



LAWS8060

Energy and Natural Resources Law

Session 2, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

Macquarie Law School

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Tina Soliman-Hunter tina.solimanhunter@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to JD or LLM or MIntTrdeComLaw or MSusDev or MPlan
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit introduces students to energy and resources law and governance, a burgeoning and specialised field of law. The unit explores the legal response of states, international institutions and other relevant global actors to regulate the transboundary aspects of energy and resources law. Students will cover the historical development of the law, the need for cooperation, and the effectiveness of sustainable development in energy and resources law. Several important regimes are explored in addition to pivotal domestic and international case law and arbitration decisions. Students will be required to analyse the law within contemporary socio-legal and economic events and conditions impacting on the discipline.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Articulate a thorough understanding of the basic functions and overarching principles of energy and resources law from national, international and sustainable perspectives.

ULO2: Describe and analyse the key institutions and actors involved in energy and resources law, and their respective roles in establishing and maintaining governance in the energy and resources sector.

ULO3: Construct and evaluate arguments that survey the effectiveness of law in energy

and resources, having regard to climate change, sustainability and political influence.

ULO4: Produce professionally-reasoned recommendations for law reform and/or further research to address national and global issues in energy and resources law.

ULO5: Critically examine and articulate intersections and interactions between energy and resources law and other disciplines.

General Assessment Information

General Assessment Information

All written assessments submitted electronically must be submitted through the link provided in iLearn. This unit will utilise Turnitin plagiarism detection software. Students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment, as re-submissions will not be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error.

The design, moderation and feedback of all assessments is in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Procedure (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Late Submission Policy

A maximum penalty of five (5) percentage points of the total possible marks will be applied per day to late submissions, for up to a maximum of seven calendar days. Tasks that have not been submitted within the maximum number of additional late days will receive a mark of zero. This provision does not apply to exams or other assessment with a time limit of less than 24 hours.

Penalties for late submission will be applied consistently and equitably to all students enrolled in the unit. Where short-term, serious and unavoidable circumstances have affected their ability to submit an assessment task, a student must submit a formal application for Special Consideration as per the Special Consideration Policy. Students should not request an informal arrangement from their tutor, lecturer or Unit Convenor.

Where an application for Special Consideration is approved, and the outcome is an extension to the due date of a task, submissions that are received after the new due date will be subject to late penalties that are calculated from the new due date. This only applies where the outcome is an extension to the due date – see the Special Consideration Policy for a schedule of all possible outcomes.

Special Consideration

Students should submit applications for Special Consideration electronically via the Service Connect portal, along with the supporting documentation. Before submitting their applications, students should refer to the Special Consideration Policy (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Professional Writing	40%	No	11/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Professional Skills	20%	No	ongoing assessment, due week 13	Individual	No	Observed
Examination	40%	No	Exam Period	Individual	No	Observed

Professional Writing

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will prepare a written response to a contemporary problem in the energy and resources sector.

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- Construct and evaluate arguments that survey the effectiveness of law in energy and resources, having regard to climate change, sustainability and political influence.
- Produce professionally-reasoned recommendations for law reform and/or further research to address national and global issues in energy and resources law.
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Professional Skills

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **ongoing assessment, due week 13**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students will develop essential legal professional skills through structured classroom activities such as oral advocacy, critical reasoning, strategic problem-solving, collaborative work, team leadership, mootings, simulated client consultations, legal presentations or demonstrations, doctrinal analysis and problem solving, and/or collaborative legal research. These activities are designed to develop students' professional capabilities including capacity to communicate legal concepts clearly and engage professionally with diverse audiences in diverse contexts.

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Examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

An invigilated examination. The exam may cover any or all topics and materials covered in the unit.

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law, and their respective roles in establishing and maintaining governance in the energy and resources sector.

- Construct and evaluate arguments that survey the effectiveness of law in energy and resources, having regard to climate change, sustainability and political influence.
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¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

There are no requisite text books. The readings will be provided in the weekly modules.

This course will be delivered through a series of modules that will combine written information, readings, lectures and videos, and include guest lecturers. Material will be available through iLearn

Unit Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Energy and Resources Law

Week 2: Energy Security in a Conflict World

Week 3: International Instruments in energy and resources law

Week 4: Regulating Access to Energy resources - licencing

Week 5: Regulating Energy Activities - health, safety and environment

Week 6: Balancing Power - renewable energy and baseload power

Week 7: The role of gas in Australia's energy transition

Week 8: Nuclear Energy

Week 9: Energy and Innovation

Week 10: Critical minerals and energy

Week 11: Indigenious issues in energy and resources

Week 12: Decommissioning of Energy assets

Week 13: Current issues in Energy and Resources Law

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

slight alteration in topic offerings and order in line with recent developments

Unit information based on version 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)