

# Preface

The research project described in this book had at its core the aim of establishing links between past environmental management and the state of the environment. Aware of the size of this challenge, we set out in numbers with intent to practise science that was interdisciplinary and participatory. That is, we intended to bring together scientific experts in many fields to work alongside environmental managers with practical experience to help shape the questions, participate as far as possible in the research, enhance knowledge exchange and apply the findings.

Support for such a large collaborative venture was made possible by the establishment of the Australian Government's Commonwealth Environmental Research Facilities (CERF) program in 2005, administered by the then Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The CERF program arose partly in response to the growing commercialisation of the Cooperative Research Centres program, which had been the major vehicle for public good collaborative research. CERF provided a vehicle for public good research dedicated to the environment, and Landscape Logic was one of eight research hubs funded in its first round.

Through its four-year life, this group of researchers and environmental managers confronted the challenge of establishing causality and along the way learned about accommodating uncertainty and applying multiple lines of evidence to strengthen inferred relationships. But perhaps most of all we learned about people and how they work together. About understanding and valuing different people's perspectives of landscapes and capturing their knowledge of places, processes and people. And about how to represent this collective understanding as a basis for management and a starting point for further learning.

In particular, we acknowledge our partners from regional natural resource management organisations and state environment agencies who brought their knowledge and experience to the project. They include John Riddiford, Bill O'Kane, Megan McFarlane, Richard Ingram, Catherine Murdoch, Chris Norman, Rod McLennan, Mark Cotter, Pat Feehan, Kathleen Broderick, Vanessa Keogh, Kaylene Allan, Peter Ockendon, Tim Barlow, Wayne Tenant, Geoff Taylor, David McCormack, Aniela Grun, Sue Botting, James Shaddick, Geoff Robinson, Adam Hood, Andrew Baldwin, Scott Schilg, Ian Higgins, Peter McRostie, Rohan Hogan, Jenny Alexander, Catriona Grantham, Vanessa Elwell-Gavins, Alistair Kay, Peter Zund, Jim Blackney, Jane Roots, Carla Miles, Adrian Martin, Stuart Brownlea, Polly Buchhorn, Mel Kelly, Peter Voller, Rhys Stickler, Louise Gilfedder, Penny Wells, Allan Harradine, Martin Read and Kate Wilson.

The chair of our advisory board, John Williams, offered wise counsel and guidance over the course of the project as did the rotating membership of the board: Mike Lee, John Whittington, Hans Drielsma, Charlie Zammit, Sean Sullivan, Gavin Hanlon, Damien Wells, Kim Lowe, Jacky Tierney, Dave Johnson, Geoff Richardson, Ian Gaze, Kathleen Broderick, Margaret Johnson and Colin Steele.

Graham Harris and David Rissik chaired midterm reviews of our research projects, and we are grateful for their frank advice and that of panel members Kim Lowell, Alexander Held, John Cary, Ian Lunt, Phil Gibbons, Tony McAlister, Imogen Fullagar, Richard Stirzaker, Damien Wells, Geoff Robinson, Rod McLennan and Steve Harris.