

A new iteration of 10 commitments – recommendations for policy change and action on environmental management

David B. Lindenmayer, Stephen Dovers and Steve Morton

Introduction

Environmental problems and issues continue to be a major concern to many Australians and remain firmly on the nation's political agenda at all levels of government. They are also of increasing importance for many parts of the business sector. This new edition of our book, as with the previous one, has been written for a broad readership interested in what must be done to tackle Australia's environmental problems – in terms of policies, on-ground actions and research. The chapter authors in both editions were asked to write in a style that was simple and direct as possible, recognising that our audience is a broad one and there is not room to explain all the complexities inherent in solving environmental problems.

When we produced the first edition of this book in 2008, our hope was to produce a 'must read' book for politicians, policy makers, practitioners and others with interests in Australia's environment. Many readers indicated to us that this indeed proved to be correct – in fact, for some people, the book was a valuable segue into a given topic. Policy makers at all levels of government indicated to us that they greatly appreciated having access to the book. Moreover, it turned out that many undergraduates at universities around Australia also used the book as part of their class curriculum.

As in the first edition, this new and updated volume comprises a series of short and pithy essays about the thinking of the nation's leading environmental thinkers. The theme of each chapter is:

'What are the 10 key issues that must be addressed urgently to improve Australia's environment?'

All the authors are leaders in the field. Each was encouraged to espouse views in their important area of expertise, but with a particular focus on solutions to environmental sustainability issues. Some have elected to discuss general perspectives on what to do, whereas others are more specific in their prescriptions. We changed the authors of some of the chapters from the first edition. In addition, many chapter authors were asked to take on a younger co-contributor. Both of these actions were done in the spirit of renewal to keep the ideas fresh and as up-to-date as possible.