



**Dr Matt McGlone, FRNZ  
Research Associate,  
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**Matt McGlone's** scientific work has mainly been on the ecological and climate history of New Zealand and its biogeography. He has also managed a number of science teams whose missions have included ecology, biosystematics, biodiversity and conservation and greenhouse gases.

He served for a year as a Parliamentary Science Advisor to Minister Simon Upton, and has provided advice to the Ministry of Business, Science and Innovation (and its predecessors MoRST and FoRST), Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. He has been the PI on three Marsden Fund grants and has written edited, reviewed and assessed more bids than he cares to remember. He is an associate editor for the *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, the *Journal of Ecology* and the *Journal of Biogeography*.

# The beautiful lie and ugly governance: why NZ environmental science needs reform

## School of Environment Inaugural Hay Lecture

In 1945 scientist Vannevar Bush, in an influential report to the President of the United States, argued that 'The free play of intellects . . . dictated by their curiosity' was the best way to provide the knowledge that the world needs to confront its challenges. This attitude – this 'beautiful lie' - dominates international academic research. In New Zealand it co-exists uncomfortably with an over-governed, over-managed, over-competitive science sector that pumps out thousands of publications, many of dubious value.

I will discuss two environmental fields – biodiversity and climate change – showing how poorly the public interest is served by this combination of academic ambition and inefficient oversight. We need to de-bureaucratize environmental science, realign its priorities and engage the public in a much more meaningful way.



This annual lecture series is named in honour of Professor John E. Hay.

*Professor John E. Hay is an expert in Environmental Science, Policy and Management, with over 40 years of international work experience in academia, the private sector and government organisations. He is currently the director of John E. Hay and Associates Ltd. in New Zealand and a Visiting Professor at Ibaraki University in Mito, Japan, and an Adjunct Professor of the University of the South Pacific (USP), affiliated to its Cook Islands Campus in Rarotonga. Together with other members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Al Gore, Professor Hay was awarded the prestigious 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work as a lead author of the recent IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and also the two previous IPCC assessment reports.*

**Tuesday 6 June 2017**

**5-6pm**

**MLT1 Lecture Theatre 303-G23**

**38 Princes Street**

Followed by drinks & nibbles

at 302 Level 6 break out space

6-7 pm

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