

## Gill Slocum

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Ms Gillian Slocum is the Manager of the Territories, Environment and Treaties Section at the Australian Antarctic Division and Australia's Commissioner to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). Gillian is responsible for Antarctic policy issues; the governance and administration of Australian activities in Antarctica and at Heard Island and the McDonald Islands; ensuring Australia's Antarctic operations reflect sound environmental stewardship; and protecting the environment and living resources of the region. She was appointed to this position in 2009. Gillian has worked at the Australian Antarctic Division on Antarctic and international policy issues since 2001.

### ***What do policy-makers need from science?***

What types of decisions require scientific involvement? What types of scientific information are required and in what timeframe? When should scientists engage with policy makers to refine information delivery? In answering these questions, this presentation will provide an overview of the Australian Government's responsibilities and interests, and the related scientific needs to understand and support management of the Southern Ocean. It will also discuss how scientists can have the greatest influence in informing policy and decision-making, noting that in developing policy consideration must be given to multiple, sometimes competing factors. While good policy is firmly founded in the best available evidence, other factors to be considered include current policy settings, regulatory responsibilities, economics, stakeholder opinion and geopolitics. A large part of policy development is figuring out what is possible. Policy and decision makers are often required to make decisions within legislative constraints and defined timeframes. It is often not possible to wait for the results of long-term, large scale scientific research programs. The best available science is required to inform decisions when decisions are required to be made. In this regard, scientific research needs to be presented in a concise and compelling manner.

