

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW  
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

PATHWAYS TO  
ADAPTATION FOR  
CONSERVATION  
LAW AND POLICY

Law and Nature Dialogue  
Webinar Series



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Overland Track, Tasmania. Image by pen\_ash from Pixabay

**Prof. Jan McDonald** | 27 May 2021, 1pm (AEST/Sydney time)

**Session Chair : Paul Govind**

Biodiversity is under increasing pressure from human activities, despite protective measures in conservation laws. Climate change will exacerbate those pressures and the effects of habitat loss and species decline. Current approaches to conservation law focus on establishing protected areas and limiting activities outside reserves that might affect priority species, habitats, and ecological communities. These measures have had mixed success depending on scale and implementation, but are likely to perform poorly under conditions of future change. To prepare for the future, conservation law and policy needs to anticipate and manage for future change; widen its scope beyond species and ecological communities that are currently threatened; and support adaptive management of priority areas and species. Using Australian conservation law as a case study, this presentation outlines three possible routes by which this shift could occur: enhancing the adaptiveness of conservation law; expanding the focus of conservation law from protected areas and listed species to include ecosystems and ecosystem services; or doing both simultaneously. The presentation will identify legal mechanisms needed to implement each route and barriers that must be overcome for successful implementation.

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## Prof. Jan McDonald

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Jan McDonald is Professor of Environmental and Climate Law at the University of Tasmania. Her work examines the role of law in promoting adaptation to climate change impacts and managing the research, development and deployment of climate intervention technologies.

Professor McDonald has consulted to local, state and national governments on environmental and climate change adaptation issues, and has taught, researched and published widely across a range of environmental law issues. Professor McDonald has won over \$3million in research funding, including three competitive grants relating to climate change adaptation since 2011.

Prof. McDonald has served as a member of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council. She was a Contributing Author to the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report.

