



UC Berkeley Environmental Engineering  
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# Radical legal changes for water institutions and increased conflicts- the prospects for Australia



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This research reviews the operations of a new legal concept sustainable development law in relation to freshwater resources management in the Australian Federation. It charts the history of this concept and water laws in Australia finding 5 epochs of discourse in water management and law. It pays special attention to the period since 1992 and the introduction of the concept of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) and the State based court decisions that enforced this. Finally, it examines the radical new Water Act and poses questions and refers to the law influencing the interpretation of this act.