



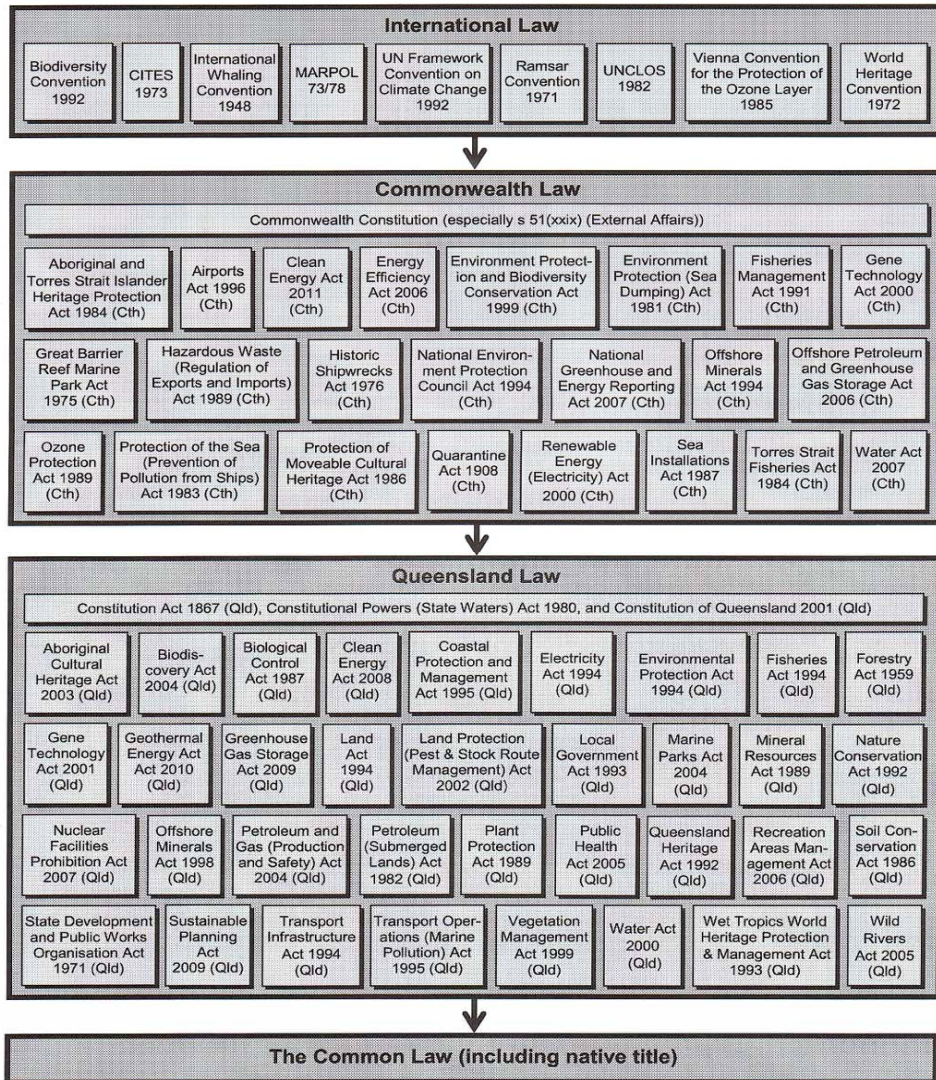
“...to focus on the hurdles and the pathway forward for environmental legislation, environmental approvals and policy”.

The future of LEAP in Queensland

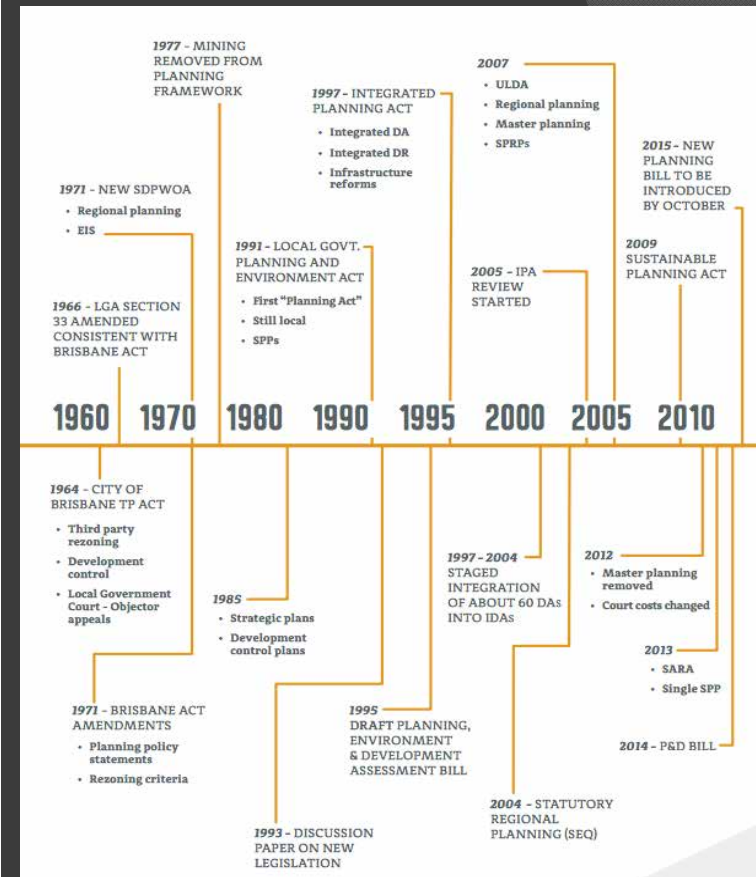
Dr Hugh Lavery AM FEIANZ

- 70 Acts of Parliament govern our actions in Queensland.
- A multitude of Policies underpinning this legislation have also been drafted and regularly reviewed.
- Environmental approvals continue to be given, though still with the effect of creating front-page concern.

Major pieces of the Queensland environmental legal system



Extracted from Chris McGrath, *Synopsis of the Queensland Environmental Legal System* (6th ed, Environmental Law Publishing, Brisbane, 2012) (forthcoming). Current at 29 February 2012.



“The story is of continued declines...with the paradoxical flourishing of the discipline and the failure to meet the targets.”

The International Year of Biodiversity Convention, Nagoya (Japan) 2010

“While ESD is commonly referenced in much contemporary legislation, such provisions provide policy makers and regulators with little practical guidance and therefore can do little to protect the interest of future generations”

Australian Journal of Environmental Management 2015

“It is unlikely that the environment will be protected without an effective legal system of some kind. But the existence of a legal system, of whatever nature, cannot guarantee it.”

Prof. Douglas Fisher *“Australian Environmental Law”* 2003

- ✓ The Queensland environment is in remarkably sound condition as a set of self-sustaining natural ecosystems
- ✓ It is under ever-increasing threat from an expanding global human population that is attracted to these unique and available resources; *and*
- ✓ We do not have the appropriate, localized land management techniques in place that will guarantee its future.

“In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But in practice, there is.”

Yogi Bera

“Targets, icons and action plans are necessary.”

The International Year of Biodiversity Convention, Nagoya (Japan) 2010

“Objectives: To develop practical applications of research knowledge, and to give instructions and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies”.

US Smith Lever Act of 1914

Pathways beyond the hurdles:

- Greater search effort leading to accepted priorities. As part of that, we need to understand precisely how priority indicator species have survived for millennia in a landscape which modern society itself still doesn't know how to cope with.
- Regional landscape strategies in which the community is as intimately engaged as the integrated ecosystems themselves are.