

Beyond Manapouri: Is New Zealand approaching another watershed moment in its environmental history?

Fifty years ago, the campaign to stop Lake Manapouri from being raised for a hydro scheme is widely credited with the awakening of environmental awareness in New Zealand. This led to the establishment of New Zealand's first environmental agencies and legislation including the Resource Management and Environment Acts. Yet despite these institutions, our environment has continued to decline: freshwater degradation, biodiversity loss and the growing threat from climate change are urgent challenges.

In this talk, and drawing on her book *Beyond Manapouri: 50 years of environmental politics in New Zealand* (2018), Catherine will reflect on whether we are experiencing a second watershed moment in our environmental history. Its catalyst this time not the iconic landscape of 50 years ago, but what many believe to be an existential crisis – at least in terms of life as we know it.

To address the issues that confront us today, Catherine argues that the incremental concessions to the environment that have characterised resource management policy to date will not be enough. Instead, their resolution will require both mind and behavioural shifts: leaving our obsession with private property rights and the binary production/conservation mentality behind, instead embracing an intergenerational view with the social contract at its heart.