



About

Dr Ted Christie

Environmental interests: -

- ☑ ***dispute resolution***
- ☑ ***environmental law***
- ☑ ***relevant, reliable science***
- ☑ ***public participation***

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Ted links the concepts and principles from these environmental interests to an inter-disciplinary, problem-solving approach to conflict resolution in order to find viable sustainable solutions for environmental and land use conflicts; conflicts where divergent expert scientific opinion and scientific uncertainty prevails. [Ted's inter-disciplinary approach is acknowledged in reviews of his book, "Finding Solutions for Environmental Conflicts: Power and Negotiation."](#)

Apart from his legal qualifications,

Ted Christie has a *B.Agr.Sc (Qld)*, a *M.Agr.Sc (Qld)* and a *Ph.D (Macquarie)*

Dr Ted Christie's Professional Career Changed Over Time: From field ecological research and extension in the semiarid pastoral zone of western Queensland, with the State Government over a 11-year period, based in Blackall and the Charleville Pastoral Laboratory as a Senior Scientist; to academe as an Associate Professor (Applied Ecology) in the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Griffith University, Queensland; then in professional legal practice as a Barrister and Mediator: This framework was the cornerstone for Ted's inter-disciplinarity.

❖ *Dr Ted Christie was awarded a **Centenary Medal** "for long and distinguished voluntary services to the community related to education and the law". The Centenary Medal commemorates Australia's 100 years of federation and recognizes those who contributed to Australian society or government.*

❖ *Dr Ted Christie is a past **Fulbright Professional Scholar** (a practising Lawyer award): Based in Oregon, Ted's focus was on "Environmental Law-Science and Sustainability".*

Ted's Professional Legal Practice was acquired from private practice as a Barrister and Mediator, as well as the Environmental and Presiding Member of the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and key roles in two public interest environmental Commissions of Inquiry.

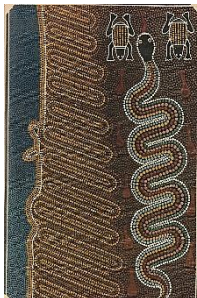
1.0 *As the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal's** environmental science/law specialist, Ted was a member of every 2- or 3- member Tribunal constituted to hear and decide all appeals under the Federal Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act (1975) involving applications for proposed activities in the Marine Park.*

THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES WERE SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC INTEREST CASES

- *An application by the Nickel refinery at Townsville for a permit to offload imported nickel ore from Noumea through the construction of an off-shore mooring point within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park involved 95 days of hearing, the evidence of 69 expert witnesses and 12000 pages of transcript.*
- *An application to permit limited pearling mariculture in the waters of the Palm Island Group in North Queensland was not approved as it would adversely impact the cultural and heritage values that relate to both beliefs and practices held by the Traditional inhabitants of Great Palm Island and involving Aboriginal traditions.*

2.0 *Ted was a Commissioner on the Commonwealth Government's Shoalwater Bay Commission of Inquiry; and as Principal Adviser to the World Heritage Listing-Fraser Island Commission of Inquiry Chairman, Tony Fitzgerald QC: The focus for each Commission of Inquiry was co-existence and sustainable solutions for existing and proposed land uses.*

The central issue of the Federal Government's Shoalwater Bay Commission of Inquiry (1994) was the need for co-existence between existing land uses of the 454,000ha Military Training Area used for national-international defence exercises, and proposed land uses e.g., mineral sand mining of sand dunes; Traditional land rights and interests of the Darumbal people.



❖ *The Commission of Inquiry's Findings for the Indigenous Values and Land Use Term of Reference were that "The Military Training Area was part of the Traditional lands of the Darumbal Aboriginal people whose dispossession in the late 19th early 20th centuries was brutal, ferocious, and comprehensive. Against all odds, the descendants of the Darumbal people have maintained core cultural knowledge and interest in their Traditional lands and the important archaeological sites which they contain..."*

❖ *The Commission of Inquiry's Recommendation to the Federal Government was for the Darumbal Aboriginal people to be granted freehold title to that part of the Military Training Area as set out in their submission to the Inquiry - including conditions to promote co-existence between Traditional and Military land use.*

❖ *A proposal to list the world's largest sand island and its outstanding universal natural values for World Heritage Listing - and its co-existence with logging, the primary land use - was the central issue of the State Government's Fraser Island Commission of Inquiry (1991).*

3.0 Other dimensions of Ted's inter-disciplinary, problem-solving focus include:

- ❖ *As a Member, then Chair of the CSIRO Meat, Dairy and Aquaculture Sector Research Advisory Committee for four years: Eleven CSIRO divisions operated in this Sector, with a comprehensive research capacity and strong links with major collaborators: The State and Commonwealth governments and several Co-operative Research Centres.*

- ❖ Prior to this CSIRO appointment Ted had been a Member of the CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology Research Advisory Committee for a four-year period.
 - ❖ Ted was awarded an Australian Wool Corporation Ph.D Studentship at Macquarie University for research into the ecological adaptations of key native semiarid forage grasses.
 - ❖ *Ted's detailed ecological field research into net primary production and mineral cycling of C₃ and C₄ natural semi-arid grassland communities are cornerstones for understanding the role of natural ecosystems in carbon sequestration and GHG mitigation in Australia.*
- ❖ *Opportunities in the United States for Ted's changing R&D activities arose over time. Ted spent his entire sabbatical leave from Griffith University at the Natural Resources Ecology Laboratory, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado as a Visiting Research Ecologist: The research completed at Fort Collins was published in "Ecology", the journal of the US Ecological Society.*
 - ❖ *Later, the knowledge acquired on the professional practice of environmental law in the USA - as a Fulbright Professional Scholar (Practising Lawyer), based at the University of Oregon (School of Law), Eugene - became the catalyst for Ted to write a book on environmental dispute resolution; and being able to widen the debate on the scope for resolving land use conflicts on Indigenous lands in Australia i.e., by integrating Traditional knowledge and Western science within a framework of sustainable development.*
- ❖ Ted was an invited contributor to a United Nations Environment Program SCOPE Climate Change Workshop [the climate change forerunner of COP]. The Workshop focus was "Climate Change and Ecosystem Processes and Natural Resources". It was convened by (the Late) Professor Bert Bolin and held in Stockholm, Sweden.
 - ❖ *Ted is the author of the first inter-disciplinary book – Law (Australia-UK-USA) /Science/Negotiation – on environmental dispute resolution: "Finding Solutions for Environmental Conflicts: Power and Negotiation" (Edward Elgar Publ., UK, 20058).*
 - ❖ Ted introduced, convened, and taught new Griffith University courses: Environmental Law (Law Faculty); as well as Environmental Dispute Resolution and Ecology and Natural Resources Management (Faculty of Environmental Sciences).
 - ❖ *During his tenure at Griffith University, Ted proposed, planned, and convened an International Training Course: "Desertification and Management of Arid and Semiarid Grazing Lands" for the Australian Development Assistance Bureau as part of Australia's Foreign Aid program. Twenty-four delegates from Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, India, Mexico, and Brazil, participated.*

***Ted's professional career and interests in sustainability and resilience commenced whilst living and employed in the semiarid rangelands of Australia's pastoral zone – over a 11-year period encompassing prolonged drought and “good seasons”- as illustrated in the following photos of his natural grassland research sites
In Australia's pastoral zone.***



Mitchell grasslands in Central-Western Queensland, Australia, and resilience:

- (i) Response to Disturbance - prolonged drought/grazing pressure, 1965 -1972.***
- (ii) Recovery from Disturbance - end of drought following summer rainfall 1973-74.***