Acknowledgements

There are many people to acknowledge in the journey of this book from idea to reality.

In mid-2014, a small group of people touched by the loss of a dear friend and colleague, Rob Lesslie, who sadly died in March 2014, agreed to convene a national symposium in his honour.

The symposium, ‘Informing Australian land use policy and planning: Past, present and future’, was held in June 2015. It brought together Australia’s leading land use researchers, academics and government policymakers and planners. The presenters who were invited all had one thing in common: they had all worked with, or were very familiar with, Rob’s academic and professional contributions in land use policy and planning.

The organising committee for the symposium comprised Bruce Doran, Steve Dovers, Jake Gillen and Richard Thackway (Fenner School of Environment & Society, The Australian National University [ANU]); Jason Irving (South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources); Brendan Mackey (Griffith University); Jodie Mewett (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences [ABARES]). The symposium was held on 29–30 June, in association with the Institute of Australian Geographers conference held on 1–3 July. By aligning the two meetings, the organising committee acknowledged that Rob was also a geographer. Both events were held at the Crawford School, ANU, Canberra.

The authors’ contributions to this book honour Rob Lesslie’s academic contributions and his national influence more generally in land use and management, wilderness protection and the conservation of biodiversity.
A special thanks to the chapter reviewers. Your work has helped ensure this book is a high-quality publication accessible to policymakers and land use planners, public and private land managers, researchers and academic readers.
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