



FREE SEMINAR

**Queensland University of Technology
Faculty of Law**

invite you to attend
the Final Seminar by

Doctor of Philosophy Candidate

Nicola Durrant

- Principal Supervisor:** Prof Douglas Fisher, Professor of Law.
- Associate Supervisor:** Prof Peter Grace, Director Institute for Sustainable Resources; Professor of Global Change.
- Faculty of Law Representative:** Prof Bill Duncan, Assistant Dean Research.
- External Panel Member:** Dr Gerry Bates, Law School, University of Sydney

PhD Title:

**The Role of Law in Responding to Climate Change:
Emerging Regulatory, Liability and Market
Approaches**

Date: Tuesday 27 May 2008

Time: 1:00 to 2:00pm

Venue: S Block, Room 406, Level 4, Gardens Point Campus, QUT

This seminar is free and open to the public.



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Thesis Abstract:

Climate change presents as the archetypal environmental problem with short-term economic self-interest operating to the detriment of the long-term sustainability of our society. The scientific reports of the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* strongly assert that the stabilisation of emissions in the atmosphere, to avoid the adverse impacts of climate change, requires significant and rapid reductions in 'business as usual' global greenhouse gas emissions. The sheer magnitude of emission reductions required within this urgent timeframe will necessitate an unprecedented level of international, multi-national and intra-national cooperation and will challenge conventional approaches to the creation and implementation of international and domestic legal regimes.

To meet this challenge, existing international, national and local legal systems must harmoniously implement a strong international climate change regime through a portfolio of traditional and innovative legal mechanisms that transform swiftly current behavioural practices in emitting greenhouse gases. These include the imposition of strict duties to reduce emissions through the establishment of strong command and control regulation (the regulatory approach); mechanisms for the creation and distribution of liabilities for greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related harm (the liability approach) and the use of innovative regulatory tools in the form of the carbon market (the market approach). The legal relations between these various regulatory, liability and market approaches must be managed to achieve a consistent, compatible and optimally effective legal regime to respond to the threat of climate change.

The purpose of this thesis is to analyse and evaluate the emerging legal rules and frameworks, both international and Australian, required for the effective regulation of greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change in the context of the urgent and deep emission reductions required to minimise the adverse impacts of climate change. In doing so, this thesis will examine critically the existing and potential role of law in effectively responding to climate change and will provide recommendations on the necessary reforms to achieve a more effective legal responsive to this global phenomenon in the future.