATIONS**

---

### **Books**

1. **R Nelson**, *Regulating a Thousand Cuts: Global Law and Policy Solutions to Cumulative Environmental Problems* (CUP 2025)
2. A Gardner, R Bartlett, J Gray & **R Nelson**, *Water Resources Law* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed, LexisNexis Aust 2017) 713p

### **Book chapters**

3. **R Nelson**, "Victims and Villains: Cities and the Environment on the Constitutional Stage" in E Arban (ed.), *Cities in Federal Constitutional Theory* (OUP 2022) 161-179.

4. **R Nelson**, "Allocations and Legal Trends in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" in J Rouillard et al (eds.), *Water Resources Allocation and Agriculture: Transitioning from Open to Regulated Access* (IWA 2022) 25-36.
5. A Olagunju, D Appiah, PMPS Cavalcanti, B Durning, JCTG González, J MacLean, R Morgan & **R Nelson**, "Cumulative Effects Assessment Requirements in Selected Developed and Developing Countries" in JAE Blakley and DM Franks (eds.), *Handbook of Cumulative Impact Assessment* (Edward Elgar 2021) 21-42.
6. **R Nelson**, "Challenges to Improved Integrated Management of the Murray-Darling Basin" in B Hart et al (eds), *The Murray-Darling River System: Its Future Management from Catchment to Coast* (Elsevier 2020) 339-362.
7. S Barnett, CT Simmons & **R Nelson**, "Groundwater Resources in Australia – Their Occurrence, Management and Future Challenges" in A Mukherjee et al. (eds), *Global Groundwater: Source, Scarcity, Sustainability, Security and Solutions* (Elsevier 2020) 35-46.
8. **R Nelson**, S Barnett & A Kollmorgen, "Evolution of Groundwater Management in the States of Australia" in J-D Rinaudo et al (eds), *Sustainable Groundwater Management: A Comparative Analysis of French and Australian Policies and Implications to Other Countries* (Springer 2020) 129-141
9. **R Nelson**, "Regulating Cumulative Impacts in Groundwater Systems: Global Lessons from Australian Experience", in C Holley & D Sinclair (eds), *Reforming Water Law and Governance: From Stagnation to Innovation in Australia* (Springer 2018) 237-256.
10. **R Nelson** & M Casey, "Beyond the Traditional Governance of Trans-jurisdictional Groundwater: Unconventional Approaches to Cross-Boundary Aquifer Management in the United States" in J Gray, C Holley & R Rayfuse (eds), *Trans-jurisdictional Water Law and Governance* (Routledge 2016) 138-156.
11. **R Nelson** & P Quevauviller, "Groundwater Law" in T Jakeman et al (eds), *Integrated Groundwater Management: Concepts, Approaches and Challenges* (Springer 2016) 173-196.
12. **R Nelson**, H Bischel, B Thompson & R Luthy, "Water Law in the Urban Context: Interactions and Innovations" in K Daniell et al (eds), *Understanding and Managing Urban Water in Transition* (Springer, 2015) 463-488.
13. **R Nelson**, "Groundwater: Hidden Promise, Hidden Perils" in *Crisis and Opportunity: Lessons of Australian Water Reform*, Australia Water Project, Vol 1 (Committee for Economic Development of Australia & Uniwater, 2012) 1-12.
14. **R Nelson**, "Unconventional Gas and Produced Water" in *Australia's Unconventional Energy Options* (Committee for Economic Development of Aust, 2012) 27-40.

#### **Refereed journal publications**

15. **R Nelson**, D Perrone and N Ulíbarri, "Groundwater Sustainability, Drinking Water and Environmental Justice in California's Central Valley" (under review) *Hydrogeology J* 1-38.
16. **RL Nelson** & D Perrone, "Environmental Groundwater Rights in the Western United States and Australia" (2025) 28 *J of Water Law* 190-194.
17. AE Cravens, JB Goolsby, T Jedd, DJ Bathke, S Crausbay, AE Cooper, J Dunham, T Haigh, KR Hall, MJ Hayes, J McEvoy, **RL Nelson**, M Poděbradská, A Ramirez, E Wickham, D Zoanni, "The Patchwork Governance of Ecologically Available Water: A Case Study in the Upper Missouri Headwaters, Montana, USA" (2023) *J of the Am Water Resour Assoc* art# JAWR-22-0074-P, 1-21 & 20p supp.
18. D Perrone, M Rohde, C Hammond-Wagner, R Anderson, S Arthur, N Atume, M Brown, L Esaki-Kua, M Gonzalez, K Garvey, K Heidel, W Jones, SK Asl, C Munill, **R Nelson**, J Ortiz-Partida & EJ Remson, "Stakeholder Integration Predicts Better Outcomes from Groundwater Sustainability Policy" (2023) 14 *Nature Commun* art# 3793, 1-14 & 196p supp
19. B Lindsay, D Marsh & **R Nelson**, "Conceptualising and Activating Knowledge in Environmental Protection Law" (2023) 46(2) *Melb Univ Law Rev* 422-466.

20. **R Nelson** & LM Shirley, "The Latent Potential of Cumulative Effects Concepts in National and International Environmental Impact Assessment Regimes" (2023) 12(1) *Transnational Environ Law* 150-174.
21. PG Cook, M Shanafield, M Anderson, S Bourke, I Cartwright, J Cleverly, M Currell, TM Doody, H Hofmann, R Hugmann, DJ Irvine, A Jakeman, J McKay, **R Nelson**, AD Werner, "Sustainable Management of Groundwater Extraction: An Australian Perspective on Current Challenges" (2022) 44 *J of Hydrology: Regional Studies* 101262
22. A Ross, R Evans & **R Nelson**, "Risks Related to Groundwater in the Murray-Darling Basin" (2022) 27(1) *Aust J of Water Resour* 31-46
23. **R Nelson**, "Water Rights for Groundwater Environments as an Enabling Condition for Adaptive Water Governance" (2022) 27(2) *Ecology & Soc* 28 (22pp).
24. S Kearney, J Carwardine, A Reside, V Adams, **R Nelson**, A Coggan, R Spindler, J Watson, "Saving Species Beyond the Protected Area Fence: Threats Must Be Managed across Multiple Land Tenure Types to Secure Australia's Endangered Species" (2022) 4(3) *Conserv Sci & Pract* e617
25. **R Nelson**, "Regulating Hidden Risks to Conservation Lands in Resource Rich Areas" (2021) 43(2) *Univ of Queensland Law J* 491-530.
26. N Ulibarri, NE Garcia, **RL Nelson**, AE Cravens & RJ McCarty, "Assessing the Feasibility of Managed Aquifer Recharge in California" (2021) 57(3) *Water Resour Res*, e2020WR029292, 1-18
27. **R Nelson**, "Sick City Streams: New Approaches to Legal Treatments" (2019) 43(2) *Melb Univ Law Rev* 748-821.
28. **R Nelson**, "Breaking Backs and Boiling Frogs: Warnings from a Dialogue between Federal Water Law and Environmental Law" (2019) 42(4) *UNSW Law J* 1179-1214.
29. **R Nelson**, "Big Time: An Empirical Analysis of Regulating the Cumulative Environmental Effects of Coal Seam Gas Extraction under Australian Federal Environmental Law" (2019) 36 *Environ & Planning Law J* 531-551.
30. WA Timms, S Nair & **R Nelson**, "More Joules Per Drop: How Much Water Does Unconventional Energy Use Compared to Other Sources, and What Are the Legal Implications?" (2019) 36 *Environ & Planning Law J* 565-582.
31. **R Nelson**, "Water Data and the Legitimacy Deficit: A Regulatory Review and Nationwide Survey of Challenges Considering Cumulative Environmental Effects of Coal and Coal Seam Gas Developments" (2019) 23 *Aust J of Water Resour* 24-34.
32. P Womble, D Perrone, S Jasechko, **RL Nelson**, LF Szeptycki, RT Anderson & SM Gorelick, "Indigenous Communities, Groundwater Opportunities" (August 2018) *Science* 453-455 & 11p supp.
33. S Lunny, **R Nelson** & A Steinemann, "Something in the Air but Not on the Label: A Call for Increased Regulatory Ingredient Disclosure for Fragranced Consumer Products" (2017) 40(4) *UNSW Law J* 1366-1391.
34. **R Nelson** & D Perrone, "Local Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Laws in the South-Western U.S.: California in Comparative Context" (2016) 54(5) *Groundwater* 747-753.
35. **R Nelson** & D Perrone, "The Role of Permitting Regimes in Western United States Groundwater Management" (2016) 54(5) *Groundwater* 761-764.
36. **R Nelson**, "Broadening Regulatory Concepts and Responses to Cumulative Impacts: Considering the Trajectory and Future of Groundwater Law and Policy" (2016) 33(4) *Environ & Planning Law J* 356-371.
37. M Arora, H Malano, B Davidson, **R Nelson** & B George, "Interactions between Centralized and Decentralized Water Systems in the Urban Context: A Review" (2015) 2(6) *WIREs (Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews) Water* 623-634.
38. **R Nelson**, "Assessing Local Planning to Control Groundwater Depletion: California as a Microcosm of Global Issues" (2012) 48(1) *Water Resour Res* W01502.

39. **R Nelson**, "Regulating Nonpoint Source Pollution in the US: A Regulatory Theory Approach to Lessons and Research Paths for Australia" (2011) 35(2) *UWA Law Rev* 340-384.
40. **R Nelson**, "Water Pollution in China: How Can Business Influence for Good?" (2008) 7 *Asian Business & Mgmt* 489-509.
41. **R Nelson**, "Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems in Law: Troubled Waters?" (2007) 10 *Asia Pacific J of Environ Law* 99-130.
42. **R Nelson** & B Sharman, "Not Just Tilting at Windmills: A Bird's Eye View of Bio-Offsets under the EPBC Act" (2007) 24 *Environ & Planning Law J* 17-34.
43. **R Nelson**, "Regulating Grassland Degradation in China: Shallow-Rooted Laws?" (2006) 7 *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy J* 385-417.
44. L Godden, **R Nelson** & J Peel, "Controlling Invasive Species: Managing Risks to Australia's Agricultural Sustainability and Biodiversity Protection" (2006) 13 *Aust J of Environ Mgmt* 166-184.
45. **R Nelson**, "Legislation for ICM: Advancing Water Resources Sustainability?" (2005) 22 *Environ & Planning Law J* 90-123.
46. J Peel, **R Nelson** & L Godden, "GMO Trade Wars: The Submissions in the US-EC Biotech Dispute in the WTO" (2005) 6 *Melb J of Int Law* 141-166.

### **Other journal publications**

47. AR Siders, N Ulibarri, AE Cravens & RL Nelson, "How to Slay Zombie Research Projects and Move On" (8 Dec 2023) *Nature* (Career Column).
48. B Hart, R Nelson & R Marsh, Editorial, (2023) 27(3) *Aust J of Water Resour* 205-210.
49. AE Cravens, **RL Nelson**, AR Siders & N Ulibarri, "Why Four Scientists Spent a Year Saying No" (25 Aug 2022) *Nature* (Career Column).
50. AR Siders, CM Brooks, AE Cravens, **RL Nelson**, DR Reineman & N Ulibarri, "How to Beat Isolation? Academic Feedback Groups Fit the Bill, and Promote Growth as Scholars and Humans" (2020) 582 *Nature* (Career Column) 597-8.
51. E O'Donnell & **R Nelson**, "Shield Science for Robust Decisions" (2020) 3 *Nature Sustain* 675-676.
52. E Carmody, B Cosens, A Gardner, L Godden, J Gray, C Holley, L Lee, B Lindsay, L Macpherson, **R Nelson**, E O'Donnell, L O'Neill, K Owens & D Sinclair, "The Future of Water Reform in Australia—Starting a Conversation" (2016) 31(4) *Aust Environ Rev* 132-138.
53. **R Nelson**, "Paying Back the River: A First Analysis of Western Groundwater Offset Rules and Lessons for Other Natural Resources" (2015) 34 *Stanford Environ Law J* 129-194.
54. **R Nelson**, "Groundwater, Rivers and Ecosystems: Comparative Insights into Law and Policy for Making the Links" (June 2013) *Aust Environ Rev* 558-566.
55. **R Nelson**, "Water Resources Law" (2010) 29 *Aust Resour & Energy Law J* 415-417.
56. **R Nelson** & J Ellis, "Mining and Groundwater" (2008) 27 *Aust Resour & Energy Law J* 172-177.

### **Working papers, conference papers and conference reports**

57. **R Nelson**, 'The Sydney Catchments as a Socio-Ecological System in Law' in Stephan Barthel et al, *Emergent Landscapes: Exploring Social-Ecological Interdisciplinarity* (Conference proceedings, School of Ecosystem & Forest Sciences, Univ of Melb, 2018) 35-37.
58. **R Nelson**, *Business Water Forum: Forgotten Groundwater – Outcomes Report* (United States Studies Centre at the Univ of Sydney, Mar 2015) 14pp.
59. E O'Donnell & **R Nelson**, *Mainstreaming Environmental Water Law and Practice* (Centre for Resources, Energy & Environ Law, Melb Law School, Univ of Melb, Oct 2013) 14pp.
60. **R Nelson** & M Casey, *Taking Policy from Paper to the Pump: Lessons on Effective and Flexible Groundwater Policy and Management from the Western U.S. and Australia* (Water in the West Working Paper, Stanford Univ, Sept 2013) 72pp.

61. **R Nelson**, "Instituting Integration: Findings of the Comparative Groundwater Law & Policy Program's Workshop 1" (May 2012), *Water in the West Working Paper 3* (Stanford Univ) 53pp.
62. **R Nelson**, "Uncommon Innovation: Developments in Groundwater Management Planning in California" (Mar 2011) *Water in the West Working Paper 1* (Stanford Univ) 43pp.

### **Commissioned research reports**

63. **R Nelson**, JMC Leighton & R Marsh, *Environment-Related Advisory Committees* (Watertrust Aust, 2024) 1-10
64. **R Nelson**, G Walsh, LM Shirley & R Marsh, *Water, Law and Concepts of Equity* (Watertrust Aust, 2023) 1-60
65. **R Nelson**, *Water Security in the Proposal to Develop the Law on Water Resources (Vietnam): A Review of Issues, Gaps and Legal Mechanisms* (Aust Water Partnership), 2022, Report to Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources & Environ, 1-27 (also available in Vietnamese trans)
66. **R Nelson**, D Sinclair, E O'Donnell & C Holley, *South Central Urban Water Market Trial: Review and Foundations*, 2020, Report to Vict Dept of Environ, Land, Water & Planning, 1-23
67. C Holley, **R Nelson**, E O'Donnell & D Sinclair, *South Central Urban Water Market Trial: International Experiences*, 2020, Report to Vict Dept of Environ, Land, Water & Planning, 1-41
68. **R Nelson**, *Options for Long-Term Protection of Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems and Surface Waters in the Gerangamete and Gellibrand Groundwater Management Areas*, 2019, Report to Land & Water Resources Otway Catchment Landcare group, 1-30
69. **R Nelson**, E O'Donnell, A Horne, L O'Neill & B Lindsay, *Cultural Flows and Aboriginal Participation in Water Resource Management: What Would Leadership by Melbourne Water Look Like?*, Discussion Paper & Workshop Report, 2018, 1-34 (confidential).
70. **R Nelson**, L Godden & B Lindsay, *A Pathway to Cultural Flows in Australia* (Natl Native Title Council, Feb 2018) 1-16
71. **R Nelson**, L Godden & B Lindsay, *Cultural Flows: A Multi-Layer Plan for Cultural Flows in Australia: Legal and Policy Design* (Natl Native Title Council, Jan 2018). 1-98
72. **R Nelson**, L Godden & B Lindsay, *National Cultural Flows Research Project Component 5: Legal and Policy Design – Working Paper 2: Law and Policy Models for Advancing Cultural Flows* (Natl Native Title Council, Dec 2017) 1-75 (confidential at commissioning bodies' request).
73. **R Nelson**, L Godden & B Lindsay, *National Cultural Flows Research Project Component 5: Legal and Policy Design – Working Paper 1: Law and Policy Options for Advancing Cultural Flows* (Natl Native Title Council, Dec 2017) 1-93 (confidential at commissioning bodies' request).
74. **R Nelson** & B Lindsay, *Legal Dimensions of Water Resource Plan (WRP) Requirements under the Basin Plan, Goolwa, South Australia* (Environ Justice Aust, 2015) 1-14
75. **R Nelson**, *Improving Regional Groundwater Management in California* (prepared for the Natural Resources Defense Council) (2012) 1-44
76. **R Nelson**, *The Guidelines for Groundwater Protection in Australia: Regulatory Review, Final Report* (Geoscience Aust, Feb 2010) 1-97

### **H. ENGAGEMENT**

---

#### **Community engagement**

2021	Workshop leader & presenter, <i>LAWROC Groundwater Workshop</i> , Kawarren, 23 Jan 2021.
2018	Expert presenter and facilitator, <i>Yarra Community Roundtable</i> , Heidelberg, 13 Oct 2018.
2016-2019	Co-led development of two online research platforms: D Perrone & <b>R Nelson</b> , <i>License to Pump: Groundwater Permitting in the West</i> , Water in the West, Stanford University; <b>R Nelson</b> and L Szepticki, <i>Groundwater, Rivers, Ecosystems and Conflicts, Water in the West</i> , Stanford Univ.

Various times between 2011-present      Regular advisor on water projects for Environmental Justice Australia and Environmental Defenders Office (Freshwater Program)

### Submissions to govt

1. M Currell, S Jackson, **R Nelson** & I Wright, Letter to C'wealth Minister for the Environment & Water, 'IESC 2024-150: Beetaloo Basin Unconventional gas exploration and appraisal' (2025). 1-5
2. Attributed contribution to 'Preventing 'Death by a Thousand Cuts': Addressing cumulative impacts to matters of national environmental significance (MNES) through reforms to the EPBC Act - Recommendations to the Commonwealth Government' (2023), 14p; and appendix, **R Nelson**, 'Illustrative Examples of Cumulative Impact Approaches from Other Jurisdictions' (2023). 1-3
3. B Jessup, E O'Donnell & **R Nelson**, Submission on Suggestions for the 2023-24 Victorian Redistribution, Submission to the Redistribution Committee for Victoria (2023). 1-3.
4. E O'Donnell, K O'Bryan, S Jackson, K Jama, **R Nelson**, E Cubillo & Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations, Submission to the Yoorook Commission, 'Caring for Country: Overcoming the twin legacies of terra nullius and aqua nullius' (2023). 1-31
5. Letter to Northern Territory Chief Minister, 'Re: Poor practice water planning in the Northern Territory' (2022), led by S Jackson, with collaboration from 17 other water academics, including **R Nelson**. 1-5
6. P Cook, M Andersen & **R Nelson**, NCGRT Submission to 2022 Draft NSW Groundwater Strategy (2022). 1-3
7. T Fletcher, C Walsh, **R Nelson** & Y En Chee, Comments on EPA Draft Urban Stormwater Management Guidance (2020). 1-17
8. **R Nelson**, Submission to Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (2020). 1-14
9. **R Nelson**, Submission to Dept of Environment, Water, Land and Planning: Yarra Strategic Plan Public Consultation (2020). 1-80
10. **R Nelson**, E O'Donnell, A Pelizzon, S Jackson, M Douglas, A Akhtar-Khavari, N Emmanouil, C Clark, J Page, L Godden, Submission to NT Water Regulatory Reform Directions Paper (2019). 1-22
11. Contribution to C Moritz et al, *Investigation of the Causes of Mass Fish Kills in the Menindee Region NSW over the Summer 2018-2019* (Aust Academy of Science, 2019). 1-162
12. **R Nelson**, Submission to Victorian Govt Improving Stormwater Mgmt Advisory Ctee, 2018. 1-6
13. **R Nelson**, Submission to Victorian Govt Draft State Environ Protection Policy (Waters), 2018. 1-7
14. **R Nelson**, Submission to Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Reform of Australia's Water Resources Sector, 2017. 1-9
15. E Carmody, B Cosens, A Gardner, L Godden, J Gray, C Holley, B Lindsay, L Macpherson, **R Nelson**, E O'Donnell, L O'Neill, K Owens & D Sinclair, Submission to Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Reform of Australia's Water Resources Sector (December 2017). 1-10
16. Unattributed contribution to Univ of Melb submission to Victorian Govt water reform discussion paper, "Water for Victoria", 2016.
17. **R Nelson**, Submission to the Victorian Govt Water Law Review, 2012. 1-16
18. **R Nelson**, Submission to Aust House of Reps Standing Ctee on Regional Australia, *Inquiry into Certain Matters Relating to the Proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan*, 2012. 1-25
19. **R Nelson**, Submission to MDBA on Groundwater Elements of Proposed Basin Plan, 2012. 1-25

### Research seminars delivered by invitation to govt agencies/entities and non-govt organisations

1. **R Nelson**, "Regulation of Cumulative Impacts: Best Practice", Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, Sydney, 13 Jul 2023.
2. **R Nelson**, "GDEs: The Bigger Picture", *Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Reference Group* (comprised of federal & state representatives), Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, 6 Mar 2020.

3. **R Nelson**, “Regulating the Cumulative Impacts of Groundwater Withdrawals with an Eye to Water Data”, seminar delivered to the Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, 14 Feb 2017.
4. **R Nelson**, “Regulating the Cumulative Impacts of Groundwater Withdrawals: Australia and Further Afield”, presentation to the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development, Canberra, 12 Dec 2016.
5. **(Keynote) R Nelson**, “Past the Frontiers of Water Planning”, *Murray-Darling Basin Authority Water Planners' Forum 3*, Goolwa, South Australia, 10 May 2016.
6. **(Keynote) R Nelson**, “Water Planning: An International Perspective”, *Murray-Darling Basin Authority First Annual Water Planners' Forum*, Rydges, Sydney Int'l Airport, 19-20 Mar 2014.
7. **R Nelson**, “Comparative Water Law and Policy”, presentation to National Groundwater Sub-Group, Water Thematic Oversight Group, Council of Aust Govts, Melbourne, 13 Mar 2013.
8. **R Nelson**, “Groundwater and Ecosystems: A Survey of Law and Policy Mechanisms for Making the Connection”, Webinar delivered to USEPA Region 8 and others, 13 Feb 2013.
9. **R Nelson**, “The Water Act 2007 (Cth): National Water Commission Science Seminar”, seminar delivered to the National Water Commission, Canberra, 11 Aug 2009.

#### Commentary (authored)

1. **R Nelson** & M Maron, ‘We Must Assess ‘Cumulative Impacts’ to Protect Nature from Death by a Thousand Cuts’ (30 Oct 2023) *The Conversation*.
2. **R Nelson**, ‘Multi-Level Governance and the Environment in the Pandemic Era’ (11 Oct 2022) *Eurac Research Eureka! Blog*.
3. S Kearney, A Reside, J Watson, **R Nelson**, R Spindler & V Adams, “National Parks Are Not Enough – We Need Landholders to Protect Threatened Species on Their Property” (11 Feb 2022) *The Conversation*.
4. **R Nelson**, “Queensland Has An Important Network of Private Conservation Areas, but They’re Dangerously Exposed to Mining” (2 Feb 2022) *The Conversation*.
5. P Dupen & **R Nelson**, “A Major Coal Mine Expansion Was Knocked Back Today, but Where’s the Line in the Sand?” (5 Feb 2021) *The Conversation*.
6. **R Nelson**, “Federalism and Environmental Frontiers” (7 Nov 2019) *Blog Symposium: New Frontiers of Federalism* (Int Assoc of Constitutional Law Blog).
7. **R Nelson**, “Managing the Hidden Water Beneath Our Feet” (13 Oct 2019) *Pursuit*.
8. A Akhtar-Khavari, E McPherson, E O’Donnell, K Woolaston, J Yates, A Pelizzon & **R Nelson**, “Why do Australia’s environmental laws fail to save our species from extinction?” (13 Jul 2019) *World Commission on Environmental Law Blog, Int Union for the Conserv of Nature (IUCN)*.
9. E White & **R Nelson**, “What Happens to Small Towns Whose Water Becomes Big Business for Bottled Brands?” (17 May 2018) *ABC News*, reprinted from *The Conversation* (16 May 2018).
10. **R Nelson**, “California Should Speed Up Groundwater Conservation” (7 Apr 2015), *New York Times* (New York, New York). 1p
11. **R Nelson**, “Grounds for Water Collaboration”, *Alliance21 Blog*, 5 Apr 2013, 1p
12. A Fahlund & **R Nelson**, “In Search of a Groundwater Policy on Behalf of Rivers”, *Water Currents National Geographic Newswatch*, 26 Dec 2012, 1-3
13. B Thompson & **R Nelson**, “Integrated Regional Management: Solving the Groundwater Challenge” (Oct 2010) *Woods Institute for the Environment Solution Brief*, Stanford Univ, 4p

#### Media interviews and commentary

1. P Clark, “The Science of Saying No at Work” (25 Aug 2024), *Financial Times* (London, UK), [Link](#).
2. R Clayton, “Suspected Unlicensed Dams Multiplying across Stressed River System Reveal Holes in Victoria’s Water Compliance” (2 June 2023) *ABC News* (Australia), [Link](#).

3. Interview with N Kammleiter, “Der emotionale Aspekt des Neinsagens wird unterschätzt” (1 September 2022) *Süddeutscher Zeitung* (Munich, Germany), [Link](#).
4. C Holmes, “Arizona’s Growing Rural Groundwater Crisis” (25 May 2022) *ABC-15*, Phoenix, Arizona (Television and online), [Link](#).
5. J Davis & A Burns, “As Rivers and Dams Dry Up, Groundwater Emerges as New Battleground in Fight for Water” (13 October 2019) *ABC Rural* and *ABC News VIC* (Television), [Link](#).
6. D Rothberg, ‘Legislation to set aside water passes through Nevada Legislature with bipartisan, unanimous support’ (5 June 2019) [Link](#)
7. M Slezak, “Adani Plans to Protect Desert Springs Are Worthless, Water Experts Say” (19 June 2018) *ABC News*, [Link](#).
8. J Peterson, “Tribes Gain More Leverage Over Western Water” (31 August 2018) *High Country News*, [Link](#).
9. ‘Who Owns the Aquifer?’ (5 August 2018) *Eurasia Review*.
10. C Miller, “Californians Take Drought Lessons From Down Under” (2 Nov 2015) *KQED Science* (San Francisco, California). [Link](#).
11. K Fagan, “Drought Survival: What Australia’s Changes Can Teach California” (25 Sept 25, 2015) *San Francisco Chronicle* (San Francisco, California). [Link](#)
12. J Hobson, “Lessons from Australia’s 17-Year Drought” (23 April 2015) Here and Now, *National Public Radio* (Boston, Massachusetts). [Link](#).
13. A Martinez, “Australia’s Millennium Drought” (24 April 2015) Take Two, *KPCC Southern California Public Radio*. [Link](#)
14. M Nijhuis, “Amid Drought, New California Law Will Limit Groundwater Pumping for First Time” (17 Sept 2014), *National Geographic News* (online). [Link](#)
15. C Miller, “Drought Lessons from Down Under” (30 June 2014), *KQED Science/National Public Radio* (San Francisco, California). [Link](#)
16. E Parkinson, “Fear Grows over CSG Impact” (7 April 2014), *Australian Financial Review* 4.
17. D Sneed, “Paso Groundwater District Supporters Eye Options if Current Plan Dies” (15 Mar 2014) *The Tribune* (San Luis Obispo, California), A1. [Link](#).
18. “The Future is Bright: Law Council Award and Scholarship Winners: Mahla Pearlman AO Award” (Jan-Mar 2014) *Law Council Review* 28.
19. D Sneed & J Lynem, “Search for Solutions - County Ordinances, Water Districts and Other Methods Could Help Save a Dwindling Resource - If Stakeholders Can Commit to the Effort” (June 20, 2013) *The Tribune* (San Luis Obispo, California), A1.
20. J Force, “Californian Clues to Successful Groundwater Management” (April 2013) *Water21 (Magazine of the International Water Association)* 21-23.
21. C Carswell, “Farming on the Fringe” (2013) *High Country News* (18 Feb 2013) 12-18. [Link](#)
22. S Ellis, “Law and the Water of Life”, (2012) 52 *Young Lawyers Journal* 8, Law Institute of Victoria.
23. P Lasker, “CEDA Says Australia the Loser in CSG Row”, *ABC News*, 4 Sept 2012. [Link](#)
24. D Mark, “US and Australia Groundwater Experts in Sydney to Discuss Similarities and Differences”, *ABC Rural NSW Country Hour*, 21 June 2012. [Link](#)
25. ‘The Downstream Consequences of Depleting Groundwater’, *Science Daily*, 11 June 2012. [Link](#).
26. T Ghose, “Study Disputes Need to Conserve Farm Water”, *California Watch*, 29 Nov 2011.
27. J Hansen, “Groundwater Lacks State Oversight in California – That Can Lead to Overuse”, *Bay Citizen*, 13 July 2011.
28. ‘California Relies on a Mixed Bag for Handling Groundwater Resources’ (8 July 2011) *Western Farm Press*.
29. F Barringer, “Divvying Up the Water Down Under”, *New York Times Online: Green – A Blog about Energy and Environment*, 21 Mar 2011. [Link](#).

30. H Tattersall, "Practical Idealism", *AFR Boss Magazine*, April 2009, p. 22.
31. "Novel Program to Bring Educated Australians Home", *Connect Asia*, 3 Dec 2008, ABC Radio Aust.
32. "Monash Award Winner Takes to the Water", *The World Today*, 26 Nov 2008, ABC Radio National.  
[Link](#).

## I. SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (\* *indicates invited presentation*)

---

1. \* **(Keynote) R Nelson**, *Groundwater Now and for the Future*, 52<sup>nd</sup> *Congress of the Int Assoc of Hydrogeologists*, Melbourne, 15-19 Sept 2025.
2. \* **R Nelson**, "The Legal Basis for Cumulative Impact Assessment", and panellist, "Assessing and Managing Cumulative Impacts to Deliver Environmental and Social Outcomes", *Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Annual Impact Assessment Symposium*, 27-28 August 2025, Sydney.
3. \* **R Nelson**, "Designing Laws to Address Cumulative Environmental Problems", *Transformation of Environmental Law: Pioneers, Achievements, Setbacks* (Univ of Augsburg, Germany, online), 3 Mar 2025.
4. **R Nelson**, "Equity and Fairness in Australian Water Legislation", *11<sup>th</sup> Frontiers in Environ Law Colloquium*, Univ of Waikato, 30-31 Jan 2025.
5. **R Nelson**, "Regulating a Thousand Cuts: Regulatory Design for Cumulative Environmental Problems", Faculty Research Seminar, Melbourne Law School, 20 May 2024.
6. **R Nelson**, "How Can Law Deal with Cumulative Impacts on Biodiversity? A Global Framework for Analysis", *10<sup>th</sup> Frontiers in Environmental Law Colloquium*, Univ of Queensland, 8-9 Feb 2024.
7. \* **(Keynote) R Nelson**, "Water and Cumulative Impacts: Global Policy Issues and Approaches", 40<sup>th</sup> *Hydrology and Water Resources Symposium*, *Engineers Australia*, Sydney, 15 Nov 2023.
8. \* **R Nelson**, "Is Australia's Federal Democracy Ready for Our Environmental Future?", 8<sup>th</sup> *CCCS Constitutional Law Conference*, Univ of Melbourne, 21 Jul 2023.
9. \* **R Nelson** (Discussant for Prof. Margaret Davies), 'Rivers Have Rights. So, What Happens Now?' UNSW, 6 Jul 2023.
10. \* **R Nelson**, "Coal, Gas, and Federal Conflict in Australia", *Non-Renewable Natural Resources in Federal Political Systems*, Univ of Fribourg (Switzerland) & Eurac Research (Italy), online, 9 Jun 2023.
11. \* **R Nelson**, "Cities, Federalism and the Environment", seminar Eurac Research, Bolzano, Italy, 16 Jan 2023.
12. \* **R Nelson**, "Intersections between Environmental Law and Governance of Infectious Diseases", *Interdisciplinary Symposium: Global Governance of Infectious Diseases: Challenges and Opportunities*, Univ of Melbourne, 25 Aug 2022.
13. **R Nelson**, "Nature Conservation and Restoration, Non-state Actors, and the Role of Legal Reforms to Better Protect Groundwater", *Recovery, Resilience, Regeneration: 2022 IUCN Academy of Environ Law Colloquium*, Brisbane, Aust, 15 Jul 2022.
14. **R Nelson**, "Water Rights for Groundwater Environments: A Proposal to Progress the Law", *Groundwater, Key to the Sustainable Development Goals*, *UNESCO & Int Assoc of Hydrogeology (France)*, Sorbonne Univ, Paris, France (online), 19 May 2022.
15. **R Nelson**, "Hidden Risks to Private Conservation Lands in Resource-Rich Areas", *Private Land Conserv Conf 2022, Aust Land Conserv Alliance*, Online, 10 Mar 2022.
16. \* **R Nelson**, "Regulating Cumulative Environmental Change in Multi-Layered Legal Contexts", *Sant'Anna Legal Studies Program*, *Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies*, Pisa, Italy, webinar, 24 Feb 2022.
17. \* D Perrone, S Jasechko & **R Nelson**, "An Overlooked Impact of Groundwater Depletion: Groundwater Wells Running Dry", *Am Geological Union Fall Mtg*, New Orleans, Louisiana & online, 13-17 Dec 2021.

18. **R Nelson**, "Global Prevalence of Cumulative Effects Concepts in EIA Laws and Theoretical Contributions to Policy and Decision-Making", *Environ Inst of Aust & NZ Annual Conf*, online, 9 Nov 2021.
19. **R Nelson**, "Cities and the Environment", *ICON-S Mundo: The Future of Public Law*, Int Soc of Public Law, online, 8 Jul 2021.
20. **R Nelson** & LM Shirley, "Theoretical Potential and Prevalence of Cumulative Environmental Effects Concepts in Global EIA Law", *The Future of Environmental Law: Ambition and Reality, IUCN Academy of Environ Law Colloquium*, online, 30 Jun 2021.
21. **Rebecca Nelson** & LM Shirley, "Cumulative Environmental Problems: A Global EIA Perspective and a New Norm", *7<sup>th</sup> Frontiers in Environ Law Colloquium*, online, 26 Feb 2021.
22. \* D Perrone, S Jasechko & **R Nelson**, "Groundwater Production Wells as a Novel Approach to Understanding Sedimentary Basins", *Geological Soc of Am Conference*, online, 21-30 Oct 2020.
23. \* **R Nelson**, "Time and Space in the Regulation of Coal Seam Gas", *Legal Geography Symp*, Univ of Sydney, 6 Feb 2020.
24. \* **R Nelson**, Panel presentation & Symposium Co-Chair, "Taking and Sharing Responsibility for a Problem", *John Monash Global Scholars Symp: Beyond Boundaries: Transitions to Sustainability*, Univ of Melb, 16-17 Dec 2019.
25. \* **R Nelson**, "Legal Intersections of Cumulative Effects and Environmental Justice: A Comparative Analysis", *Law Soc of Aust & NZ Annual Mtg*, Gold Coast, 6 Dec 2019.
26. **R Nelson**, "Investigating Air Pollution Controls Using Concepts of Cumulative Environmental Effects and Environmental Justice", *IUCN Academy of Environ Law*, Kuala Lumpur, 7 Aug 2019.
27. \* **(Keynote) R Nelson**, "Cumulative Environmental Effects and Project-Based Assessments", *20 years of the EPBC Act – Looking Back, Looking Forward: A Symposium to Canvass Key Priorities for the Review of Our National Environmental Laws*, ANU, 29 Mar 2019.
28. **R Nelson**, "Cumulative Environmental Effects: An Exploratory Spatio-Legal Approach to Analysing Urban Stormwater Controls", *5<sup>th</sup> Frontiers in Environ Law Colloquium*, QUT, 14-15 Feb 2019.
29. \* **R Nelson**, "Triggering Change? An Empirical Analysis of Regulating the Cumulative Environmental Effects of Coal Seam Gas Extraction under Australian Federal Environmental Law", *Energy Transitions: Governing Unconventional Gas, Renewables and the Energy-Environment Nexus*, UNSW, 5-6 Feb 2019.
30. \* **R Nelson**, "Water in a Concrete Jungle: Laws to (Un)Pave the way to Healthy Urban Streams", Seminar, Centre for Resources, Energy and Environmental Law, Melb Law School, 5 Dec 2018 and Waterway Ecosystem Research Group, Univ of Melb, Burnley, 14 February 2019.
31. \* **(Keynote) R Nelson**, "Boiled Frogs and Broken Camels: Warnings from a Dialogue between Water Law and Environmental Law", *Environ Law Symp*, Law Council of Aust, Sydney, 19 Apr 2018.
32. **R Nelson**, "Law, Science and Water Under Pressure: Governing Data in a Water Democracy", *A Crisis of Expertise? Legitimacy and the Challenge of Policymaking*, Melb School of Govt, Univ of Melb, 15-16 Feb 2018.
33. **R Nelson**, "Sydney's Catchments as a Social-Ecological System in Law", *Emergent Landscapes: Exploring Social-Ecological Interdisciplinarity*, Univ of Melb, 8 Feb 2018.
34. **R Nelson**, "Coal vs Catchments: Regulating Cumulative Environmental Effects", *Frontiers 4: Annual Environ Law Colloquium*, Univ of Tasmania, 7 Feb 2018.
35. **R Nelson**, "Challenges in Considering Cumulative Impacts: A Survey of Australian Groundwater Practitioners", *Aust Groundwater Conf*, Sydney, 11-13 Jul 2017.
36. **R Nelson**, "Regulatory Design and Complex Natural Resources: A Comparative Perspective on Competition for Groundwater", *Frontiers 3 - Annual Colloquium for Aust Environ Law Teachers & Researchers*, Univ. of Melbourne, 15-16 Feb 2017.
37. \* **R Nelson**, "Groundwater and Complexity: How Can Law Cope?", *CSIRO Land & Water Seminar Series*, Floreat, Western Australia, 27 Oct 2016.

38. \* **Distinguished Lecturer speaking tour**, fully funded, Int Assoc of Hydrogeologists (Aust): one 1-hr lecture per Australian capital city, Oct-Dec 2016.
39. \* **R Nelson**, Expert discussant, Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, *Workshop: Climate Change Adaptation in the Murray-Darling Basin*, Univ of Melb, 22 Jul 2016.
40. \* **R Nelson**, "Groundwater, Rivers and Ecosystems: Regulatory and Policy Approaches to Making the Links", *Groundwater Data in the SGMA Context: Identifying Groundwater Data Needs, Challenges, and Potential Solutions*, 28 Jan 2016, Stanford Univ (webinar)
41. \* **R Nelson**, "National Water Reforms and Groundwater", *Rethinking Water Governance: A Workshop on the Future of Water Reform in Australia*, UNSW, Sydney, 7-8 Dec 2015.
42. D Perrone & **R Nelson**, "The Western Water Dashboard Comparing Groundwater Regulation Among the Western States", *Am Water Resources Assoc Annual Conf*, Denver, Colorado, 16-19 Nov 2015.
43. \* **(Keynote) R Nelson**, "The Western Water Dashboard: A View of Groundwater Licensing in the Western US", *Aust Groundwater Conf*, Canberra, 5 Nov 2015 (with D Perrone).
44. \* **(Keynote) R Nelson**, "Lessons from California and Perspectives from other Australian States: Reflections on Major Water Reform Themes", *Water Resources Law Conference*, Univ of Western Australia, Perth, 8 Apr 2015.
45. \* **R Nelson**, "Successful Groundwater Management: Lessons from Groundwater Management Plans", *Identifying Challenges and Barriers in Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act*, Stanford University, 27-28 January 2015.
46. \* **R Nelson**, "Beyond the Traditional Governance of Trans-jurisdictional Groundwater: Unconventional Approaches to Cross-Boundary Aquifer Management in the United States", *Trans-jurisdictional Water Governance*, 9-10 Dec 2013, UNSW, Sydney (with Meg Casey).
47. **R Nelson**, "How Can Rules for Offsetting (Mitigating) Groundwater Pumping Protect Connected Rivers?", *International Association of Hydrogeologists Annual Congress*, 17 Sept 2013, Perth.
48. **R Nelson**, "Legal and Policy Mechanisms for Linking Groundwater and Environmental Flows", *Int Riversymposium*, 8-11 Oct 2012, Melbourne.
49. **R Nelson**, "Groundwater and Ecosystems: A Survey of Regulatory Mechanisms for Making the Connection", *2012 National Ground Water Assoc Annual Summit*, 6-10 May 2012, Garden Grove, California.
50. \* **R Nelson**, Panellist, *Water Federalism: Comparative Perspectives on Water Institutions in Federal Systems*, 19-21 Apr 2012, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
51. \* **(Keynote) R Nelson**, "New Strides in Australian Water Regulation", *2011 Intelligent Use of Water Summit*, 15 Mar 2011, Clovis, California.
52. \* **R Nelson**, (Moderator, panel session), "The Environment: Water for Life: Australia's Strategy for Sustainability", *Aust-USA Water Series Forum*, 26 Jan 2011, Sacramento, California.
53. **R Nelson**, "Till the Wells Run Dry? Dealing with Groundwater Depletion in Victoria, Australia, and California, USA", *Towards Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture: An International Conference Linking Science and Policy*, 15-17 June 2010, San Francisco, California.
54. **R Nelson**, "Institutions, Rules, and Incentives: Empirical Investigations in Climate Change, Water and Capital Markets", *Annual Meeting of the Law & Soc Assoc*, 27 May 2010.
55. **R Nelson**, "Till the Wells Run Dry? Controlling Groundwater Extraction in California, USA and Victoria, Australia", *National Groundwater Assoc Groundwater Summit*, Denver, Apr 14, 2010.
56. \* **R Nelson**, "Emerging Issues in Environmental Law", *Law Inst of Victoria*, Melbourne, 18 Nov 2008.
57. \* **R Nelson**, "Water in Victoria – The Legal Framework", *Law Inst of Victoria*, Mildura, 11 Apr 2008.
58. **R Nelson**, "Emerging Public and Corporate Roles in Addressing Water Pollution in China", *2nd Int Water Environment Partnership in Asia Forum*, 3-4 Dec 2007, Beppu, Japan.
59. \* **R Nelson**, "Water Pollution in China: Can Law Turn the Tide?", seminar presented at the Asian Law Centre, Univ of Melb, Oct 22, 2007.

60. **R Nelson**, “Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems in Law: Invaluable or Unvalued?”, *Biodiversity Extinction Crisis Conference*, Soc for Conserv Biology (Aust), 10-12 July 2007, UNSW, Sydney.