



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

2010 Australian
Laureate Fellows

Professor Chris Turney

Tipping points in Records of Extreme Events in Australasia: using the Past to Understand and Plan for Abrupt Future Climate Change

Current Organisation:	University of Exeter, UK
Administering Organisation:	The University of New South Wales
Primary research field:	Physical Geography and Environmental Geoscience
National Research Priority:	An Environmentally Sustainable Australia

Professor Chris Turney is a Professor of Physical Geography at the University of Exeter, UK. His research interests are past and future climates, how people respond to change, dating natural archives, and recent human evolution and migration. Professor Turney is an internationally recognised research leader in reconstructing past climates and environments. He has made major contributions across both the physical and natural sciences.

Professor Turney aims to use novel and innovative palaeodata and modelling approaches to quantify and understand the mechanisms and impacts of abrupt climate changes in the Australasian region and place these in a global context on sub-annual to decadal timescales. The outcomes of this project will enable an improved understanding of the mechanisms of both past and future abrupt climate change in Australia and globally.

Professor Turney was awarded his PhD in Quaternary Science from the Royal Holloway University of London. After obtaining his PhD, Professor Turney spent the next ten years working on reconstructing past climatic change and the timing of human colonisation of Australasia and Southeast Asia. During this time, he has also played an active role in science communication, including writing the popular science book *Ice, Mud and Blood: Lessons from Climate Past*.

Professor Turney is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce, the Geological Society of London and the Royal Geographical Society. He is the Asian and Australasian editor of the *Journal of Quaternary Science*. He was the first recipient of the International Union for Quaternary Research Sir Nicholas Shackleton Medal and recently was awarded the prestigious Geological Society Bigsby Medal in recognition for his research in geology.

Media contacts

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