

# ECA WA News

Autumn Edition 2015



**Smile for the camera:** Inquisitive whale shark at Ningaloo Reef, April 2014.

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## President's Address 2015

*By Jamie Shaw*

Welcome to our first edition of the ECA Newsletter for 2015.

### Membership

The ECA had another great year in 2014. We achieved a 35 per cent increase in our membership base, which is a significant outcome considering the market conditions we were facing through the year. The efforts of the YECA group should be applauded for almost doubling the number of Associate members. I'm pleased to say that the number of Corresponding members has quadrupled indicating that our reach is extending beyond the consulting industry. I believe this is due to our strong relationship with regulators as well as our popular networking and training events. As ever, we are keen to continue growing and I ask that you encourage your colleagues to consider the benefits of becoming a member of our organisation.

## ECA WA Committee

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The ECA WA committee meets on the third Monday of the month. Please contact committee members or Bec James if there is anything you would like to raise for discussion.

## Editorial contributions welcome

The editorial deadline for the next edition of ECA News will be advised in the ECA weekly email updates. Please email articles and contributions to ECA News Editor, Jo Thierfelder at [editorecanews@eca.org.au](mailto:editorecanews@eca.org.au)

*ECA WA News is a periodical publication of the Environmental Consultants Association (WA) Inc. It aims to inform members on the activities of the ECA and its members, events and training, and developments in the environmental industry. The views and opinions expressed in ECA WA News are those of the article authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the ECA WA.*

*Front cover photo "Inquisitive whale shark at Ningaloo Reef, April 2014" courtesy of Sandy Gorham.*

## Successful events in 2014

Our EIA training course provided by Dr Angus Morris-Saunders was fully subscribed with this year's cohort including a larger number of industry representatives, which gave participants a different perspective to the consulting side.

The feature event of last year was our half-day workshop to develop a response to the public consultation phase of the Assessment Bilateral Agreement. I am proud of the ECA's ability to bring together senior representatives from mining, State and Federal regulators and conservation. We were able to develop a detailed, comprehensive response to the Department of the Environment to help shape how the Agreement was finalised.

## Committee changes

I am sad to say that two of our Committee members have had to resign due to other commitments.

Rob De Roach joined in July 2010 and has been our Treasurer since August 2013. He is also on the Membership Sub-Committee. As a Marine Scientist, Rob has been an advocate for the Association in matters relating to the management of the marine environment. He has provided ECA responses to various guidelines and public policy documents and worked alongside fellow committee member Ian Le Provost to facilitate the Dredging Workshop held in 2011, which was a collaboration between the ECA, EPA and PIANC Australia. Rob has offered to continue in his role as Treasurer until such time that we can make formal arrangements for a replacement.

Karen Crews joined the committee in August 2012 and is on the Membership Sub-Committee. Karen has coordinated our response to a number of draft guidelines and policy statements and was instrumental in re-defining our services matrix and ensuring the membership was kept informed of progress. Karen has asked for a 'leave of absence' rather than formally resigning, and we are hopeful that she will find the time to recommence her role on the committee in the future.

I'd like to thank Rob and Karen for their contribution to the ECA during their time on the Committee and wish them all the best for the future. I'd also like to recognise Mat Harvey's brief period on the committee, which was brought to an end due to changes in circumstances. We are always on the lookout for new committee members, and with the recent retirement of Karen Crews and Rob De Roach, we welcome nominations from the ECA membership.

## Upcoming events in 2015

We have been in discussion with a number of organisations about our calendar of events and I expect we will have plenty to offer throughout the year. Committee member and ECA Vice President

Jason Hick mentioned a number of these at the New Year's Breakfast in February but to reiterate:

- The ECA is planning to hold its usual EIA for Practitioners course as well as a refresher for those who have done the course previously but want to bring themselves up to speed with the multitude of changes over the past year or so.
- We are planning briefings from OEPA and DER on the various guidelines and policy documents that have been released last year, as well as an update on the Assessment Bilateral Agreement. Keep an eye out for details in our weekly emails as they become available.

This year, we have scheduled the EIA for Practitioners Course to occur outside the spring survey season in order to make it more accessible to our members involved in spring flora and fauna surveys. We hope that this encourages some new participation this year. Please see Page 18 for details on how to register.

We try to make our training and information sessions as relevant to our membership as possible, so please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any ideas.

## New ECA website

We are currently in the process of developing a new ECA website, which will be more interactive and user-friendly than our current one. In addition, we are setting up a LinkedIn profile and looking into the use of other social media platforms, which is being driven largely by our younger, more tech-savvy members. Please be patient while we work through this process.

I hope you all enjoy our Autumn edition of the ECA Newsletter. I'd like to thank all of our contributors and our editor for pulling it all together, and remind you that we are always on the lookout for fresh content and ideas.

Wishing you all the best for 2015.

*Jamie Shaw*  
*ECA President*

## Update on the EPBC Act Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions

*By ECA Vice President, Jason Hick*

The Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions (SAPPR) formally commenced in July 2011 following an agreement between the WA and Federal Governments.

The SAPPR is being undertaken in keeping with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2000* (EPBC Act) and members would be well aware of its relevance to various land use and infrastructure proposals undertaken across the Perth and Peel regions and the frequency of the need for proposal level referrals. This has primarily been driven by a number of EPBC Act listed threatened species and threatened communities, referred to under the EPBC Act as "Matters of National Environmental Significance" (MNES).

The intent of the SAPPR is to consider at a strategic level (moving away from project by project assessments as been the case) the likely impacts of the strategic planning framework for the Perth and





Please email ECA  
Vice President  
Jason Hick for  
any queries or  
requests for  
information to  
be provided  
to the SAPPR  
Stakeholder  
Reference Group.

Peel regions (as defined by the collective extent of the Metropolitan and Peel Region Scheme areas).

These are primarily communicated through:

- Directions 2031 and Beyond – Regional Planning Framework for Perth and Peel.
- The forthcoming (being prepared in semi-parallel) four sub-regional structure plans across the Perth and Peel areas.
- The State Planning Policy framework for basic raw materials.

There has been EPBC Act strategic assessments undertaken for planning frameworks in other states, but most comparably in Victoria for the Melbourne Urban Growth Boundary and in New South Wales for the Western Sydney Growth Centres plans. While these assessments do share some similarities, the key differences are:

- the sheer scale of the Perth-Peel study area
- a parallel State environmental assessment process being delivered by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) through Section 16 advice
- the inclusion of basic raw materials and all key supporting urban infrastructure as part of the assessment

[Click here](#) for general strategic assessment information from the Federal Department of Environment (DoE). [Click here](#) for specific information from DoE on the SAPPR.

Since the commencement of the SAPPR process, the ECA has been continuously represented as part of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG). The SRG has met 10 times and its reports and other relevant information are available on the [Department of Premier and Cabinet website](#). The SRG is comprised of a range of industry groups, professional associations and community based environmental organisations. To date, the SRG has focussed on gaining the various views and interests of the representative members and to seek opinions on how the SAPPR process and outcomes should be managed. While there has not been much in the way of specific updates on the methodology and progress of the environmental impact assessment process itself, we do expect this to be forthcoming in the coming months.

The DoE has commissioned a number of technical assessments and reports to support the SAPPR through their Sustainable Regional Development Program, which has included a population viability assessment for the Carnaby's black cockatoo and habitat survey assessment across the study area. [These reports can be found here](#).

It has been suggested two key documents associated with the process will be released for public comment by either late this year or

early next year. These documents will comprise the SAPPR Impact Assessment Report and Strategic Conservation Plan. They will be out for public comment for at least three months. Prior to and during this release, ECA will continue to be active in this process through the SRG, and will be also requesting for separate briefings and updates by the DPC SAPPR project team for the broader membership.

Please email ECA Vice President [Jason Hick](#) for any queries or requests for information to be provided to the SRG.

## Photo Story

### “Secluded Pool”

*Photo courtesy of Briana Wingfield, Zoologist, MWH Global*

The location where the photo was taken, Tank Pool, is a relaxing spot on the way to a bat cave we monitor. Sometimes you see people camping overnight, sometimes you get it completely to yourself. It's very peaceful and reminds me of the natural beauty of the Pilbara region.



### “Reflections on south west WA ecology”

*Photo courtesy of Bernie Masters, Principal Consultant at BK Masters and Associates*

It's not often that you see a WA native plant producing a mass of flowers in the shape of the Australian continent (minus Tasmania unfortunately). The plant is a Red Leschenaultia (*L. formosa*) growing on sand plain soils in the mid west of WA's wheatbelt.



Multiple bushfires,  
40 degree heat,  
thunderstorms,  
fork lightning,  
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into consideration  
when planning  
field work.

## A Day in the Office (like no other)

*By Matthew Cann, Environmental Scientist, AECOM*

Multiple bushfires, 40 degree heat, thunderstorms, fork lightning, venomous insects and arachnids: these are some of the more extreme hazards us “fieldies” take into consideration when planning field work. These hazards are typical for the northern regions of this large state of ours, but down around Perth they tend to be less likely. Many of us, particularly those who don’t do large amounts of field work, tend to assume Perth-based work is fairly easy.

When planning a Black Cockatoo breeding habitat assessment for a client in the Perth Metropolitan Area in February of this year, I threw these hazards, among others, into the Safe Work Method Statement as per usual practice and expected at the most to encounter a few spiders. Boy, was the team and I in for a surprise, some excitement and, frankly, a test of our grit on our little five-day Perth-based bush stroll!

This summer, WA has had a particularly bad fire season and Perth itself appears to have been the victim of a firebug. Our five-day field program actually began by checking the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website for which part of our survey area wasn’t on fire. Not the ideal start to a field survey. Once we found some unburnt bushland far enough from the nearest fire, we began, only



*This picture was taken from my desk at a client's office with my iPhone after our second field day.*

to hear a siren about two hours into it. Rushing back to the vehicle, no sign was to be seen of the source of the siren. However, we decided to play it safe and leave the area, only to find a crew of firefighters 200m from the car. Another check of the DFES website and we found out they were there to mop up spot fires. On our return drive to the office, we just happened to pass another fire



*These two photos (above) were taken within 15 minutes of each other.*



*The weather made for beautiful sunrises.*

that had been recently lit in vegetation off Kwinana Freeway. This was getting ridiculous.

So with each day beginning with a check of DFES and working out where we could work, we also had to factor in a regular check of the Bureau of Meteorology website for lightning activity. As luck (or lack of) would have it, our field program lay in a week of unusually high electrical storm activity. I'm talking real big fork lightning here! Between dodging lightning and bushfires, it hardly left any time to collect any data.

It was around the third or fourth day, daydreaming about approvals and desk-based impact assessments, when the weather patterns did change and we finally got some fine, albeit hot weather. Was this the end of the trying conditions? No, we didn't get off that easily.

Arriving home after the second last day of the field program, after fighting our way through some thick Melaleuca shrub thickets, I threw my pants off onto the couch in earnest (apologies for any mental picture but it is a key part of the story) to finally get into shorts and sit in the air conditioning of my apartment to spend a few hours on the couch relaxing.

Then I noticed a fully grown tick on my leg. I do not react well to tick bites, so I was not happy to have one on my leg. While removing it (incorrectly) I noticed what I thought was a tiny freckle moving on my knee.

On closer inspection, I discovered it was a baby nymph or pepper tick. To my horror, I proceeded to find 19 of these on my legs. Here is where the pants on the couch come in. While laying on the couch relaxing, baby ticks left their pant-transportation-vehicle and enjoyed their first dinner consisting of human male, serves 19.

A visit to the doctor, a severe allergic skin reaction and five weeks later my legs are still itchy and serve as a reminder that... ticks suck.

So, why tell this tale?

We were served up some harsh, dangerous and testing conditions but by following our safety protocols, having good planning and a tough



On closer inspection, I discovered it was a baby nymph or pepper tick and, to my horror, proceeded to find 19 of them on my legs.



*A gruesome reminder of the importance of field health and safety.*



AECOM team, we were able to quantify data on approximately 1,500 large trees in five days and complete our project with only one incident. This incident, once identified as a health risk, was dealt with by seeing a medical professional as soon as practicable to reduce further health risks.

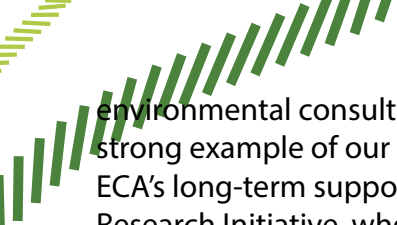
Through the process we have learned lessons and stimulated conversations in the office about field health and safety. It also reaffirmed that just because your team is working in the metro area it isn't going to be a literal walk in the park.

## **ECA and WAMSI Collaboration**

ECA president Jamie Shaw and Committee member Rob De Roach met with WA Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) CEO Patrick Seares to commence discussions on how our two organisations could better collaborate to help facilitate WAMSI meet its objectives.

Our discussion focused on how the ECA can bring the vast amount of marine scientific and managerial experience that resides in the





environmental consulting industry to WAMSI. A strong example of our collaborative potential is the ECA's long-term support of the WAMSI Dredging Research Initiative, where various ECA members have contributed information, data, and dredging contacts to WAMSI researchers.

At the upcoming WAMSI Research Conference, ECA Committee member Ian Le Provost will be providing a consultant's perspective on the WAMSI Dredging Science Node. Ian has been kept informed of WAMSI research developments as an ECA representative and observer on the Dredging Science Advisory Council.

As part of strengthening our collaboration, the ECA has been asked to provide broader participation and representation on other relevant WAMSI working groups. We look forward to building on this emerging relationship and will keep you informed as opportunities to become involved develop.

## Overview of the Contaminated Sites Guidelines

*By Ian Batterley*

In December 2014, the Department of Environment Regulation released the new Contaminated Sites Guidelines, which is an amalgamation of a whole series of guidelines into one consolidated, simple, user-friendly version.

The new *Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites – Contaminated Sites Guidelines* reflect:

- the commencement of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (the CS Act) and Contaminated Sites Regulations 2006 (as some of the guidance was published before the Act commenced)
- the amendment of the [National Environment Protection \(Assessment of Site Contamination\) Measure 1999](#) (NEPM) in May 2013
- process improvements developed during the statutory five-year review of the CS Act

The guidelines replace the previous Site Management Series Guidelines incorporating the following:

- *Development of sampling and analysis plans (2001)*
- *Community consultation (2006)*
- *Potentially contaminating activities, industries and land uses (2004)*
- *Assessment levels for soil, sediment and water (2010)*
- *Bioremediation of hydrocarbon contaminated soils in Western Australia (2004)*
- *The use of risk assessment in contaminated site assessment (2006)*
- *Reporting on site assessments (2001)*

The primary changes to the revised guidelines include:

- The adoption of the NEPM assessment levels as the primary determination of the contamination status of a site. These assessment levels provide a risk-based approach for the assessment of potential contaminants of concern relating to specific land use based exposure scenarios.
- Sample densities are to be based on the development of a risk based statistically robust and representative assessment and not based on previous "minimum sample density guidelines".
- The specific requirements for Conceptual Site Models in determining the environmental setting, contaminant sources, pathways and receptors.

The next YECA event will be a professional development workshop focusing on communication skills in the workplace.

## YECA Update

### Quiz Night

The YECA welcomed the New Year in style with a hugely successful Quiz Night held at the Mount Lawley Bowls Club on 18 February. The event offered a great opportunity to network as well as provide friendly competition between teams from different companies.

There was a great turnout with 45 attendees enjoying the quiz and bonus round activities, which included getting imaginative with tin foil to create the most impressive animal. This bonus round was won by the team from MWH Global with their remarkable squid. MWH also went on to take out the title and become the overall winners of the night. Congratulations!



*Winners are grinners: Team MWH Global*

Feedback from the event was very positive and the YECA would like to extend a huge thank you to all those that attended and especially to the ECA Committee for funding the event.

### Professional Communication Skills Workshop

The next YECA event will be a professional development workshop focusing on communication skills in the workplace. The art of professional communication is an immensely important skill to master yet it can be daunting for young consultants. This event will provide YECA members with an opportunity to learn new skills and gain confidence in the workplace. This workshop will likely be held in May. Details yet to be announced, so watch this space.



## Mentor Mix-up Update

It has been six months since the self-guided mentoring program between YECAs and ORCAs (Old and Retired Consultants Association) commenced. We will be sending out feedback questionnaires soon and are looking forward to hearing how the program is progressing for our mentor-mentee pairs.

## Introducing the 2015 YECA Committee

The YECA committee consists of a number of young consultants from a wide variety of backgrounds and parent companies.

*JJ Rao, Environmental Scientist and GIS Specialist at 360 Environmental*



As a founding member of the YECA Committee, my role (together with the ECA) has been to provide guidance, strategy and marketing services. I strive to bring a culture that reflects a young, professional and fresh mindset to the YECA, something which we hope comes across through our choice of events and functions.

At 360 Environmental, I provide specialist GIS and mapping services as well as a range of reporting, from EARs to Visual Impact Assessments. My interests revolve around innovative ways to digitally represent the environment to convey ideas effectively, which in most cases allows me to flex my creative muscles.

In my down time, you'll find me enjoying a variety of outdoor and indoor pursuits (that's all you get, this isn't speed dating).

*Sally Ascott, Environmental Scientist at 360 Environmental*



From the edge of meandering river systems to walking among soils piled high or cruising on the ocean, the value of a healthy ecological environment has led me to various locations across WA. Marine projects, contaminated site assessments and hydrological studies are all part of my daily working life and have allowed me to find innovative solutions to environmental issues.

*Louise Tomlin, Environmental Accountant at Greenbase*



Soon after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and Geography I commenced work as an Environmental Accountant at Greenbase. I progressed quickly through the ranks and I am now an Account Lead managing multiple clients within the Australian mining sector.

“I count myself very lucky as my job allows me to regularly get up close and personal with some amazing wildlife but also work with a diverse variety of people from all walks of life.”

- Tyrone Farrell

I manage mine site data collection and the associated National Pollutant Inventory, National Greenhouse and Energy Reports, Air Emission surveys and Licensing.

My most exciting moment working with Greenbase was a ‘meet and greet’ trip in regional NSW. This week-long road trip allowed me to put names to faces of clients that I have liaised with over the last five years and to see in person how the NSW mining culture compares to that of WA.

I will be having my one year anniversary as a YECA committee member in the coming months.

*Corinne Chambers, Environmental Scientist at Animal Plant Mineral*



Following completion of my studies (BSc. Geology and MSc. Environmental Science) in the UK, I immigrated to Australia to commence work as a Geologist in the Kimberley.

This breathtaking region got under my skin and I was hooked! I subsequently began work at APM: a Perth based environmental consultancy specialising in Kimberley projects.

My current role predominantly focuses on environmental approvals and management documentation for proponents in the mining and land development industries. I also assist with field surveys, which recently involved a botanical survey in a remote part of the Kimberley.



*Tyrone Farrell, Graduate Environmental Scientist  
at Pendoley Environmental*



After studying aquaculture for two years, I decided to change my focus to marine science. To gain some relevant experience, I started working for Pendoley Environmental on a casual basis, helping with some of the marine turtle survey work. Once I graduated, I was offered a full-time position and have since been heavily involved in the turtle tagging volunteer monitoring program.

I count myself very lucky as my job allows me to regularly get up close and personal with some amazing wildlife but also work with a diverse variety of people from all walks of life.

*Dr Ruth Kamrowski, Marine Scientist, Pendoley Environmental*



I am a marine ecologist with 10 years experience working in the marine, environment, communication, and education sectors. Last year I completed my PhD, which focused on managing detrimental impacts of artificial lighting for marine turtles across Australia, and my research findings have since been incorporated into relevant State and Commonwealth Species' Recovery Plans.

I joined Pendoley Environmental in September 2014 and I currently specialise in research design and implementation related to management of marine turtles in response to industrial coastal pressures.

*Dean Main, Senior Biologist and Survey Supervisor at Bennelongia*



After finishing majors in Zoology and Marine Biology at UWA, I gained experience working with both exotic and native fauna at the Perth Zoological Gardens. This allowed great exposure to an array of fauna and exciting projects including translocations, breeding programs and vertebrate fauna surveys.

In 2009, I joined Bennelongia Environmental where I have been involved in supervising, managing and conducting environmental impact assessments as well as performing compliance and risk management assessments for major capital projects in the resources industry. This has allowed for extensive fieldwork throughout

CSIRO's  
Scientists and  
Mathematicians in  
Schools program  
has more than  
40 teachers in  
WA who would  
like to welcome  
a scientist,  
mathematician or  
engineer into their  
classroom.

the state (Pilbara, Yilgarn, Kimberley), specialising in subterranean fauna (troglofauna and stygofauna) and Short Range Endemic (SRE) surveys. Career highlights include translocating Southern White Rhino and having a species of spider named in my honour, *Prethopalpus maini*.

*Sarah Nind, Environmental Scientist, Strategen*



While studying a Bachelor of Environmental Management and Environmental Science, I gained a variety of experience including feral and native animal tagging and monitoring, environmental internship on the largest magnetite iron ore mine in Australia (Sino Iron Project) and vegetation surveying in central NSW. On graduation, I worked at Greenbase completing NPI and NGER environmental statutory reporting before deciding to complete my Honours in Environmental Science. I completed a research thesis evaluating the comprehensiveness of environmental impact assessment under various state and Commonwealth legislation and during this time commenced employment with Strategen Environmental Consultants. In my current role I undertake environmental impact assessment and contaminated site projects for a suite of different land use types.

### Keep in touch

If you haven't yet joined, the YECA has a LinkedIn page where you can keep track of all our upcoming events. To find us, search for 'YECA' on LinkedIn Groups. If you are keen to become involved in the YECA or have any queries, comments or feedback, we would love to hear from you via email at [yeca@eca.org.au](mailto:yeca@eca.org.au) or come and speak to us at one of our events. We are always happy to have a chat over a drink.



# Environmental Assessment Guidelines: What's new?

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) of Western Australia has released several new, draft and/or revised Environmental Assessment Guidelines (EAG) over the last couple of months. Four EAGs join a list of 16 guidance documents in the series, which cover a broad spectrum of subjects from describing a proposal to assessing specific impact mechanisms. EAGs 13-16 are outlined below.

## Noise

In September 2014, guidelines for the assessment of noise impact ([EAG13](#)) were released. EAG13 aims to outline the EPA's expectations with respect to the requirements for assessing noise impacts from a proposal including complying with relevant regulations, the scope and methods of assessment. This includes guidance on how the EPA considers noise impacts when assessing a proposal.

## Preparation of an API – Category A

Released in January 2015, this guidance ([EAG14](#)) outlines the preferred structure and content of an environmental review document submitted by a proponent as part of the Assessment on Proponent Information (Category A) process. The aim of this guidance is to help proponents provide "clear and concise" documents that are focused on the key issues and which facilitate efficient environmental impact assessment by the EPA.

## Marine Environmental Quality

A draft guideline was released for comment in November 2014 outlining the context and approach to protecting the quality of the marine environment of WA (EAG15). This guideline outlines the environmental quality management framework to be followed when assessing potential impacts to the marine environment from a proposal. This EAG also aims to provide a framework that is consistent with national guidance, in particular the National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS).

## Referral of a Proposal

In January 2015, the EPA released [EAG16](#) which is a process based guidance document to inform proponents on the key steps and information requirements in relation to referring a proposal for assessment under Section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). This document highlights the need for "good" and sufficient information to facilitate a "clear, robust and timely environmental impact assessment".

In addition to the EAG series, the EPA provides a hierarchy of policy, guidance and technical documents ranging from outlines of the overarching policy framework to non-technical factsheets on environmental and administrative matters. Environmental consultants who might not have visited the EPA website for a while are encouraged to keep up to date with the guidance relevant to their area of expertise.

## Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools

Share your love of science and/or maths by volunteering.

CSIRO's Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools program has more than 40 teachers in WA who would like to welcome a scientist, mathematician or engineer into their classroom. If you can spare an hour or two a couple of times a term to share what you know about science and/or maths and how you use it in your work, then these teachers would love the opportunity to collaborate with you.

You will be part of a successful national program that creates long term, professional partnerships between school teachers and volunteer scientists and mathematicians. More than 140 SMiS partnerships are active in WA right now.

[Click here](#) for more information about Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools.

[Click here](#) to see where there are teachers available.

We are especially keen to offer partnerships to teachers in regional areas. If you work in a regional

area, let us know and we can facilitate a partnership for you with a local teacher.

**Scientists:** [click here](#) to register for the program.

**Mathematicians:** [click here](#) to register for the program.

Already visiting a school regularly? Formalise your partnership under Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools. Have your volunteering 'counted' and have the opportunity to meet and share ideas with other participants. Register using one of the links above and we'll do the rest.

Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools is a great way to help inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and mathematicians and quite a lot of fun too!

For more information please contact Sabine Schreuder, Project Officer WA, Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools on [SIS.WA@csiro.au](mailto:SIS.WA@csiro.au) or phone 08 6436 8595.

## ECA Events: Seen + Heard

### ECA Christmas Party 2014

*L to R: Dr Stuart Halse; Liz Barton; Nick Eveleigh; Daisy Scott; Mike Scanlon at the ECA Christmas Party 2014.*

It was great to see the turnout at our annual Christmas wind-up held at Zamia Café in King's Park last November. I'm always thrilled to see new faces at these events and, of course, the usual suspects too!





## ECA New Years Breakfast 2015

The ECA welcomed the New Year with our traditional consultants breakfast on 2 February. The long running event, now in its 28th year, was held on the banks of the Swan River at Burswood on Swan and we were once again greeted with a beautiful clear morning to start the day.

DMP. The ECA continues to enjoy a great relationship with regulators, who generously make their time available for our members at these events.

We look forward to seeing all our members at the New Years Breakfast next year as well as other ECA events throughout the year.



*L to R: James Lawton, Roberto Lujan, Justine Jones and Ben Howell at the ECA New Years Breakfast 2015.*

Over a breakfast of pastries and muffins it was a great opportunity to share stories and discuss the year ahead. While some discussed the outlook or current projects, most used the opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances, former colleagues and even competitors in a relaxed atmosphere.

The ECA was once again honoured with the presence of key senior representatives from government agencies, including Paul Vogel, EPA Chairman; Richard Sellers, Director General DMP; Anthony Sutton, Assessment and Compliance Director OEPA; Jim Sharp, Director General DPaW and Phil Gorey, Executive Director Environment



*L to R: John Trainer, Matt Cann and Matthew McDonnell at the ECA New Years Breakfast 2015.*

The ECA  
is seeking  
registrations of  
interest from  
environmental  
practitioners to  
participate in  
the very popular  
two-day EIA  
Practitioners  
Course and a  
one-day EIA  
Refresher Course.

## Upcoming ECA Events + Courses



### Calling for registrations of interest: Two-day EIA Practitioners Course and One-day EIA Refresher Course

The ECA is seeking registrations of interest from environmental practitioners to participate in the very popular two-day EIA Practitioners Course and a one-day EIA Refresher Course.

The two-day EIA Practitioners Course is intended for newer and less experienced practitioners wishing to gain a solid overview of the EIA process in Western Australia. The ECA will look to deliver this course in July 2015.

The one-day Refresher Course is aimed at practitioners who have already attended the two-day course and are looking to update their knowledge on the process, particularly in regards to recent changes. The ECA will look to deliver this course in late September to early October 2015.

If you would like to register your interest to participate on either of the courses please email Bec James at [admin@eca.org.au](mailto:admin@eca.org.au)

### OEPA Presentation: New Assessment Bilateral Agreement - **RSVP IMMEDIATELY!**

When: Wednesday, 1 April from 5.30pm

Where: King Street Room, Rydges Perth

**RSVP: Registrations closed last Wednesday but if you missed out please contact Bec James ASAP to see if there is any room.**

(See flyer on page 19 for more details.)

### OEPA Presentation: New Environmental Assessment Guidelines

When: Wednesday, 29 April from 5.30pm

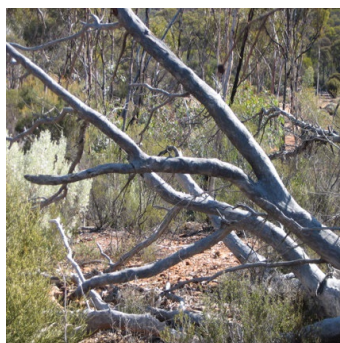
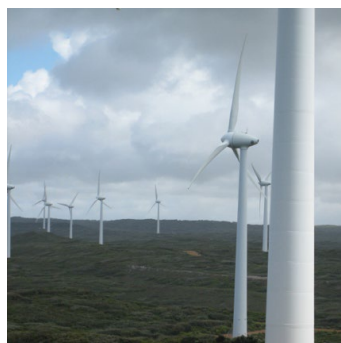
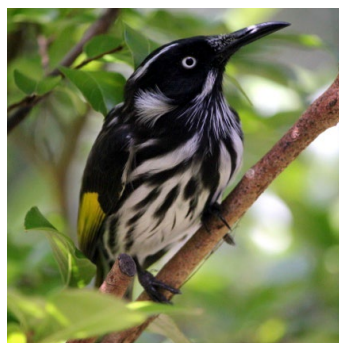
Where: King Street Room, Rydges Perth

RSVP: Wednesday, 22 April

(See flyer on page 20 for more details.)



## Briefing on the New Assessment Bilateral Agreement between the state of WA and the Commonwealth



**The Environmental Consultants' Association would like to invite you to a briefing on the New Assessment Bilateral Agreement between the state of Western Australia and the Commonwealth.**

The new agreement under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) was signed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2014 and commenced on the 1st of January 2015, with existing assessments transitioning to the new agreement on this date.

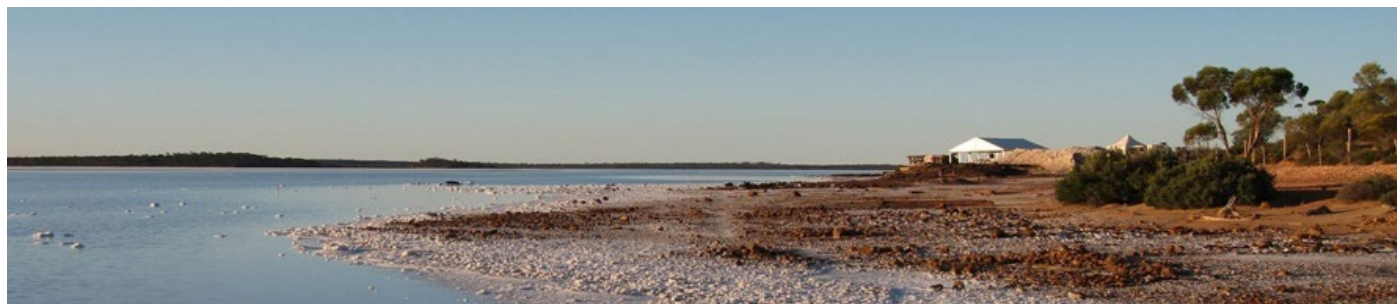
The briefing will include a presentation from by the Office of Environmental Protection Authority which will address implications to both Part IV and Part V of the Environmental Protection Act and will be followed by a Q&A session, and conclude with drinks & nibbles and the opportunity to network with colleagues.

**When:** Wednesday 1st of April, registrations from 5:30pm with drinks and nibbles to follow

**Where:** King Street Room, Rydges Perth, 815 Hay Street, Perth WA 6000

**Cost:** Members \$20 / Non-members \$30 (incl. GST)

**RSVP** at [www.eca.org.au](http://www.eca.org.au) by Wednesday 25th of March.



## Office of the Environmental Protection Authority

### New Environmental Assessment Guidelines



**Environmental Consultants' Association invites you to attend a presentation from the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority on new guidance material related to the Environmental Impact Assessment process.**

Presentations by senior OEPA officers on recent developments include:

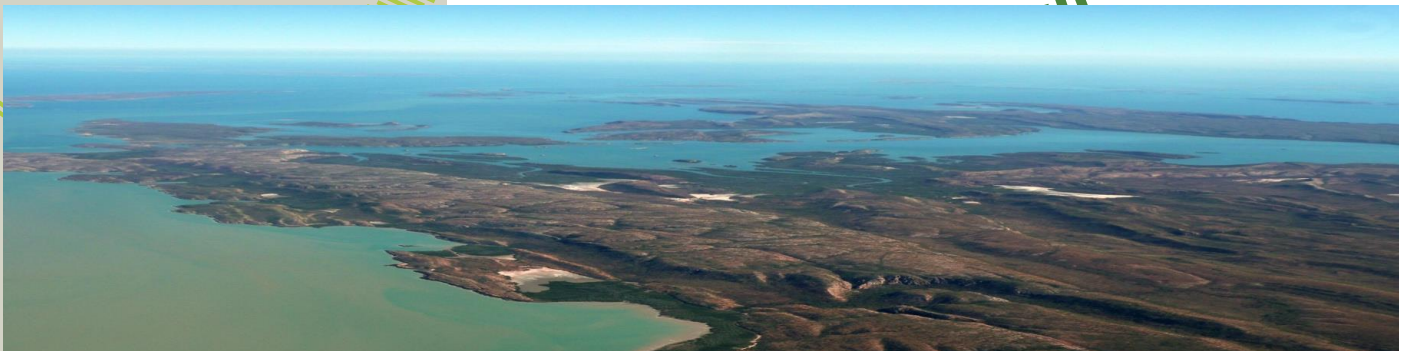
- New referral [FORM](#) and guidance ([EAG 16](#)) for referring a proposal;
- New guidance for proponents on preparing an environmental review for an API level of assessment ([EAG 14](#));
- Revised [EAG 8](#) Factors and Objectives;
- Revised [EAG 9](#) Significance framework in EIA;
- Proposed new guidance on environmental management plans (EMPs).

**When:** Wednesday 29th of April, registrations from 5:30pm with drinks and nibbles to follow

**Where:** King Street Room, Rydges Perth, 815 Hay Street, Perth WA 6000

**Cost:** Members \$20 / Non-members \$30 (incl. GST)

**RSVP** at [www.eca.org.au](http://www.eca.org.au) by Wednesday 22nd of April.







## Other non-ECA Events + Courses

### EIANZ National Conference: 28-30 October 2015

The Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) will be holding its annual conference in Perth with the theme *Challenging the Status Quo – Excellence in Environmental Practice*.

The pressure is on environmental practitioners to:

- manage the world's biodiversity hotspots and threatened species
- find new ways to build communities that are adapted and resilient to the consequences of climate change
- implement innovations in the repair of landscapes affected by poor agricultural, grazing and mining practices
- develop their knowledge of regulatory requirements and skills in the ethical and professional implementation of good practice environmental management

For more information visit [www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org)

### AIEA Conference 2015: *Beyond Borders*

The Australian Institute of Environmental Accounting (AIEA) conference is the premier annual forum for practitioners and users of environmental accounting. The event serves to update the sector with the latest research and information from industry, government and academia, and is a hallmark event setting the foundations for a dynamic and growing professional community.

Visit the [Conference website](#) for more information.

## Environmental QGIS Training

Gaia Resources is now running two-day QGIS training courses that focus on the environmental industry. The next course will be on 29-30 April 2015. For more details visit [Gaia Resources website](#) or email [training@gaiaresources.com.au](mailto:training@gaiaresources.com.au)