

# **HARLEY J L WRIGHT**

cv, May 2010

## **Overview**

Age 65. Harley has a PhD in Physical Chemistry, University of Sydney, and a postgraduate Diploma of Environmental Studies from Macquarie. He worked in industry on mineral processing developments, especially with iron ore (~7 years). He has had over 18 years in environmental management, including Macquarie University – economic models of energy, resources and pollution - and the state EPA managing hazardous chemicals and contaminated sites. As Environmental Manager with a major paper company for the last 18 years, Harley was active in most aspects of current environmental issues, including waste water, air emissions, forestry, NPI, and especially active in recent greenhouse policy developments.

## **Energy and Greenhouse Aspects**

In 1979 I investigated and reported on energy options for Australia in the Myers' Committee of Inquiry into Technological Change. The emphasis then was to see how Australia could get liquid fuels for transport, following the two oil shocks of the 70s. My work for the Myers Report gave me a thorough and synoptic view of Australia's use, supplies and possible energy alternatives. Greenhouse became an active issue later.

In 1982 I worked on energy, water, and pollution using economic models of the Hunter Valley and Australia at Macquarie University (Centre for Environmental and Urban Studies). I also, completed a post graduate Diploma of Environmental Studies at Macquarie.

From 1994 I was at the NSW State Pollution Control Commission (now the EPA within DEC) for >7 years - my main position being Manager Chemicals and Wastes. I implemented the first controls on contaminated sites in Australia and was responsible for, environmentally hazardous chemicals and dealing with chemical incidents. I was also Director of the Centre for Environmental Toxicology and gave talks on the Precautionary Principle based on toxicological risk assessment. .

1991 to 2008 I was Environmental Manager at Kimberly-Clark Australia.

## **Environmental Philosophy**

My areas of special interest and broad expertise include greenhouse policy and economic measures, water quality policy, tradeable emission permits, solid waste management and recycling and environmental economics. I am keen that environmental controls address genuine environmental problems directly at source (a key principle promoted by Brundtland) and are not out to ban this or that unnecessarily because of a whim or false perception.

I feel that more effort is needed to use economic measures to internalise environmental externalities and with maximum degrees of freedom, let people's choice choose the most efficient outcome. Managing greenhouse issues is the big and longterm challenge for the next century. I consider it essential that there is a greater acceptance and use of economic measures to facilitate least cost solutions to this diabolical problem.

**Current affiliations:**

Member Environment Institute of Australia & NZ  
Member Australian Water Association  
Member Waste Management Association of Australia

**Personal**

My real love is the bush and the coast. I am often bush walking, camping, snorkelling, kayaking, cross country skiing - or even tending my native garden and orchids. I was Chairman of the Middle Harbour Catchment Management Committee (1992 – 2000) and am involved in natural resource management issues, with special expertise in the effects of urban runoff on natural bushland.

**Harley JL Wright** BSc, MSc, PhD, PostGradDipEnvStudies  
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Harley discusses climate change with Maxine McKew, ALP candidate for Bennelong NSW Government House, 5 Mar 2007