

## Water innovation

Launched late last year, *Water Innovation* provides an excellent overview of how 2004's National Water Initiative (NWI) and the related water reform agenda are to be delivered. These initiatives aim to improve the security of water access entitlements for irrigators, to encourage water conservation in the cities, and facilitate increased environmental flows to protect rivers and wetland resources.

In the early pages, the different levels of government – commonwealth, state and local – define water policy deemed appropriate to their own circumstances and how they seek to implement it. The challenge in the reform process lies in their differences of policy interpretation as well as the failure at state level to recognise the overriding authority of the commonwealth, which writes policy nationally. The priorities of smooth implementation of the initiatives and the avoidance of duplication become tangled in the web of cross-purposes and counter-posing goals.

Yet, underpinning these grander moves are the efforts of individuals and organisations in research, community groups, catchment trusts and partnerships, like that

between CSIRO and the corporate sector. By combining a summary of who's doing what, why and how, this book makes a very useful contribution to a better understanding of Australia's water resources and their management. Key figures, and the contributions being made from relevant quarters are outlined. The academic and corporate sectors, utility organisations, and the water industry are all major players.

*Water Innovation* is a timely and readable compilation of Australia's current initiatives to build an internationally competitive water industry.

Diane Wiesner, Senior scientist, Australian Water Association.

### *Water Innovation*

Editor: Kathleen H. Bowmer

CL Creations Pty Ltd, 2004, Hardback  
ISBN: 0958067015 RRP: \$80.00

Available from the Australian Water Association. Contact: [bookshop@awa.asn.au](mailto:bookshop@awa.asn.au)



## Global trends in focus

*The Little Green Handbook* provides a concise summary of what the author, Dr Ron Nielsen, classes as the major, critical global trends and events, and a broad view of their wider implications.

As an international physicist now based in Australia, Nielsen's view and interpretation through his physics experience offer unusual perspective. He outlines not only the deterioration of our physical environment, but also economic, social and political trends, including the increasing tensions and conflicts between nations.

Nielsen's salient message is that these trends clearly demonstrate that there is a need, for the first time in global history, to appreciate the approaching and crossing of global limits. He articulates that in general, while our environmental awareness is increasing, alarming events are taking place

around us, but that in general we are not well enough aware of them. It's these events and trends that he sets out.

Some events happen too slowly to make a lasting impression, some occur at different times in different places, and dramatic events are regarded as isolated incidents. In our rapidly changing, competitive and demanding world, Nielsen suggests, we simply don't have the time or the inclination to collect enough information, analyse it, work out the right interpretation, and draw correct conclusions.

*The Little Green Handbook* concludes positively with a review of key progress, and Nielsen argues that, with proper global management, we can have both global economic growth, and a sustainable future. Background readers will appreciate the book's contribution to a broad outline.

### *The Little Green Handbook*

A Guide to Critical Global Trends  
Dr Ron Nielsen

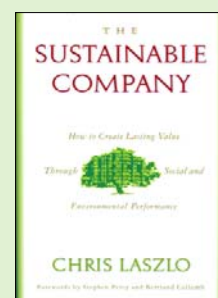
Scribe, 2005, Paperback  
ISBN: 1920769307 RRP: \$35.00  
Available from CSIRO PUBLISHING  
[www.publish.csiro.au/pid/4864](http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/4864)  
(Direct sales only)



## Higher performing companies

Corporate governance and sustainability are moving from being important peripheral problems to core business concerns as winning companies discover new sources of value in these principles. Yet there are obstacles to these issues becoming part of the business mainstream. Concepts like sustainable development can be confusing for operating managers, and even those who support the underlying issues find it difficult to frame them in ways that are useful for making business decisions. Managers have a responsibility to deliver financial returns to shareholders, but how do they balance this obligation with their responsibilities to society and the environment?

*The Sustainable Company* articulates an innovative approach to meeting this challenge in a language familiar to business. The key, according to author Chris Laszlo, is to create value for investors as well as society and the environment in an integrated bottom line. The book provides detailed case studies of leading companies illustrating this new paradigm in practice. The 'how-to' section with a tool-kit for managers elevates *The Sustainable Company* above other recent sustainable business books, by detailing Eight Disciplines necessary to create value for shareholders and stakeholders. Engaging and straightforward, Laszlo describes how the 21st century manager can compete and thrive in the evolving organisational framework.



### *The Sustainable Company*

How to Create Lasting Value through Social and Environmental Performance  
Chris Laszlo

Island Press, 2003  
Hardback,  
ISBN: 1559638362 RRP: \$52.00  
Available from CSIRO PUBLISHING,  
[www.publish.csiro.au/pid/3911](http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/3911)