

Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, Australian governments saw ESD enshrined in some one hundred and twenty-three pieces of state and federal legislation by the year 2000 (Robin, 2007, p. 176).

And yet, in 1994, a new coal-fired power station was opened in Singleton, New South Wales and a further four were built during the 1990s contributing some 30 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere (Hutchinson & Hirsch, 1996, p. 115). According to Libby Robin, by the first few years of the 21st century Australians had stopped talking about ESD (2007, p. 177) and only *sustainability* survived. ESD had been turned into 'meaningless rhetoric based on naïve understandings or, in some cases, on devious manipulations' (Mulligan & Hill, 2001, p. 11); as mining magnate Lang Hancock proclaimed, in 1979, *capitalism means life, environmentalism means death* (Huckle, 1986, p. 17, Lines, 1991, p. 270).

Arguably, we are now in a third wave of teaching for sustainable development. Education for Sustainable Development had become an important part of the United Kingdom National Curriculum (Lambert & Morgan, 2010, pp. 15–16). English geography teachers see the discipline as an important vehicle for teaching environmental issues. This third wave involves educating for sustainability (EfS), a discourse that started in 1997 and supported by the United Nations Decade for Sustainable Development, 2005–2014 (Delgado, 2007, p. 36). EfS is a more catholic approach seeking to incorporate key themes of sustainability, including poverty alleviation, human rights, equity, health and environmental protection, into education systems. The texts *Teaching Geography for a better world* (Fien & Gerber, 1988) and *New wave Geography* (Stowell & Bentley, 1988) incorporated these endeavours in the 1980s not only in terms of subject content but also their embrace of active and reflective learning (Tilbury, Coleman, and Garlick, 2005, p. 38).

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