

# Introduction to this Special Edition on Australian Contributions to the Millennium Project

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The Millennium Project was founded in 1996 after a three-year feasibility study with the United Nations University, Smithsonian Institution, Futures Group International, and the American Council for the UNU. It is now an independent non-profit global participatory futures research think tank of futurists, scholars, business planners, and policy makers who work for international organisations, governments, corporations, NGOs, and universities. Since 1996 the Millennium Project has managed a coherent and cumulative process that collects and assesses judgments from over 2,500 people selected by its 36 Nodes around the world. The work is distilled in its annual “State of the Future” reports, “Futures Research Methodology” series, and special studies<sup>1</sup>.

In this special edition of the JFS, we bring together a collection of articles, essays and reports written by Australian contributors to the Millennium Project’s work. The authors whose works are featured in this special edition are futures researchers, foresight consultants, academics, scientists, and NGO representatives, each with a unique perspective on global issues and local Australian responses. Tasked with reporting on the current state of the Millennium Project’s 15 global challenges in Australia, commenting on the Asia-Oceania region where possible, and to include some discussion on new developments and emerging issues that may result in changes in the challenge theme in the future, authors of the works assembled here have used a variety of research methods, including the futures research methodologies promoted by the Millennium Project. Hence, when compiled together they provide a uniquely Australian perspective on some of the key issues facing today’s society.

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1. [www.millennium-project.org](http://www.millennium-project.org)

