

# W.M.(Mark) Lonsdale: *Curriculum Vitae* since 2007

## Personal Information

- Nationality: Australian
- Date of Birth: 19 April 1957
- Employment status: retired
- Contact address: [mark.lonsdale57@gmail.com](mailto:mark.lonsdale57@gmail.com)
- Interests: invasive alien species, science-policy interface; science governance
- [Publications on Google Scholar](#)

## Professional experience

### 2018-present

Honorary Professor at the Fenner School for Environment and Society, Australian National University.

### 2014 – 2018

Inaugural co-chair of Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of [IPBES](#) (2013 - 15); Panel member (2015 - 18). Coordinated and wrote the successful proposal for an IPBES global assessment on invasive alien species, to be conducted 2019 – 2021.

Professorial Fellow at Charles Darwin University; Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at Monash University.

Chaired the Report of the Independent Technical Reference Group for the Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Management Plan.

### 2013 - 2014 CSIRO Canberra

#### **Biodiversity Portfolio Director**

- Led CSIRO's \$28M p.a. biodiversity research portfolio.
- Built collaborations across CSIRO and with external agencies, industries and universities.
- Co-edited the [CSIRO Biodiversity Book](#) and co-authored the chapter on urban biodiversity.

### 2010 - 2013 CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences Canberra

#### **Chief of Division**

- Merged CSIRO's Sustainable Ecosystems and Entomology Divisions to form a new integrated division of sustainability research.
- Managed the Division's \$60M budget, 500 staff, and 16 sites across Australia and the globe.

### 2007 - 2010 CSIRO Entomology Canberra

#### **Chief of Division**

- Managed the Division's \$35M budget, 300 staff, and seven laboratories across Australia and the globe.
- In addition, in 07-08, was acting Chief of Division of CSIRO Forest Biosciences, supervised the division's demerger from Ensis forest science joint venture with NZ and its reintegration into CSIRO.

## Ancillary roles

- 2013 - 2017: Member of the Editorial Board of *The Conversation*; Chair, 2013 – 2014).
- 2010 - 2014: Member of CSIRO Publishing Advisory Committee and Co-Chair of CSIRO journals' Board of Standards.
- 2010: Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the Ecological Society of Australia 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, Canberra.
- 2006 – 2017: member, Australian Dept of Agriculture's Eminent Scientists' Group on biosecurity (reappointed 2010 and 2013).
- 2005 – 2011: member, Board of the CRC for Invasive Animals

## Statement of motivation

I have highlighted (in bold text) in the statement below those areas where I think I will be able to contribute to the six key directions of the *Foundations for The Future*.

### **Delivering maximum impact for Australia: enhancing relationships between scientists and end users.**

After joining CSIRO in 1984, I was proud to be part of an applied science organisation, putting science at the service of the community. In my early days, this was about testing, releasing and monitoring biocontrol agents against invasive weeds affecting conservation and grazing systems in the Top End. By the time I retired, my canvas was much broader, and global in extent, with my involvement in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). IPBES, under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Program, carries out syntheses— known as *assessments* - of global research in support of the science-policy interface. I spent five years – two successive terms, the first as inaugural Co-Chair – on the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, which selects the experts who will conduct the assessments and oversees the review process that aims to make the assessments the best they can be, with the end-point of a *summary for policy makers* which distils the findings and their implications in terms of policy options. During my involvement, we drew up the plan and selected the assessments that would occupy the platform for its first five years – on pollination, values and valuation, land degradation, and global and regional biodiversity. This experience impressed upon me the value for research of forming diverse multidisciplinary teams – something I had been asked to do by CSIRO when I was asked to merge two divisions - Sustainable Ecosystems and Entomology – to form, and lead, a single large division of sustainability research – CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences.

Although a firm believer in multidisciplinary research, I would go further, and advocate drawing on the insights of policy makers, land managers and Indigenous knowledge holders in drawing up truly robust management guidance for ecosystems.

At the same time, I remain a scientist, and I do not discount the role of science in enlarging and even transforming our options (e.g. biocontrol, information technology, meta-analysis). I know the value of research innovation, and I believe we should be doing more to capitalize on the advances made in large science infrastructure projects like the Atlas of Living Australia and TERN - **making the most of data resources**. I believe this will streamline **ecosystem surveillance** and will be the key to **gaining support for long-term research**.

**Inspiring a generation: empowering the public with knowledge and opportunities.** I have always worked hard to communicate research findings to end-users and a broader public – most recently I championed and co-edited the publication of CSIRO's Biodiversity Book, and had to rapidly come up to speed on urban biodiversity to write that chapter of the book in order to round out the text – the “extinction of experience” being undergone by our increasingly urbanized population being a major concern of biodiversity communicators.

**Facilitating coordination, collaboration and leadership.** As Chief of Division and a member of various boards (Invasive Animals CRC, The Conversation Editorial Board, CSIRO Publishing, Dept of Agriculture Eminent Scientists Group) I became experienced in questions of good governance, and would be able to bring that experience to the Council

As a retiree from the workforce and having now completed my second and final term for IPBES, I find I am missing the energy, vitality, learning opportunities and stimulation of working in a team with diverse disciplines and backgrounds, and I am hoping to regain some of that, if successful in my nomination for the Council!

Mark Lonsdale

28<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## Statement of commitment by candidate

### Ecosystem Science Council's vision and guiding principles:

**Vision:** *By 2035, the status of Australian ecosystems and how they change will be widely reported and understood, and the prosperity and wellbeing they provide will be secure. To enable this, Australia's national ecosystem science capability will be coordinated, collaborative, and connected. Knowledge from ecosystem science will be available and essential to government, industry, the general public, and for research and educational institutions.*

- Working to our shared vision: All efforts are in support of the shared vision articulated in the Foundations for the future. This shared purpose remains the primary focus and driver of individual and collective efforts.
- Strength in diversity: A diversity of disciplines and approaches are required to enhance our understanding of ecosystems, and the contributions of all are appreciated and valued.
- Positive and innovative: A proactive approach is vital, to look for new opportunities to advance towards our shared vision and to seek solutions to challenges that arise.
- Effective communication: All activities are grounded in openness and transparency, with respectful expression of ideas and opinions, and active listening to the perspectives of others.
- Reliable and trustworthy: Everyone takes individual responsibility for their roles, ownership of problems, and pride in the quality of activities and work carried out in support of the Foundations for the future.
- Collaborative and supportive: In working to a shared vision with a diverse community, it is important to actively seek opportunities to share ideas, connect, and collaborate across discipline and institutional boundaries.
- Accountability: Each individual holds themselves and others accountable to these principles.

### Ecosystem Science Council's expectations of members

Members of the Council are expected to actively engage in the activities of the Council, including but not limited to:

- attending meetings of the Council
- engagement with stakeholder groups and funding organisations
- active input to development and implementation of strategic plans
- coordination of and participation in working groups to achieve desired outcomes • preparation of reports and grants
- promoting the Plan
- encouraging involvement across the ecosystem science and management communities

I, William Mark Lonsdale, support the Ecosystem Science Council Vision and Principles as stated above, and undertake to meet the Council's expectations of its members.

Signed:



28<sup>th</sup> October 2018