

Global Warming and Climate Change

**what Australia knew and buried**

*... then framed a new reality for the public*



Global Warming and Climate Change  
**what Australia knew and buried**  
*... then framed a new reality for the public*

MARIA TAYLOR



---

PRESS



Published by ANU Press  
The Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200, Australia  
Email: [anupress@anu.edu.au](mailto:anupress@anu.edu.au)  
This title is also available online at <http://press.anu.edu.au>

---

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Author: Taylor, Maria.  
Title: Global warming and climate change : what Australia knew and buried ... then framed a new reality for the public / Maria Taylor.  
ISBN: 9781925021905 (paperback) 9781925021912 (ebook)  
Subjects: Global warming--Australia.  
Climatic changes--Australia.  
Dewey Number: 363.73874

---

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Cover design and layout by ANU Press

Printed by Griffin Press

This edition © 2014 ANU Press

# Contents

Acknowledgements . . . . .	vii
The legacy . . . . .	ix
Foreword: the hidden history of Australia’s early response to climate change . . . . .	xi
1. History is what we make it . . . . .	1
2. Loading the dice: humans as planetary force. . . . .	5
3. Framing information to influence what we hear . . . . .	11
4. What Australians knew 25 years ago . . . . .	17
5. Australians persuaded to doubt what they knew . . . . .	45
6. Influences on a changed story and the new normal 1990s: values and beliefs . . . . .	77
7. Influences on a changed story and the new normal: media locks in the new narrative . . . . .	103
8. Influences on a changed story and the new normal: scientists’ beliefs and public scepticism . . . . .	133
9. In search of certainty and applying uncertainty . . . . .	147
10. Dicing with the climate: How many more throws? . . . . .	167
A chronology of some major climate science/policy milestones . . . .	181
List of acronyms . . . . .	189
Bibliography . . . . .	191