

## **Climate Change and the Coast Conference Speaker Biographies**

### **Dr John Church**

John is an oceanographer with CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research and the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre. He has published across a broad range of topics in oceanography and his area of particular expertise is the role of the ocean in climate, particularly anthropogenic climate change. He is co-editor of a book "Ocean Circulation and Climate" published by Academic Press. He was Co-Chair of the International Scientific Steering Group for the World Ocean Circulation Experiment from 1994 to 1998 and is now Chair of the Joint Scientific Committee of the World Climate Research Program.

He has been a Principal Investigator on NASA/CNES Topex/Poseidon and Jason Science Working Teams since 1987. He was co-convening lead author for the Chapter on Sea Level in the IPCC Third Assessment Report. He Co Chaired the recent WCRP Understanding Sea-level Rise and Variability Conference. He presented the 2006 Roger Revelle Lecture at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and was awarded the 2006 Roger Revelle Medal by IOC and was the recipient of a CSIRO Medal for Research Achievement in 2006.

### **Darren Cooper**

Darren Cooper is a Development Director of Mirvac, a national public-listed property development and investment company.

Darren is also the President of the WA Division of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA), and is a member on the WA State Government's Coastal Planning and Coordination Council.

Darren had a degree in Valuation and Land Economics from Curtin University and a Masters in Applied Finance from Macquarie University. He lectured in both the Property and Town Planning programs at Curtin University and has presented numerous papers in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to the Australian Property Institute, the Urban Development Institute of Australia and the Planning Institute of Australia. He also recently presented a keynote address at the International Association for Public Participation's Annual Congress in Montreal, Canada.

Darren's main interest is the community and stakeholder engagement aspects of large scale, sensitive development projects – and particularly the intersection of the financial, social and environmental considerations in the initial approval phases of such projects.

In his spare time, Darren holds a private pilot's licence and enjoys flying aerobatics, which he describes as less stressful than the community and stakeholder engagement aspects of large-scale, complex development projects.

## **Mayor Paddi Creevey**

Paddi Creevey was elected as Mayor of Mandurah in 2005, building on her three consecutive terms as a Coastal Ward Councillor, including two years as Deputy Mayor. She has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Social Work, and before becoming a full-time Mayor, worked at the Royal Perth Hospital and with Community Health in Mandurah for 20 years.

Passionate about her local community, Paddi has been instrumental in the development of a wide range of community organisations and services, including the Pat Thomas Memorial Service, Mandurah Home and Community Care, and Peel Community Legal Services. She is Chair of the Governing Council of Challenger TAFE, a State Councillor of the WA Local Government Association, and a Deputy Member of the Local Government Advisory Board and the Waste Management Board.

Paddi's fervour for the environment surfaced publicly in the community campaign to preserve the Creevy Wetlands. She believes that engaging with the local community and linking with other councils and government agencies will achieve meaningful actions on climate change. To that end, Paddi was instrumental in having a policy on climate change adopted by the Mandurah City Council in January this year.

Over the past few months, she has been a panel member at the 2007 Fenner Conference on the Environment, a guest panellist and contributor for the Australasian Mayors Council on Climate Protection session at the 2007 ICLEI "Accelerating Now" conference. She is also a focus group speaker at the 2007 Local Government Convention on the subject of "Climate Change at a Local Level".

## **Dr Ian Eliot**

Ian is Senior Lecturer in the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences at the University of Western Australia and project leader for a Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) project dealing with climate change and coastal engineering in Western Australia. As a coastal geomorphologist Dr Eliot has an extensive knowledge of coastal processes, a sound scientific understanding of environmental change on the coast and vast experience in coastal planning, management, rehabilitation, beach landscaping and redevelopment. A key element of his work is the assessment of the potential impacts of sea-level rise and climate change on the Western Australian coastline.

## **Dr Peter Hick**

Peter Hick is a semi-retired CSIRO Environmental Geoscientist who specialised in remote sensing and biophysical research for terrestrial and aquatic environments with detailed knowledge of the environmental effects of mining and agriculture. Currently is Director of a bio-medical research company and member of the Peel Harvey Catchment Council. He has 150 publications including books and international journals. His PhD was awarded in the field of Marine Physics. His recent research has concentrated on the localised effects of Climate Change in the Peel Region.

## **Glen McLeod**

Glen is a Partner in the Perth office of Minter Ellison Lawyers. Glen has extensive international and local experience in environmental, planning and government law, with a particular focus on the establishment of new major projects.

Admitted to practice in Western Australia, England and Wales, Glen practised for a number of years in a London based international law firm, where he was the partner in charge of a leading specialist environmental law team.

Since returning to Australia, Glen has advised extensively on environmental, planning and complicated major infrastructure matters, and is a leading lawyer in these fields. He was recently named amongst the world's leading environment lawyers by Who's Who Legal 2006.

Glen has lectured extensively in the UK, the US, Asia and Australia. This has included lectures in environmental law at Murdoch University, Imperial College, London, University of Bath and University of Birmingham. Audiences have come from professional bodies, industry, academia and commerce.

He also has experience in drafting town planning schemes, development agreements and local laws and experience in advising local governments on their powers under the Local Government Act.

Glen is General Editor of Planning Law in Australia (Law Book Co.), the leading Australian Planning law/encyclopaedia, State Editor of the Local Government Law Journal and the Local Government Review Law Guide. He is also a member of the National Environmental Law Association, the Legal Issues Group of the International Solid Waste Association, the Waste Management Association of Australia, the Royal Society of Arts, the Australian Business in Europe, the Law Society of Western Australia and the Law Society of England and Wales.

Glen was named as an Adjunct Professor at Murdoch University Law School in July 2006. In recognition of Glen's outstanding contribution to the law school through specific contributions to legal research, guest lectures and work on a university campaign to secure funding from the Federal Government to establish an international treaty on waste management.

## **Stefanie Pidcock**

Stefanie Pidcock is the Director of the Climate Change Adaptation Section within the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO), Department of the Environment and Water Resources. She started her career in local government, working for the Australian Local Government Association, before joining the Australian Government in 1996. Since then, Stefanie has worked in a number of areas within all spheres of government and the private sector, including science research, consulting and policy. Stefanie recently joined the AGO to drive a partnerships agenda for climate change adaptation.

## **Hon Dr Sally Talbot**

Member for South West Region  
Australian Labor Party

### **Parliamentary Service**

Elected to the Thirty-seventh Parliament for South West Region on 26 February 2005 (for term commencing 22 May 2005).

### **Parliamentary Appointments**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel: 11 April 2007 - present.

### **Parliamentary Party Appointments**

Secretary to Caucus: 21 June 2005 - present.

### **Standing Committees**

*Note: At the commencement of each Parliament, Members are required to be (re)appointed*

Member, Standing Committee on Legislation: 26 May 2005 - present.

### **Domestic Committees**

*Note: Fulfills an advisory role concerning services provided to Members*

Member, Parliamentary Services Committee: 17 August 2005 - present.

### **Select Committees**

Member, Select Committee into Public Obstetric Services: 24 May 2006 - present.

### **Electorate – Short Description**

South West Region includes the Legislative Assembly electorates of Albany, Bunbury, Capel, Collie-Wellington, Dawesville, Leschenault, Mandurah, Murray, Stirling, Vasse and Warren-Blackwood. Enrolment (30 June 2005) 164,159; area 37,493 sq km.

## **Dr Luke Twomey**

Dr Twomey's research background has focussed on phytoplankton ecology and water quality of estuarine ecosystems. He completed a PhD at Curtin University on the Phytoplankton Ecology of Wilson Inlet, Denmark WA, which specifically addressed the role of different types of nitrogen in fuelling phytoplankton blooms within the estuary. Dr Twomey's area of speciality led him to accept a post-doctoral appointment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, working in the laboratories of Dr Hans Paerl. During this time he investigated phytoplankton – nitrogen dynamics in the Neuse River Estuary and Pamlico Sound, the largest estuarine complex in the USA. On completing his two year appointment he returned to Perth and accepted the position of Lecturer at Murdoch University, School of Biological Sciences where he taught classes in Algal Diversity and Marine and Estuarine Biology while simultaneously conducting a research project on phytoplankton and nutrient dynamics in the Swan River. During this period he also worked as a Research Fellow with Dr Anya Waite at the School of Environmental Systems Engineering, University of WA, on a project assessing the relationship between nutrient dynamics and phytoplankton off the south coast of WA.

In April this year Dr Twomey joined the Swan River Trust as their first Principal Scientist. The primary focus of his new role is to develop a scientific research and innovation program for the Swan Canning Estuary. His first major task is to oversee the development of a climate change paper to help the Trust understand the potential impacts and adaptation strategies needed in the future management of the system.

## **Steve Waller**

Steve is currently Director of the Office of Climate Change in the Strategic Policy Division of the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation. Steve joined the Department at the beginning of 2007, coming from a 25 year career in environmental management within the resources extraction sector.

Steve has worked as a full-time climate change and greenhouse professional since 1997, most recently as Greenhouse Opportunity Manager with Woodside Energy Limited in Perth, WA.

Steve has contributed to many national and international forums across a whole range of climate change-related issues, including renewable and bio- energy, offsets and emissions trading, greenhouse emission monitoring and verification, the management and economics of greenhouse gas abatement.

He has participated in the Partnerships Committee of the Commonwealth Government's Greenhouse Challenge Program, the International Petroleum Industries Environment and Conservation Committee and the International Emissions trading Association as well as a plethora of industry representative bodies.

Steve holds degrees in Biological and Chemical Sciences and a MBA from the Australian Graduate School of Management.