

Carboneria Role-playing

Listed in no particular order, the following perspectives (participants may identify others) have been outlined for use in a role playing exercise. Participants are divided into groups and encouraged to both consider the perspective of various actors as listed, but also what the science advisor or advisory body might do in each situation.

Perspective 1: Science Advisor or Advisory Mechanism

- What perspectives and considerations should be reflected in any advice given?
- What is the role of the science advisor / advisory mechanism in this situation?

Perspective 2: Media

- A provocative reporter for a major television channel based in the capital city has recently interviewed NGO scientists about bio-char and found the information quite conflicting. The reporter wishes to interview the science advisor on bio-char to add clarity to the debate.
- How can the opportunity be optimised for science communication?

Perspective 3: Civil Society organisations (anti bio-char)

- You represent VillageAction, a local NGO that is seriously concerned about the dangers of bio-char production. You don't believe there is merit in raising crops in order to burn and bury them and you worry that moving too quickly on this question only lead to food insecurity and thus more environmental degradation. Your organisation has engaged sympathetic scientists to review the available evidence and 'advise on the advice'. What would you consider a fair and robust public discussion? What information do you require? How are you incorporating science into your thinking?
- How might the science advisor engage with this organisation?

Perspective 4: Civil Society organisations (pro bio-char)

- You represent Greenways, a local chapter of an international environmental NGO that has been a leading voice in promoting bio-char as a viable geo-engineering solution. Internationally, your parent group has funded scientists studying bio-char production and characteristics and is working hard on communicating the results of this work. You want to make sure that this evidence is considered by government and local leaders.
- How might the science advisor engage with this organisation?

Perspective 5: Business lobby (Bio-char)

- You represent the Carboneria Business Council that is working in partnership with a group of international investors to acquire land and licensing for a bio-char production facility in Carboneria. Your group has provided research funding to external scientists and economists to model the potential benefit of bio-char from both a scientific and economic perspective. You are aware of a number of other research projects in Asia, as well as ongoing work funded by the Australian government, and are considering linking with these groups depending on their outcomes. Your organisation has engaged sympathetic scientists to review the available evidence and 'advise on the advice'. What would you consider a fair and robust public discussion? What information do you require? How are you incorporating science into your thinking?
- What would the science advisor consider a fair and robust discussion in this regard? How could this be achieved?

Perspective 6: Business lobby (Flavonella)

- You are an economic development officer from the southern steppe region of Carboneria state government, which is currently in advanced discussions with an international food company to develop the natural sweetener derived from the flavonella shrub. You are aware of competing commercial interests in the area but you have a lot of local support for the Flavonella initiative from residents in your rural state. They are deeply mistrustful of the bio-char lobby as well federal government in general. You wish to engage federal government authorities with the evidence that the company has amassed on the market potential of flavonella, its regulatory status and the likelihood it can be scaled up as a cultivar.
- How can the science advisor integrate these strands of input?

Perspective 7: Politicians (Federal)

- As President you have received the advice and followed the media reports (and social media) on the issue. How are you incorporating science into your thinking? How does science advice figure among the various considerations in your decision-making
- How should the science advisor best deliver advice to the President of Carboneria?

Perspective 8: Politicians (southern steppe region of Carboneria)

- As State Governor of Southern Carboneria, you recognise the need for economic development opportunities for your constituency. At the same time, your electorate is counting on you to protect their way of life. How are you incorporating science into your think? How does science advice figure among the various considerations in your decision-making and your negotiations with your Federal level interlocutors?
- What should the science advisor consider when operating across jurisdictions?

Perspective 9: traditional rural land-users of southern steppe region of Carboneria

- You are a young professional hailing from Southern Carboneria, but based in the capital city. You have been requested by the traditional territorial chiefs to act as their spokesperson in land planning debates both with government and various industry stakeholders. What steps would you take to acquire and share relevant evidence? How might this inform your approach?
- What role does the science advisor play in engaging local stakeholders? How should this be managed?

Other perspectives raised by workshop participants...