

The High Court of Australia

Resources & Classroom Ideas for the Tasmanian Dam Decision



Teacher Resources

Content information and resources to further your understanding of the Tasmanian Dam Decision

Case summary



By Environmental Law Australia

This web page provides a condensed summary of the Tasmanian Dam case, with links to further resources including a lecture by Dr Chris McGrath and key documents from the case.

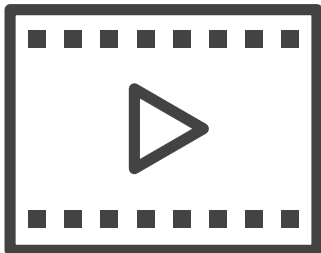
By the High Court of Australia

This is the judgment by the High Court of Australia and includes, for the first time, an opening statement summarising the role of the High Court in this controversial issue.

Tasmanian Dam judgment



World Heritage video



By the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

This explainer video unpacks the formation, role and guidelines of the World Heritage Convention.

By Water by Nature Tasmania: Franklin River Rafting

This web page offers a detailed timeline of the events leading to the Tasmanian Dam decision.

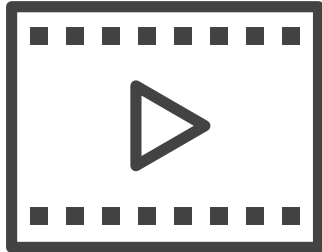
Timeline of events



Classroom Resources

Valuable resources to further your students' learning

Summary video



By Aussie Law

In explainer video presenter Renato Costa unpacks the key questions before the Court and the decisions made by the majority.

'Dig' podcast



By ABC's *Dig: Saving the Franklin* podcast

This summary interview with *Dig: Saving the Franklin* podcast provides a bite size overview of the six-part series, which covers the environmental campaign from Lake Pedder to the High Court.

Case summary



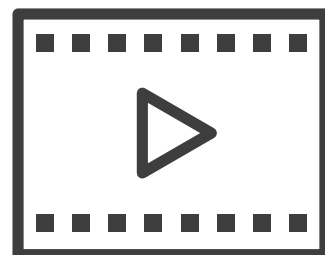
By Joshua Lawson from the Australian Constitution Centre

This web page provides a student focused summary of the case, outlining the issues considered by the High Court, the decision and background facts.

By ABC's *Nationwide*

This archival news report clip from 1986 covers the Tasmanian Wilderness Society operation to stop of the damming of the Franklin River through protests and political campaigns.

'Franklin River campaign'



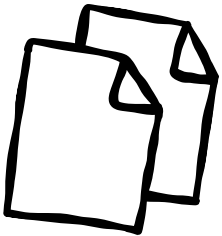
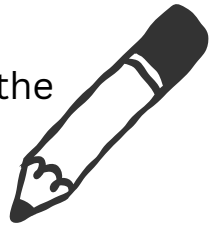
Classroom Activities

Ideas to engage your students with the Tasmanian Dam Decision and its impact on Australian society



Create a class mind map of wonderings around the High Court of Australia, the environmental movement, the Australian Constitution, the three levels of government and their responsibilities.

Design a diagram to identify Australia's court hierarchy and the powers of the High Court of Australia.



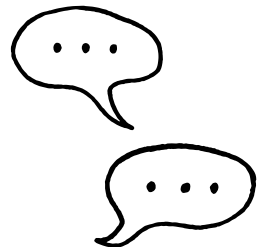
Develop a glossary of new terms and ideas, including environmentalism, common law, statutory law, jurisdiction, international treaties, and the Constitution.

Explore the stories of the players involved in the case - Tasmanian Wilderness Society, Tasmanian citizens, Tasmanian Parliament, as well as the federal liberal and labour parties.



Create a timeline of key events that led to the Tasmanian Dam decision.

Examine one of the many ABC articles or videos celebrating the anniversary of the Tasmanian Dam decision. What does your source say about the impact of this case on Australian society and the environmental movement? Compare the perspectives to a newspaper article from 1992 (Stuck where to start? Try [Trove](#)).



Investigate the opening statement of the High Court judgment and Chief Justice Gibbs's introduction - what do these reveal about the role of the High Court, and the responsibilities of federal and state governments.

