



Australian Government  
Land & Water Australia



knowledge for managing Australian landscapes



## Land & Water Australia Senior Research Fellowships

Land & Water Australia specialises in funding research for the sustainable management of the resource base that underpins our primary industries and rural and regional communities.

Land & Water Australia's Senior Research Fellowships are an exciting initiative that work at the intersection of two of the Australian Government's key priorities:  
Innovation and scientific excellence;  
Improved management of Australia's natural resources.

Land & Water Australia is a Rural Research and Development Corporation of the Australian Government within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, established under the Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development (PIERD) Act 1989.

Its mission is to invest in knowledge, partnerships, innovation and adoption to underpin sustainable natural resource management in Australia.

cover image: Annie Franklin © 2000



Australian Government  
Land & Water Australia

Land & Water Australia  
GPO Box 2182  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Tel (02) 6263 6000  
Fax (02) 6263 6099  
Find out more [www.lwa.gov.au](http://www.lwa.gov.au)



**Mr Gary Stoneham**

Gary Stoneham has played a leading role in developing the use of market-based instruments for allocating scarce resources in natural resource management.

An applied policy economist for more than 25 years, Gary has helped to better harness and target market forces so that they work to reward more sustainable practices by landholders and others. He is currently Chief Economist with the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Through the Fellowship Gary intends to review the Australian experience with market based instruments and the role of science in the design of the instruments. He intends to draw on leading work in contemporary economic theory to look at improvements in the design of environmental policy, especially for non-point source issues such as salinity that are typical in a rural context.



**Dr Mark Stafford Smith**

Mark Stafford Smith has worked for CSIRO predominantly based in Alice Springs for 21 years. He was the founding Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the CRC for Desert Knowledge and has a deep understanding of, and love of the Australian Rangelands. He is one of Australia's and the world's leading rangelands scientists.

Australia's red desert country has unique challenges related to its climate, geology and demography. Mark will use the Fellowship to look at how decisions about natural resources are made in rangelands, especially the red desert country. He will examine the alignment of environmental variability and local and traditional ecological understanding of the land.



**Dr David Freebairn**

David Freebairn has worked on natural resource management issues for 30 years and has a deep understanding of environmental and production issues faced by land managers. He believes even the scientific community is confused by the value of models and processes, and questions whether the use of models actually gets in the way of basic understanding.

The Fellowship will enable David to review catchment and planning models that have been developed over the last 20-25 years. David will assess the implications of a number of studies in Queensland, exploring hydrologic and water quality responses to land types and management.

David is Manager, Natural Resource Sciences with the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines based in Toowoomba, Queensland.



# What are the Senior Research Fellowships?

During the peak of a researcher's career their most precious commodity is time. Many of our best scientific brains spend too much of their time on activities other than research – administration, management, writing research proposals, wrestling with budgets and so on. In a new approach to funding science, these Fellowships are expressly designed to 'free up' the time of a select few of our leading researchers each year, to give them some time and space free from the constraints of everyday work. The intent is to sponsor reflective, synthesis research by people at the top of their fields – in mid-career, rather than in retirement.

The Senior Research Fellowships are designed to build knowledge assets that advance the way Australians think about, interact with and manage our natural resources. Each of the Fellows will produce a major work outlining their thinking, findings and recommendations – in written form, lectures and all forms of media. Land & Water Australia expects these works will be thought-provoking and challenging, representing leading-edge thinking within their respective fields.

Each year the Fellows are selected by the Land & Water Australia Board. The Fellowships are also made possible by the support of the Fellows' employers. Land & Water Australia thanks these organisations for their foresight and willingness to participate in this initiative.

Land & Water Australia intends to promote the Fellowships and the work of the Fellows widely, bringing substantial recognition to individual Fellows and their organisations. This is the second round of the Fellowships with three being awarded in 2004. It is anticipated two Fellowships will be offered in most years.

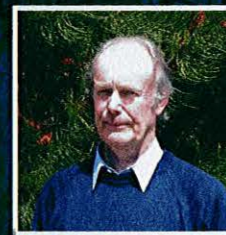
## The Inaugural Fellows 2004

**Dr Richard Evans**



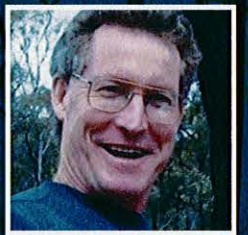
is a Principal Hydrogeologist with Sinclair Knight Merz Consultants. He is conducting a major review of the technical and management issues associated with better defining surface water – groundwater interaction in Australia.

**Professor Sam Lake**



is a Professor of Ecology, School of Biological Sciences, Monash University. He is examining the impact of drought on freshwater ecosystems and is planning to produce a book which reviews and synthesises published literature on this topic.

**Dr Neil Barr**

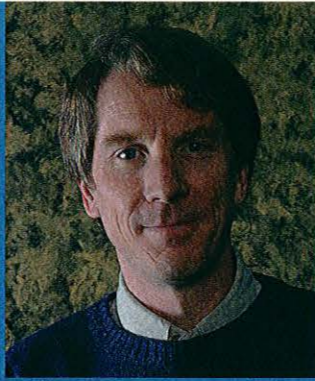


is the leader of the Rural Social Research Team within the Department of Primary Industries, Victoria. Neil is working on a book which explores the social or economic factors that are reshaping rural landscapes and examines the interplay of these factors in five agricultural settings.

**Mr Gary Stoneham**



**Dr Mark Stafford Smith**



**Dr David Freebairn**

