

Dr Stephen Morton

Citation for conferral of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) Ceremony 3, Tuesday 29 April 2014, 2:00pm

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Dr Stephen Morton.

Steve Morton received his Bachelor of Science with Honours and Ph.D. in animal ecology from the University of Melbourne. He then went on to postdoctoral studies at the University of California, Irvine, and the University of Sydney. He joined CSIRO in 1984 at the Alice Springs laboratory and transferred to Canberra, a decade later. Dr Morton was Chief of CSIRO's Division of Sustainable Ecosystems from 2000 to 2003. In this role he effected the merger of CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology with Tropical Agriculture to create a new Division focused on sustainability science, led expansion of economic and social science expertise in CSIRO, stimulating growth of a cadre of staff from about 20 to 150 today, and re-developed engagement of CSIRO with Aboriginal people, leading to focus on Indigenous R&D in northern laboratories and a formal Organisational Indigenous Engagement Strategy.

From 2003 to 2005 he was Group Executive, CSIRO Environment and Natural Resources, where he led the creation of large-scale National Research Flagship Programs in Water and Oceans across several CSIRO Divisions; and oversaw the merger of two Divisions into CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, the largest such research group in the Southern Hemisphere. From 2005 to 2007 he was Group Executive, CSIRO Sustainable Energy and Environment, where he negotiated combined R&D effort from the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO to form the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research; led a successful bid for Commonwealth Government funding to a new Climate Adaptation National Research Flagship Program; and led a successful bid for expanded Commonwealth Government funding to the Energy Transformed National Research Flagship Program. From 2008 to 2010, he was Group Executive, CSIRO Manufacturing, Materials and Minerals.

Amongst many other roles, Dr Morton has been a board member for two CRCs; Chair of the Working Group on Natural Systems and Biodiversity, Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council, Canberra; a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists; and many other specialist roles in government and industry advisory groups. He chaired the Advisory Committee of the University of Adelaide's Centre for Evolution Biology and Biodiversity for 10 years from 2001 and, since 2011 has been chair of the Advisory Board of the University's Environment Institute. He has published more than 140 scientific papers, book chapters, books, refereed reports and popular articles. He is currently an Honorary Fellow with CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences at Alice Springs. Dr Morton is one of the country's foremost thinkers on issues facing conservation, land management and ecological sustainability.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) — Dr Stephen Morton.