

Steve Morton

Curriculum Vitae

Education

- 1977 Ph.D. in the Department of Zoology, University of Melbourne
- 2004 Graduate Diploma, Australian Institute of Company Directors

Employment history

- 1977-1978 Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine, U.S.A.
- 1978-1980 Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney
- 1980-1984 Research Scientist, Office of the Supervising Scientist, Jabiru
- 1984-1994 Senior Research Scientist, Principal Research Scientist and Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology, Alice Springs
- 1994-2000 Research Program Leader, CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology, Canberra
- 2000-2003 Chief of Division, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Canberra
- 2003-2005 Group Executive, CSIRO Environment and Natural Resources, Canberra
- 2005-2007 Group Executive, CSIRO Sustainable Energy and Environment, Canberra
- 2008-2010 Group Executive, CSIRO Manufacturing, Materials and Minerals, Melbourne
- 2011- Independent scholar; and Honorary Fellow, CSIRO Alice Springs

Advisory work (selected)

- 2011- Chair, Advisory Board, Environment Institute, University of Adelaide
- 2011- Chair, Scientific Advisory Panel to the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Canberra
- 2013- Deputy Chair, Board, Territory Natural Resource Management, Darwin
- 2014- Chair, Board, Arid Recovery, Roxby Downs
- 2014- Council Member, Australian Institute of Marine Science, Townsville
- 2015- Chair, Steering Committee, Threatened Species Recovery Hub, National Environmental Science Programme, University of Queensland
- 2015- Member, National Committee for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, Australian Academy of Science, Canberra
- 2016- Member, Australian Heritage Council, Department of the Environment, Canberra
- 2016- Board Member, Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute, Perth
- 2016- Chair, Science Advisory Committee, Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network, University of Queensland

Publications

From 1973 to 2016, 150+ papers, book chapters, refereed reports and articles.

Interests

I became an Honorary Fellow with CSIRO at the Alice Springs laboratory following retirement from full-time employment in 2011. My interests are in the ecology of the Australian deserts, the place of science in Indigenous advancement, and the challenge of utilising R&D to assist society with the task of finding pathways towards sustainability.

My principal activities are twofold: involvement as a guide in a variety of advisory and governance roles across Australian environmental science and management; and working on a book about the Australian deserts.

Steve Morton

Motivations and Capacity

Motivations

My motivations for re-nominating to the Ecosystem Science Council for a second term are threefold.

- A belief that ecology in Australia can become more beneficial to its surrounding society if it redresses its tendency towards dispersion and disaggregation of effort.
- A belief that ecology deserves greater notice in decision-making for sustainability.
- Excitement at the potential of *Foundations for the future: a long-term plan for Australian ecosystem science* to help us rise to these challenges.

I have been involved in the work of the Council for the past two years, as Deputy Chair and as leader of one of our Working Groups (maximising impact). It would be a delight to continue supporting the initiative as we move into the next phase.

My career has been entirely dedicated in one way or another to developing science and applying it for enhanced environmental management in Australia. Throughout that time I occasionally felt satisfied that science was being well co-ordinated and effective through uptake into action. More frequent, perhaps, was the impression that ecology was scattered and patchy in conduct, inclined to negativity, and lacking respect among those in decision-making positions. *Foundations for the future* sets out an agenda under which the status of Australian ecosystems and their processes of change will be understood and reported, our ecosystem science capability will be coordinated in collaborative fashion, ecosystem science will be funded appropriately, and knowledge from ecosystem science will be perceived as essential to government, industry and the public. I want to be involved in such an important effort because it promises to overcome some of the long-standing problems in the effective use of Australian ecology.

It will be evident that my motivations lie towards that end of the spectrum involving uptake of ecosystem science into environmental management. This in no way implies any lack of interest in or respect for that component more focused on pure science, expertise which is well-represented among other members of Council.

Finally, my heart lies in the north. I live in Alice Springs and have strong connections across inland and tropical Australia. Development of an effective Plan requires particular consideration of northern Australia, and such experience might continue to be valuable as a component of the make-up of the Council.

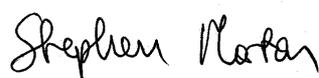
Capacity

I am independent following retirement. My affiliation is with CSIRO as an Honorary Fellow. I hold several positions on advisory boards and committees, all involving environmental science and management (as shown in the CV). I have time to put into the Ecosystem Science Council.

Steve Morton Statement

I understand the Council's four main responsibilities. Furthermore, after a long career of working towards big aims in concert with many people and organisations, I am strongly in support of the set of guiding principles identified in *Foundations for the future*: working to a shared vision; honouring diversity; positivity; effective communication; trustworthiness; collaborative orientation; and accountability to our community.

In short, I subscribe to these principles and ideals outlined for the Council and I am willing to commit the required time and energy to undertake the Council's work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Morton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

S.R. Morton
10 October 2016