

Speech by the Hon. Justice Brian J Preston SC

on the acceptance of the

**Award of Honorary Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and
New Zealand (EIANZ)**

11 December 2014

Museum of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Albert Einstein observed that 'only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile'. I have endeavoured in my working life to live a life of service and purpose to do what is worthwhile. The primary motivation for pursuing those activities has not been personal profit or pleasure, but because those activities achieve goals or ends that are intrinsically worthwhile – they are valuable for their own sake. These ends have revolved around the achievement of access to justice, including environmental justice.

The activities I have pursued to achieve justice have included the establishment of the Environmental Defender's Office, Australia's first environmental public interest legal centre; serving on professional and civil society organisations in Australia and internationally concerning the environment, environmental law and environmental justice; teaching at universities in Australia and overseas on environmental law; researching and writing on multifarious aspects of environmental law and environmental justice; participating as a trainer in capacity-building programs for the judiciary and legal and environmental professionals throughout the world; and my service as a judge.

The pursuit of these activities has given my life purpose but I hope has also assisted, to some degree, in achieving justice for those who suffer environmental injustice, including the environment itself.

I thank the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand for the honour you have extended me in awarding me the Institute's highest award of Honorary Fellow. I have not done what I have in my career for the purpose of achieving such an honour, but I nevertheless am pleased that my work has been recognised as worthy of such an award. I am grateful and humbled.

Thank you.