Acknowledgements

The process of writing this book has not been a linear one, and like negotiations, many individuals have been crucial to ensuring that this study reached a successful conclusion. Two people have done more than anyone to make this happen; Professor Neil Gunningham and Professor Peter Drahos. I could not have asked, or even hoped, for more from my thesis supervisors, from which this book originated. As I sought out supervisors I was told that it is the most important academic decision one makes but: ‘you’ll need some luck’. I have been very lucky. I am especially grateful for their academic guidance, confident encouragement and sense of humour. In truth, I could not have written this book without them, it has been a pleasure taking this academic journey in their company. Their supervision has been complemented by two other academics at the Australian National University (ANU), Dr Kyla Tienhaara and Professor Stephen Howes. Kyla began as a friend and later became a supervisor. She has been terrific in both roles. I am especially thankful for her detailed reading of each and every page of my final draft. Stephen kindly shared his economic insights with me as I pondered ‘why states make the decisions they do’. Economics is more often than not a factor, and he helped me to see how.

The efforts of Americans and Europeans have been crucial to determining the outcome of many rounds of the climate negotiations, and they have also been crucial to shaping my research. One person stands out; Professor Lawrence Susskind. In 2010, I had the opportunity of working with him at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I am indebted to him not only for inviting me to stay at MIT, but for the countless hours he spent challenging my empirical findings and theoretical conclusions. These conversations provided an invaluable intellectual stimulus as I finalised the structure and argument of the thesis. I also had the pleasure of discussing my research with many other academics in the United States who I had long admired from afar. In particular, I am grateful to Professors Daniel Druckman, Adil Najam, Robert Putnam and William Zartman.

As I set out on this study, one factor that was completely outside my control was informants. Elite interviewing is not an easy task and its
success depends on the generosity of others to give of their time, their knowledge and often their patience. I cannot thank each and every individual I interviewed on both sides of the Atlantic, and many would prefer to remain anonymous. However, several people gave more than others. First and foremost, Nigel Purvis, who I first interviewed in 2010 and later worked alongside at Resources For the Future in Washington DC in 2011. Nigel made this and much more happen. Many others not only agreed to be interviewed but kindly read sections of the manuscript providing invaluable feedback and often correcting my historical inaccuracies, including Marius Enthoven, Professor Jeffrey Frankel, Jørgen Henningsen and Dr Bert Metz.

In 2011 I returned to ANU to begin furiously drafting and re-drafting each chapter. Several people aided this process considerably. Adjunct Professor Howard Bamsey generously edited parts of the thesis and as a former negotiator he has been a wonderful source of knowledge on the history of the climate negotiations. In addition, Professors Carsten Daugaard-Jørgensen and John Ravenhill both read and commented on draft chapters. Similarly, I should also acknowledge Professor Clive Hamilton who I first worked with in 2006, and in many ways his passion for academic research and public policy, especially in the area of climate change, ultimately informed my own decision to write a book in this field.

When I say I returned to ANU, I am referring to a particularly special environment; the Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet) is a wonderful place to work. As an academic community it is unique not only for its prodigious output of world class research, but for the warmth and generosity of many people in the hallways who are always willing to assist with the personal and academic trials of research. In particular, I would like to thank Professors John Braithwaite and Valerie Braithwaite for their ideas and encouragement, especially in the early stages of my research. Also, to the many past and present PhD students who have been a source of strength and support along the way, including Dr Russell Brewer. This process has been a lot easier in your company. I would also like to thank the fantastic team at Edward Elgar who have been a pleasure to work with.

Finally, a thesis after all, is only that. While I may have lived and breathed this research over the last few years, I have had the good fortune of spending my time away from it in the company of many loving people. Most of all to Yolanda, Andrew, John, Brett and Amy for making this and everything else I do possible. And, to a brilliant and diverse circle of friends in Australia and overseas, many who supported me on my travels, it was, and continues to be, a pleasure. I am indebted to each of you.