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## **EDITORIAL**

1999 is already shaping up to be a busy year for developments in environmental law and policy. The hearings into the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill* 1998, the *Regional Forestry Agreements Bill* 1998, and the environmental review of the proposed tax reforms are either well underway or complete; each of the States and Territories are experiencing significant legal and/or policy changes that impact upon the environment; and New Zealand's comprehensive resource management regime is undergoing reform. Many of these changes are reported upon in the current edition of the AELN.

As the new editor, I would like to thank existing contributors for their efforts, and encourage future submissions from other NELA members and readers. The June AELN will be a special edition on indigenous issues of relevance to environmental law and policy. Contributions in this area are particularly welcome, whether they relate to Australian or overseas developments. At the time of writing, the Canadian Territory of Nunavut has come into being, the first new Canadian jurisdiction in fifty years. Making up 20% of Canada's land area and with a population of around 25,000 people - of whom 85% are indigenous inhabitants - many new perspective's on environmental issues will be forthcoming which are likely to be of significant interest to Australia.

I would also like to refer members to the upcoming Annual Conference which will be held in Sydney this September. It will be of great help in compiling the September edition of the journal if those presenting papers to the conference would also consider making submissions of their papers to the AELN. Not everyone will be able to attend the conference, and it is in the interests of all that material is circulated as widely as possible. The same applies to those presenting papers to regional conferences - please consider publication in future editions. The more material we have to work with, the better your journal is likely to be.