

2026 AIAL National Administrative Law Conference

Administrative Law in a Time of Crisis

Thursday 30 July and Friday 31 July 2026

Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Barton, ACT



*Storm clouds over Canberra
Chris F Manning*

The Conference will focus on various crises facing Australia and the world from administrative law perspectives.

Specific attention will be given to the role of decision-makers, courts, tribunals and inquiries in understanding and remedying the implications of human action and inaction on the protection of the environment and natural resources, the rights of First Nations People, and the proper operations and outcomes of democratic institutions. The Conference will also explore the benefits and threats of marshalling advancing and new technologies as we navigate these challenges.

The Conference will be relevant to government decision-makers; those affected by decisions and their advisers; members of review bodies, tribunals and courts; policy developers; public lawyers; academics; and others with an interest in administrative law.

Thursday 30 July 2026

8.45am Registration and arrival tea and coffee

9.30am **Welcome and opening address**

Welcome by **the Hon Justice Rachel Pepper**, Land and Environment Court of NSW and the President of the AIAL

Welcome to Country by **Jude Barlow**, Ngunnawal Elder and former Deputy CEO of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Opening Address by **The Hon Justice Michelle Gordon AC**, Justice of the High Court of Australia

10.15am **Plenary Session 1: Environment and climate change**

Speakers: **The Hon Fleur Kingham**, President, Queensland Law Reform Commission
Climate change and decisional responsibility: Making better decisions in the public interest

David Hume SC, Barrister, Sixth Floor Selborne Wentworth Chambers, Sydney
Consideration of “likely impacts”: Counterfactuals, substitution and fossil fuel projects

Chair: **Perry Wood**, Partner - Principal Migration Lawyer, Australian Migration Lawyers, Member, National Executive Committee, AIAL

11:15am **Morning tea**

11.45am **Plenary Session 2: Administrative Review Council – reflecting on the first year following re-establishment**

Speakers: **Professor Margaret Allars SC**, ARC Chair

The Hon Justice Emilios Kyrou AO, President of the Administrative Review Tribunal

Elizabeth Tydd, Australian Information Commissioner

Iain Anderson, Commonwealth Ombudsman

Chair: **Emeritus Professor Robin Creyke AO**, Australian National University, College of Law, Government and Policy, Member, National Executive Committee, AIAL

1:00pm **Lunch**

2.00pm **Plenary Session 3: Climate change litigation**

Speakers: **Veronica Holt**, Barrister, Owen Dixon Chambers West, Melbourne

Dr Kylie Weston-Scheuber, Barrister, Owen Dixon Chambers West, Melbourne

Suganya Pathanjalimanoharar, Barrister, Ah Ket Chambers, Melbourne

Chair: **The Hon Justice Nicola Pain**, Land and Environment Court of NSW

3.15pm **Afternoon tea**

Thursday 30 July 2026 (continued)

3.45pm Plenary Session 4: The challenges of administrative regulation of the environment

Speakers: **Professor Rosemary Lyster**, Professor of Climate and Environmental Law, University of Sydney Law School

Professor Rebecca Nelson, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne and Director of Melbourne Centre for Law and the Environment

Chair: **The Hon Justice Rachel Pepper**, Land and Environment Court of NSW and President of the AIAL

5:00pm Plenary Session 5: National Lecture on Administrative Law

Speaker: **The Hon John Basten AO KC**, formerly a Judge of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of NSW

Administrative law in a collapsing environment

6:00pm Conference Drinks

7:00pm Conference Dinner and Trivia Quiz

Friday 31 July 2026

8.30am Registration and arrival tea and coffee

9.00am Plenary Session 6 : Threats to democracy

Speakers: **Kate Eastman AM SC**, Barrister, New Chambers, Sydney
Hate speech and social cohesion

Professor Selen Ercan, Professor of Political Science at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy, University of Canberra

Contemporary threats and the promise of deliberative democracy

The Hon Anthony Whealy KC, Chair of the Centre for Public Integrity and formerly a Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW

Defending democracy in the age of disinformation

Chair: **Robert Orr PSM KC**, Member, National Executive Committee, AIAL

10.15am Concurrent Session 1

Stream 1.1

Meghan Malone, LL.M. Candidate, Harvard University

"Influencer elections": Regulation of covert influencer campaigning and protections of expression in the USA, UK and Australia

Stream 1.2

Tracy Russell, Senior Advisor, SPA Australia

Can an automated system satisfy the statutory requirement for "mental deliberation"?

Brian Yeom, Lecturer in Administrative Law, Monash University

Shifting the burden: Systemic justification in high-volume decision-making

11.00am Morning Tea

Friday 31 July 2026 (continued)

11.30am Plenary Session 7: The rights of First Nations People

Speakers: **Associate Professor Harry Hobbs**, Faculty of Law and Justice, University of New South Wales
Treaty as structural reform: The impact of the first Statewide Treaty on governance, accountability and public power in Victoria

Dr Dani Linder, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Queensland
Designing Indigenous institutions according to international standards

James Gaetani, Sir Roland Wilson Scholar and PhD Candidate, ANU Law School
Creating spaces for Indigenous voices in exercises of statutory power

Chair: **TBC**

12.45pm Lunch

1:45pm Concurrent Session 2

Stream 2.1

Caitlin Galeano, formerly Law Honours Student, University of Canberra, and **Madeleine Howle**, Lawyer, Human Rights Law Centre

The inaccessibility of whistleblower protections is threatening the administration of justice

Sam Moorhead, Lawyer, Environmental Justice Australia

"How can we know whether it's legal?" One community group's attempt to test the lawfulness of gas company claims under the Research and Development Tax Incentive

Stream 2.2

Gary Humphries AO, formerly Deputy President, Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Senator for the ACT and Chief Minister of the ACT

Powers and role of the NACC

Stream 2.3

Jason Strachan, Principal, Strachan Legal and Policy

The root causes of error: Why government agencies are struggling to make lawful, correct or preferable decisions, and what their legal advisors can do to embed the rule of law and improve public administration

2.30pm Plenary Session 8: Use of automation and artificial intelligence in decision-making

Speakers: **Professor Janina Boughey**, Faculty of Law and Justice, University of New South Wales and the Director of the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law and **Dr Scarlet Wilcock**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law and Justice, University of New South Wales
Using AI in the government 'back office'

Associate Professor Heather Roberts, ANU Law School, and **Andrew Ray**, Visiting Fellow, ANU Law School
Courts at a crossroads: Evaluating Australian court guidelines on the use of AI by judges

Remote: **Professor Emerita Tania Sourdin**, University of Newcastle
AI in courts and tribunals

Chair: **Dr Juliet Lucy**, Principal Member, NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) and Member, National Executive Committee, AIAL

3.45pm Closing remarks and Conference close

Displays at the conference

Do you have an administrative law program or activity that would be appropriate for a display at the Conference? The Institute welcomes displays from government agencies, tribunals, academic institutions, publishers and law firms.

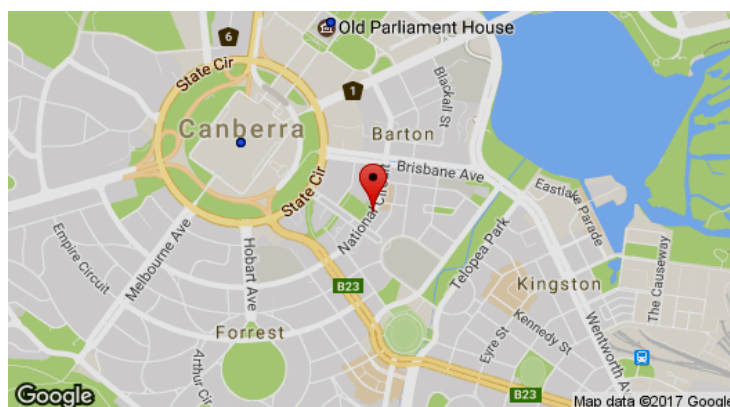
For more information, contact the AIAL Secretariat on 02 6290 1505 or email aial@commercemgt.com.au.

Conference venue

Hotel Realm is located at 18 National Circuit, Barton, just outside the Parliamentary Triangle. It is approximately seven minutes drive from the City Centre and Canberra Airport is only 10kms away.

There is a limited amount of paid parking under the Hotel Realm. Conference delegates are entitled to a discounted day rate which can be obtained by presenting your parking ticket at the hotel reception desk prior to departure. Access to the car park is via Burbury Close directly off either Bourke Street or Sydney Avenue.

For more information about the Hotel Realm, visit www.hotelrealm.com.au.



There are a number of bus stops close to the hotel. For route and timetable details see:

<https://www.transport.act.gov.au/>

Accommodation information

Accommodation is available at the Hotel Realm and its associated properties (The Burbury, The Little National Hotel, The Brassey). To make a reservation and to access the special conference rate, please contact reservations on 02 6163 1888 and mention '**EVENT**' in order to gain a flat 15% off the best available rate of the day across any of Hotel Realm's properties.

Below is a list of accommodation options in Barton:

- Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Barton
Phone: 02 6163 1888; www.hotelrealm.com.au
- The Burbury Hotel & Apartments, 1 Burbury Close, Barton (behind Hotel Realm)
Phone: 02 6163 1888; www.burburyhotel.com.au
- The Little National Hotel, 21 National Circuit, Barton (across road from Hotel Realm)
Phone 02 6163 1888; www.littlenationalhotel.com.au
- The Brassey Hotel, Belmore Gardens & Macquarie Street, Barton (behind Hotel Realm)
Phone: 02 6163 1888; www.brassey.com.au
- Hotel Kurrajong, 8 National Circuit, Barton
Phone: 02 6234 4444; www.hotelkurrajong.com.au
- Rydges Capital Hill, 17 Canberra Avenue, Forrest
Phone: 02 6295 3144; www.rydges.com

How to Register

Register online via Humanitix link below:

<https://events.humanitix.com/aial-national-conference-2026-administrative-law-in-a-time-of-crisis>

Registration close: COB Wednesday 22 July 2026

Registration Fees:

Note: *Conference dinner is included in the registration fee for delegates to this Conference with the exception of the concession and student registration fee and single day tickets.*

Member	\$ 950.00
Non-Member	\$1090.00
Group (3 or more) - Member	\$ 880.00
Group (3 or more) - Non-member	\$ 990.00
Community & Academic	\$ 650.00
Student & Concession	\$ 90.00 (Dinner not included)
Single Day Ticket - Member	\$ 500.00 (Dinner not included)
Single Day Ticket - Non-member	\$ 600.00 (Dinner not included)
Conference Dinner only	\$ 160.00
Online attendance both days	\$ 950.00
Online attendance Thursday	\$ 500.00
Online attendance Friday	\$ 500.00

Delegates will receive confirmation of their registration and payment.

Please note: Conference papers which are available can be sent by email following the Conference on request. Some papers will be published in the *AIAL Forum* at a later date.

CLE/CPD points are available if this educational activity is relevant to your immediate or long term needs in relation to your professional development and practice of the law. Please contact your local Law Society for further details. **WA legal practitioners** should include their Practitioner ID as issued by the Legal Practice Board of WA when registering for the Conference in order to claim CPD points.

Inquiries: All inquiries should be directed to:

AIAL National Secretariat: secretariat@aial.org.au. Phone: (02) 6290 1505

Terms and Conditions

1. "AIAL Members" are current financial members of the AIAL.
2. All prices are stated in Australian Dollars (\$AUD) and include GST. Payments must be made in Australian Dollars.
3. Cancellations must be submitted in writing to secretariat@aial.org.au prior to COB Wednesday 22 July 2026 and may incur an administrative fee of 10% of your registration fee (incl. GST). No refunds will be made for cancellations advised after COB Wednesday 22 July 2026.
4. The AIAL reserves the right to amend any part of the Conference program. If amendments are made to the program, an updated copy of the Conference program will be available on the AIAL website at www.aial.org.au.