

HARLEY J L WRIGHT

Environmental scientist and manager

cv, Oct 2012

Overview

Age 68. I initially studied as a chemist and have a PhD in Physical Chemistry, [Uni Syd], and later a postgraduate Diploma of Environmental Studies [Macquarie].

Relevant positions from past to present:- worked in CSR on mineral processing developments, especially iron ore (~7 years); over 25 years in environmental management, including Macquarie University – economic models of energy, resources and pollution - and the state EPA managing hazardous chemicals and contaminated sites. Was Environmental Manager with paper company Kimberly-Clark Australia for over 18 years, being active in diverse aspects of environmental issues and management, including waste water, air emissions, solid wastes, forestry, National Pollutant Inventory, and especially active in greenhouse policy developments and reporting.

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 energy supplies and use, and possible alternatives. Greenhouse became an active issue soon after.

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 1984 to 1991 I was at the NSW State Pollution Control Commission (now the EPA) - 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 and toxicological risk assessment. .

From 1991 to 2008 I was Environmental Manager at Kimberly-Clark Australia - experience noted in first paragraph.

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 favour the use of economic measures to internalise environmental externalities then allow people's choice, with maximum degrees of freedom, to allow the most efficient and democratic outcome.

Managing greenhouse emissions 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. I favour the rationing of carbon emissions. Then the allocation of emissions entitlements moving over time from historic per capita levels (as per Kyoto) to equal per capita levels (contraction and convergence). I see no other way that is as broadly acceptable or feasible. I remain active in policy development with colleagues and organisations, proposing stronger commitments to fair reductions in global carbon emissions.

Current affiliations:

Member	Environment Institute of Australia & NZ
Member	Australian Water Association
Member	Waste Management Association of Australia
Member	Australian Institute for International Affairs, NSW Branch

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. Have recently trained as an arborist to aid managing my trees. 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 adverse effects of urban runoff on natural bushland.

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