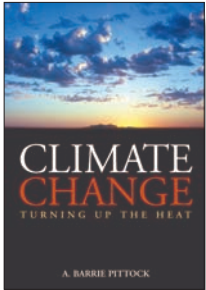


## A guide to the hot topic



Barrie Pittock, CSIRO Honorary Fellow and one of the world's leading climate researchers, is

another expert arguing that we need to argue less, and act urgently to avoid increasingly severe climate change. His recent book aims to help decision makers in that direction.

*Climate Change: Turning up the Heat*, looks at the controversy around global warming and other predicted changes, examining the scientific basis of the changes observed to date, how they relate to natural variations and why the evidence

points to larger changes later this century.

Pittock explains how current attitudes to risk and uncertainty influence decision making and, ultimately, how much we stand to lose from rapid climate change. The climate takes a long time to alter, so he details how what we do now will have impacts decades later, and that we must encourage market forces to think longer term.

*Climate Change: Turning up the Heat* outlines the current concerns of the major interna-

tional players and reviews the response to date, detailing national interests. It shows there is real hope of managing climate change and minimising the risk of disaster if we step up efforts to develop and apply the emerging, innovative technological and policy solutions.

***Climate Change: Turning Up the Heat***

A. Barrie Pittock

CSIRO Publishing  
2005, Paperback

ISBN: 0643069313. RRP: \$39.95.

Available from  
[www.publish.csiro.au](http://www.publish.csiro.au)

## Remedial vision

In *A Big Fix* a clear initiative, pre-eminent scientist and environmentalist, Professor Ian Lowe diagnoses a current environmental crisis in Australia, the causes behind it, and what we can do to remedy it. It also offers a comprehensive vision of a sustainable Australia and the steps we need to take to reach this goal.

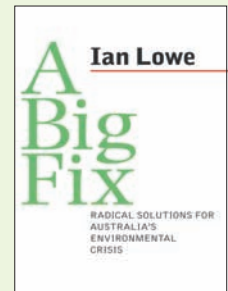
According to Lowe, natural systems can't satisfy the demands of our booming population, we are consuming our resources faster than they can be replenished, we live in bigger houses, drive inefficient cars and buy things we don't

need, we aim for economic growth rather than environmental sustainability, and we fail to adequately consider the consequences of our decisions for future generations.

He proposes that Australia should stabilise its population by setting migration targets that reflect this goal, stabilise overall consumption by setting clear limits through 'sustainability science', move towards a zero waste policy, stop the loss of natural areas to maintain biodiversity in Australia, restore degraded natural areas, move toward a low-carbon society with greater equity

between rich and poor countries in the 'global carbon budget', create greater equality within the community to promote stability and social cohesion, create better decision-making processes that take into account the complexity and interrelated nature of the problems we face, and develop more mature politics with re-conceptualised social and political institutions.

Professor Lowe then presents his vision for a healthier society – one that is humane, eco-centric, adopts long-term thinking, responsibly uses our natural resources and is informed about the fragility of our natural systems.



***A Big Fix: Radical Solutions for Australia's Environmental Crisis***

Ian Lowe

Black Inc. Books  
2005, Paperback  
ISBN: 1863951261  
RRP: \$16.95

Available from  
[www.blackincbooks.com](http://www.blackincbooks.com)

## Plants are in control

Do you like a radical view? Here's one: lateral thinking ecologist Tom White presents a challenging notion of how plant life keeps animal population explosions in check.

*'In Why Does the World Stay Green?* I explain that animals are not controlled through predation but because plants have outwitted them, and animals cannot obtain enough of the food they must have to reproduce and grow,' he says. 'I explain, in simple terms, how

all this comes about in nature and describe many 'ingenious' ways in which animals have evolved to cope with this usually chronic shortage of an essential resource. For instance, why ringtail possums eat their own manure, ants of the same species fight and kill each other to feed their victims to their young and, or why, hummingbirds must eat insects.'

His book makes great reading for anyone remotely interested in natural history.



White has acted as a strong influence for the last 40 years on the ecological community, presenting confronting ideas on the limiting role that nitrogen plays in the evolution of life and, in particular, on the

ecology of herbivorous animals. He wrote *The Inadequate Environment* in 1993, and as a former President of The Royal Society of South Australia was a recipient of the Society's Sir Joseph Verco Medal for publications of distinguished research.

***Why Does the World Stay Green?: Nutrition and Survival of Plant-eaters***

TCR White

CSIRO PUBLISHING  
2005, Paperback

ISBN: 0643091580 RRP: \$29.95.

Available from  
[www.publish.csiro.au](http://www.publish.csiro.au)