

Sub-Committee: Environment and Planning Law

Key leadership:

Chair: Jessica Lighton (with immediate past Chair Amelia Cook)

Vice Chair: [vacant – nominations open]

Secretary: Stephanie Miller

Key Objectives for 2024 and 2025

- Increase membership;
- Focus on increasing student representatives/attendance, including reaching out to universities (e.g. specific E&P lecturers and student law societies);
- Maintain guest speakers at rate of approx. 6-8 per year;
- Host an even bigger Trivia fundraiser utilising the solid planning foundation established over the last 2 years;
- Host a biodiversity panel event; and
- Continue our focus on preparing high-quality submissions.

Key Sub-Committee Initiatives/Projects achieved since Mid-Year Assembly 2024 (include initiatives, projects, submissions and publications)

Events

Trivia fundraiser event held on 30 August 2024 at the Law Society. Event raised almost \$4,871.15 for the Mirabel Foundation and was attended by over 95 people. Congratulations to Mills Oakley on taking the coveted title and trophy. Thanks to our sponsors for the evening Martin Place Chambers, Sparke Helmore and Clayton Utz, and to the Law Society events team.

Submissions

- Submission on the Draft Energy Policy Framework (NSW Department of Planning and Environment) – 31 January 2024;
- Submission on the Inquiry into the transition to Electric Vehicles (Commonwealth Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Inquiry into the transition to EVs) – 5 April 2024. As a result of this submission, the Sub-Committee was invited to attend a hearing held by the Inquiry Committee to provide additional information about the submission. Phoebe Saxon, one of our Submissions Co-ordinators, attended on behalf of the Sub-Committee. In response to questions taken on notice, the Sub-Committee prepared a supplementary submission to the Inquiry Committee.
- Submission on Australia's Nature Positive Plan (Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – 2 September 2024 (joint submission with the Animal Law Sub-Committee).

Guest speakers

- Chloe Hicks, Executive Director of Strategy and Policy at EnergyCo;
- Josh Paveley, Senior Solicitor at the Environmental Defenders Office – Coal and Human Rights team; and
- Stephanie Nevin, Special Counsel at Sparke Helmore.

Further comments to the AA Forum

Significant thanks to the immediate past Chair, Amelia Cook, for all her efforts leading the Sub-Committee and working to achieve our goals, including taking the lead on planning the trivia fundraiser.

In 2025, will aim to expand on abovementioned objectives.