

## CRAWFORD SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT

# Climate change and natural resources management: What are the roles for science?



Steve Morton

Tuesday 12 May 2009  
12.30pm - 1.30pm

Seminar Room 4, First Floor, Crawford Building  
Light lunch will be provided

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Science can and should play several distinctive roles in instigating and in supporting debate in the public and the policy arenas. The Australian science system is blessed with a range of agencies well positioned to play these different roles, although perhaps not all participants fully understand the shifting balance of rights and responsibilities implicit across that spectrum. Through the prism of my personal experience in CSIRO, mostly in relation to scientific inquiry around climate and natural resource management, I explore the dilemmas, difficulties and delights that these roles can thrust into the paths of members of the scientific community.

**Steve Morton** received his PhD in animal ecology from the University of Melbourne. After postdoctoral studies at the University of California, Irvine and the University of Sydney, he worked with the Office of the Supervising Scientist at Jabiru, Northern Territory, before joining CSIRO in Alice Springs in 1984. Steve transferred to Canberra in 1994, became Chief of CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems in 2000, and joined the CSIRO Executive Team to oversee research in environment and energy three years later. During 2007 Steve took a year of leave in Alice Springs, based at the CSIRO laboratory; he spent the time reading and writing about desert ecology. He returned in 2008 to CSIRO's Executive Team as Group Executive, Manufacturing, Materials and Minerals. His interest continues to be the challenge of finding pathways towards sustainability.

# CRAWFORD SEMINAR