

MRSH  
University of Caen  
Esplanade de la Paix 14032  
Caen, Normandy  
France



normandychairforpeace@gmail.com  
www.chairpeace.hypotheses.org  
+63.918.909.4868 (WhatsApp)

***We will have peace on Earth when we have peace with the Earth.***

---

September 23, 2020

**The Honourable Brian J. Preston**

Chief Judge

Land and Environment Court of New South Wales  
Sydney, Australia

Re: Congratulations and Gratitude

Dear Chief Judge Brian Preston:

Greetings from the Normandy Chair for Peace.<sup>i</sup> Yes, we will have peace on Earth when we have peace *with* the Earth.

We write to congratulate and thank you for your crucial role in Australia's landmark environmental decision. We refer to the case of *Gloucester Resources Ltd.*<sup>ii</sup>



Proposed site of the Rocky Hill Coal Project in the town of Gloucester.

This decision refused the application of a mining company to scrape off the Life of a living land and turn it into a large open cut coal mine. This land is in northern New South Wales being used for farming, recreation, and the home of important symbols of the great Aboriginal culture.

## The Story

You told a very strong story:

*“An open cut coal mine in this part of the Gloucester valley would be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Wrong place because an open cut coal mine in this scenic and cultural landscape, (near) many people’s homes and farms, will cause significant planning, amenity, visual and social impacts.*

*“Wrong time because the GHG emissions of the coal mine and its coal product will increase global total concentrations of GHGs. (It is) at a time when what is now urgently needed, in order to meet generally agreed climate targets, is a rapid and deep decrease in GHG emissions. These dire consequences should be avoided. The Project should be refused.”*



Your good court and your good selves refused to turn the living land into a waste land.

This seems to be the first time an Australian superior court refused a fossil fuel development for its climate impacts. Congratulations also to the Planning Assessment Commission that rejected the application in the first place. These actions and your words sent a strong signal across the planet: The coal era is ending.

Mr. Justice Preston, your clear and bold decision will go down in history as a moment when the Land, Air, and Waters (LAW) of Life triumphed over the insanity of money. It told a simple but powerful story to your people, and to us in the whole world. It showed us all a pathway to a planet that is cleaner, greener, healthier, and happier.

If the mining was allowed, extreme violence would have been inflicted on the living land. And it would have been turned into a ‘waste-land.’ Is Land and Soil so useless that we can waste it? Where do we get our food?

After scraping off the plants and animals that live on Land, the mining operation will throw away water found underground. Water -- a vital Life-Source – is wasted for a few pieces of paper that will line the pockets of a few. Then the entrails of the Earth are repeatedly stabbed with incredible cruelty, and then disemboweled.

All for a few pieces of paper called money.

The story that you tell in your decision is another subtle but strong example of a basic truth. “We will have peace on Earth when we have peace *with* the Earth.”

Yes, we need to redefine the meaning of development and contribution to GDP. Today, these words mean the reckless extraction and mindless consumption of material world. This is the brutal brand of development that has led us and the whole Earth to the brink of real GDP – Great Disaster for the Planet.

Your decision signals the merry march of a new model of economics – The CPR Economy. This economic model does not promote the reckless extraction and mindless consumption of the physical Earth. This new economy Cares, Protects, and Restores (CPR) the gasping vital organs of the Earth: The Land, Air, and Waters (LAW) of Life. CPR is also quite a handy word. The term CPR describes what we need to do today: To perform the Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation of the Earth.

Some call this Green Economics, Natural Capitalism, Sustainable Development, etc. They are very good terms, but they need quite a bit of definition and description. The term ‘CPR Economy’ may be easier to grasp because by itself, the term describes what we need to do:

To Care (Conserve), Protect (Preserve), and Restore (Regenerate) the Earth’s vital organs of the Earth: the LAW of Life.

In a few masterful strokes of your legal brush, with the Court as the canvas of your storytelling Art, you painted a pretty picture. This is the picture of hope and a significant step forward to many UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- (2) Good health and well-being,
- (8) Decent Work and (sound) Economic Growth,
- (11) Sustainable Communities,
- (13) Climate Action,
- (15) Life on Land.

***Bravo!***

On behalf of grateful people around the world -- of this generation and of generations yet unborn – and from our inmost heart of hearts: Congratulations and

***THANK YOU!***

Very truly yours,



**NICHOLAS ROBINSON**

Executive Governor  
International Council for Environmental Law  
Madrid and New York



**TONY OPOSA**

Normandy Chair for Peace  
Guardian of Future Generations  
Normandy and Manila



**DURWOOD ZAEKE**

President, Institute for Governance  
and Sustainable Development  
Washington DC and Paris



**EMILIE GAILLARD**

Director  
Normandy Chair for Peace  
France



**LYE LIN HENG**

Professor of Law  
National University of Singapore  
Advisor, Asia-Pacific Center for Environmental Law

Above the Wild Waves,  
the Raging Rain,  
and the  
Clashing Clouds  
of today's  
Crisis of Life ...

is the

Golden Sun of Hope



PS. May we respectfully request to confirm receipt of this letter. International mail is still quite difficult.

Once again, Bravo!

Copy furnished:

Hon. Scott Morrison  
Prime Minister  
Australia  
<https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

Hon. Margaret Beazley AO QC  
Governor  
New South Wales  
[invitations@governor.nsw.gov.au](mailto:invitations@governor.nsw.gov.au)

Hon. Susan Mary Kiefel  
Chief Justice  
High Court of Australia  
Parkes Pl, Parkes ACT 2600,  
Australia  
[kiefelcj.chambers@hcourt.gov.au](mailto:kiefelcj.chambers@hcourt.gov.au)

Patricia Espinosa  
Executive Secretary, UNFCCC  
Bonn, Germany  
[pespinosa@unfccc.int](mailto:pespinosa@unfccc.int)

Inger Andersen  
Executive Director  
Nairobi, Kenya  
[inger.andersen@un.org](mailto:inger.andersen@un.org)

David Forman and Victor Tafur  
Guardians of Future Generations  
Oceania and Latin America  
[dmforman@hawaii.edu](mailto:dmforman@hawaii.edu)  
[vtafur@law.pace.edu](mailto:vtafur@law.pace.edu)

Andrew Raine, Int'l Environmental Law  
UN Environment Programme  
Kenya  
[Andrew.raine@un.org](mailto:Andrew.raine@un.org)

Carroll Muffett  
Center for International Environmental Law  
Washington, D.C.  
[cmuffett@ciel.org](mailto:cmuffett@ciel.org)

David Boyd  
UN Special Rapporteur for Environment  
and Human Rights  
[drdavidboyd@gmail.com](mailto:drdavidboyd@gmail.com)

Scott Fulton  
Environmental Law Institute  
Washington, D.C.  
[fulton@eli.org](mailto:fulton@eli.org)

Antonio Guterres  
UN Secretary General  
Through Ms. Stéphane Dujarric,  
Spokesperson  
New York, NY 10017  
[dujarric@un.org](mailto:dujarric@un.org)

Liza Eisma-Osorio  
Chair, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law  
Cebu City, The Philippines

Armin Rosencranz, Dean  
Tarini Mehta, Associate Dean  
Jindal School of Environment and  
Sustainability, India  
[mehtatarini@yahoo.com](mailto:mehtatarini@yahoo.com)

Elizabeth Mrema  
Executive Secretary  
UN Convention on Biodiversity  
Montreal, Canada  
[elizabeth.mrema@un.org](mailto:elizabeth.mrema@un.org)

Hon. Sandra Duggan  
Hon. Tim Moore  
Hon. Nicola Pain  
Hon. Rachel Pepper  
Hon. John Robson  
Judges, Land & Environment  
Court of NSW,  
Australia

## Normandy Chair for Peace

Normandy Chair for Peace.

Normandy, once a symbol of war, is now a symbol of peace. The Normandy Chair for Peace was established on June 5, 2019, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Normandy Beach landings. It also happens to be the UN World Environment Day.



Etretat Beach in Normandy

The symbolic Chair for Peace is a product of the cooperation between the CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research), The University of Caen, and the Government of the Region Normandy of France.

The Chair is dedicated to the rights of future generations, and to the truth that “We will have peace on Earth when we have peace *with* the Earth.”

The Chair for Peace pursues a positive pathway. With like-hearted friends and groups around the world, we seek good stories of people making peace with the Earth. Changing from today’s narrative of the negative, the Chair shines the spotlight on the positive, on the good, the right, and the bright.

“We change the story of the world when we change the story-*line*.”

For more on the Normandy Chair for Peace, please visit  
<<https://chairpeace.hypotheses.org>>

### GOOD STORIES (a very short film)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12sHSTDOodhYRfsDPZSwstydqMuS666qQ/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>ii</sup> Site of the Rocky Hill Coal Project in the town of Gloucester, photo in page 2—

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.groundswellgloucester.com%2Fcoal%2Frocky-hill.html&psig=AOvVaw3Ca4CUw8R1L7oHUQnTtgee&ust=1599731950402000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCMiK7Y7o2-sCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD>

Etreta Cliff. Source of Picture,

<https://www.google.com.ph/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.discoverwalks.com%2Fblog%2Fthe-most-beautiful-beaches-in-normandy%2F&psig=AOvVaw0mvdEPKZQVbRWsS7ntMTHb&ust=1600313858565000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCJDlp-vf7OsCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD>

C:\Users\tonyo\OneDrive\Desktop\CURRENT\NORMANDY CHAIR FOR PEACE-CURRENT\COMMENDATION LETTERS\7-BRIAN PRESTON 16 September 2020.docx