

ECA WA News

Winter Edition 2019



Save the date

**ECA WA
AGM 2019**

22 August



Photo courtesy of Kelli McCreery

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From the ECA President

Welcome to the 2019 edition of the ECA WA news. This annual newsletter is an opportunity for members and other key stakeholders to publish more formalised information to our membership base, and its production is facilitated by the committee and supported by our own editor. This edition is filled with a range of information that we hope you find interesting and useful, and to open, I take this opportunity to update you on the range of activities and initiatives that the ECA has been involved in over the past 12 months.

The new rules to replace constitution

As many of you would be aware, at our 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) a resolution was carried for the ECA to adopt its new rules in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (the Act)*. The intent of the Act is to provide

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The ECA WA committee meets monthly. Please contact committee members or Bec James if you would like to raise anything for discussion.

Editorial contributions welcome

The next editorial deadline for ECA News will be advised in the Weekly Email updates. Please email contributions to ECA News Editor, Jo Thierfelder at editorecanews@eca.org.au

ECA 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.

for more professionalism in the management and operation of associations in Western Australia.

All incorporated associations had until July 2019 to make any changes to ensure their rules address the schedule 1 requirements. The ECA chose to adopt the 'model rules' provided by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS), which greatly simplified the legal review needed to be compliant with the Act.

We also took this opportunity to remove outdated parts of the constitution and add clauses which better reflect the current and potential future operations of the ECA. In summary, the primary changes to the constitution included:

- Outlining the procedures for the resolution of disputes between members (or members and the ECA).
- Removal of the objective to support Western Australian owned businesses, which many of our current members are not, in part or whole. The ECA will, however, continue to be focussed on supporting the use of Western Australian based consultants.
- The addition of clauses which allow for designation of members as specialists and/or as accredited. This provides for any future consultant accreditation scheme, should this be driven by the State Government or the ECA.

A copy of the adopted rules can be found on the ECA website.

The future proofing symposium

Last November the ECA hosted a one day symposium entitled 'Mega Trends in Environmental Consulting in Western Australia', which brought together a wide range of speakers from the consulting sector, government, industry and NGOs to explore the key trends and drivers likely to affect the environmental consulting sector heading into the future. A particular highlight was the keynote speaker, London-based ERM CEO Keryn James, who provided a very informative outlook for the environmental consulting sector over the next five years from global, national and local perspectives, including growth trends and emerging opportunities.

The one-day symposium was a reinvigorated format for ECA and one that we are exploring doing again with other key topics in the future. Please be sure to let us know should you have any ideas for topics that you think would be of broad interest to the membership.

Last 12 months in summary

Over the past 12 months, the ECA has been involved in the following key activities:

- We have coordinated a number of casual member social / networking drink events.
- We held an evening seminar on the management of PFAS.
- We contributed to the SAPPR review, through an interview with the SAPPR review committee following on from our submission on the Green Growth Plan documentation.
- We organised and hosted the flora and vegetation in EIA symposium jointly with the EIANZ.
- We held an EIA practitioners course in partnership with EPA and DWER, which as usual, was very well attended.
- We organised and hosted the future proofing symposium.
- We have participated in the Department of Environment and Energy's (DoEE) regulated community engagement initiative with the first meeting held in Canberra in February 2019.
- We have continued to be involved in the EPA's Stakeholder Reference Group.
- We have participated in DWER's Regulatory Services Stakeholder Reference Group.
- We have initiated and participated in ongoing quarterly engagement between the ECA and DMIRS.
- We have participated in the DWER offsets framework review as part of the Stakeholder Working Group.
- We were invited to present at the AMEC Mining and Environment Forum in March.
- We have been involved in ongoing discussions with DWER in relation to the potential for a State adopted accreditation scheme for environmental practitioners.
- We have participated in the Waste Reform Advisory Group, which had its first meeting in April 2019.

The coming 12 months in advance

We envisage progressing the following key initiatives over the next 12 months, noting some of the items from the last 12 months will also continue for the next 12 months:

- While the offsets symposium we were planning had not gained the interest we were hoping in terms of potential speakers, we are considering how we might evolve this into a slightly different event.
- In collaboration with DWER, we intend to run the first ever environmental regulation (Part V EP Act) practitioners course.
- We have been exploring an event focussing on practitioner insurance.
- We have been liaising with DBCA in relation to a potential update on the implementation of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act*.
- We are coordinating with DoEE to have an informative session for members focusing on the *EPBC Act*.
- We are exploring the feasibility of running our first ever environmental art exhibition.
- We are still looking to develop an environment and planning practitioners course (i.e. the referral and assessment of schemes and scheme amendments) but this is still in the very early stages of development.

Thank you to outgoing committee members

It is important that we also acknowledge the efforts of two outgoing committee members, Stuart Halse and Jamie Shaw.

Stuart Halse stepped down from the committee during the year and played an important role on our membership sub-committee and also on a range of ECA advocacy and submission matters.

Jamie Shaw stepped down from the committee after a lengthy period of service including stints as

The committee would like to thank Jamie Shaw for his decade of service, which leaves a lasting legacy and inspires us all to continue in his footsteps.



Jamie Shaw (right) handing over the President's role to Jason Hick at the ECA AGM 2017.

both Vice President and President, and he was a great support to me in my early tenure as President. Jamie is taking some well-earned rest from the committee and we hope to still see him involved in a range of ECA activities going forward.

Thanks Stuart and Jamie; we greatly appreciate your service to the Association.

Upcoming AGM and call for new committee members

Finally, a reminder that our 2019 AGM and gala dinner is scheduled for **22 August**, and we are looking forward to seeing a big turnout of members, prospective members and invited guests. We will continue the new format of last year's AGM whereby we separated the AGM formalities from the gala dinner, which seemed to work well to maximise the social and networking opportunities of the gala dinner.

The activities of the ECA rely on the involvement and inputs of members who decide to step up and offer their time on the ECA committee. In the lead up to the AGM, I implore all members to consider nominating for the ECA committee. We do have a number of current committee vacancies. Also given our broader strategic intentions and objectives, the current committee is of the view that the association would benefit from having more committee members in order to better spread the load and progress various initiatives. Should you have any queries about the opportunities and what would be involved, please do not hesitate to contact me directly to discuss. We need more hands on deck, and fresh committee members bring fresh ideas, so please think about becoming involved.

A big thank you to a valuable contributor

By Damian Grose, ECA committee member

Past President of the ECA, Jamie Shaw, recently stepped down from the management committee, ending 10 years of invaluable contribution to the ECA. His efforts have helped transform the association by establishing stronger ties and credibility with regulators and other industry bodies and increasing the value of the association to members through various initiatives.

Jamie's tireless efforts included a three-year term as President, and the positions of Vice-President, Secretary and Committee Member. He was also involved with training, membership assessment, the ECA – DWER partnering agreement and Ray Hart scholarship sub-committees. He has represented the ECA on external committees such as the EPA Stakeholder Reference Group, Environmental Regulation Stakeholder Reference Group and the Environmental Data System Task Force.

His proudest achievement during his time in office was the co-ordination of a Bilateral Approval Consultation Workshop, which he sees as our most

successful effort in responding to a consultation process. Piers Verstegen, Paul Vogel, Gavin Price (BHP) and Michelle Andrews all presented their view of a Bilateral Approval arrangement and following a Q&A session, a very effective World Café style workshop, identified key issues and developed our response. Other notable achievements include participation in the Quinlan Review, the strengthening of relations with the EPA and DWER, and our involvement in the development of WABSI.

The committee would like to thank Jamie for his decade of service, which leaves a lasting legacy and inspires us all to continue in his footsteps.

The reclassification of *Typha orientalis* as a native species and its implications for land managers

By Damian Grose

In 2015, Greg Keighery and Steve McCabe published a critical review of early herbarium collections of the species *Typha orientalis* (Bulrush). Until this point, the species that dominates wetlands, rivers and drains in Perth and the South



The change in classification of *Typha orientalis* to native means a clearing permit is required to control the species unless an exemption applies.

West was considered a weed due to its invasive nature and was officially classified an introduced alien. Little did they know the impacts their review would have on land managers and the control of the species.

Until 1968, it was considered that a single species of *Typha* occurred in WA, *Typha domingensis*. However, according to their review of early records and specimens *Typha orientalis* was first collected in WA below Kings Park in 1839, shortly after first European settlement, and a decade before *Typha domingensis*. It was noted at the time that it was a major food source for the local Aborigines who ate the roots of the plant by making a type of cake from the tubers. This helped provide some level of control of the spread of the species.

Their conclusion was that from the available evidence that both *Typha orientalis* and *domingensis* should be considered as native Western Australian species. However, they did note that both species have weedy tendencies.

Shortly after this review, the status of *Typha orientalis* was changed from alien to native by the WA herbarium. While the change at the herbarium had little effect, the implications of the reclassification to wetland managers have been significant. Prior to the change, land managers were free to control the introduced species. However, as a native species it is protected under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*. Under the Act, it is an offence to clear native vegetation unless the clearing is done in accordance with a clearing permit or an exemption applies.

As this issue affects many, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) has recently released some guidance specific to the management of *Typha orientalis*. The information provides examples of instances where exemptions may apply and where Clearing Permits will be required.

Reference: Keighery and McCabe, 2015. *Status of Typha orientalis in Western Australia*. Department of Parks and Wildlife.


[Click here](#) to read more from the DBCA.

Marine offsets starting to deliver

Invaluable advice for consultants and regulators

By Ian LeProvost May 2019

Dredging is a critical and costly component of most major marine infrastructure developments in Western Australia's coastal waters. The ability to predict and manage the impacts of dredging is poor worldwide and Western Australia is no better placed in this regard. This resultant uncertainty has flow-on effects through subsequent approvals and regulatory processes and has delayed the granting



of approvals and subsequent final investment decisions and can lead to the imposition of monitoring and management regimes that proponents find onerous and costly.

In recognition of the critical importance of this issue, the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) established a specific research node dedicated to dredging-related research.

The Dredging Science Node has conducted world-class marine research to “enhance capacity within government and the private sector to predict and manage the environmental impacts of dredging in Western Australia” and in turn deliver outcomes to streamline and increase the certainty, cost effectiveness and timeliness of key approvals and regulatory processes.

The Node is funded from offset requirements from five different projects and the pooling of these funds has enabled a quantum of work that would not be possible if each offset was implemented independently and in isolation. At the launch of the WAMSI Dredging research node in 2013, the Premier noted in his media statement that this “is a sensible and practical way of using these funds to better protect the environment”.

With funding of about \$9.5 million from environmental offsets, and equivalent co-investment from research providers, the \$20 million program involved more than 50 scientists working to implement a science plan designed to enhance the capacity within both government and the private sector to predict and manage the impacts of dredging. This will then provide a sound scientific basis for the prediction of the likely extent, severity and persistence of environmental impacts associated with dredging.

The Governance of the Node includes both a node leader ‘science’ and node leader ‘policy’. The Dredging Science Advisory Committee includes contributing Industry partners, WAMSI, a representative of the ECA WA, key public sector recipients and is chaired by the EPA Chairman. This group is responsible for ensuring the outputs are fit for purpose and for providing a clear pathway for adoption through the EIA process.

This applied research is funded by Woodside Energy, Chevron Australia, BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto and the WAMSI partners ECU, UWA and CSIRO. The trusted across-sector collaboration developed through the WAMSI model has allowed the sharing of hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of environmental monitoring data, much of it collected by environmental consultants on behalf of industry. By providing access to this usually confidential data, the industry partners are substantially enhancing WAMSI researchers’ ability to determine the real-world impacts of dredging projects, and how they can best be managed.

Reports linked to the research themes listed below are now available on the WAMSI website at [Dredging Science Node final reports.](#)

Theme 1: Review and consolidation of available environmental data collected for dredging projects.

Theme 2/3: Predicting and measuring the characteristics of sediments generated by dredging.

Theme 4: Defining Thresholds and Indicators of Coral Response to Dredging Related Pressures.

Theme 5: Defining Thresholds and Indicators of Primary Producer Response to Dredging Related Pressures.

Theme 6: Defining thresholds and indicators of Filter Feeder responses to dredging-related pressures.

Theme 7: Effects of dredging-related pressures on critical ecological processes for coral.

Theme 8: Effects of dredging-related pressures on critical ecological processes for Finfish.

Theme 9: Effects of dredging-related pressures on critical ecological processes for Other Organisms.

An Excellent summary of the DSN’s findings and recommendations can be found in the soon to be released DSN Final Synthesis Report. This report will be an invaluable reference for consultants and regulators for many years to come.

It is imperative that all native seed collectors, managers, and consultants familiarise themselves with the new legislation.

Summary of changes to BC Act for native seed collection and supply

By Damian Grose, Tranen Revegetation Systems

On 1 January 2019, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018* replaced the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and the *Sandalwood Act 1929* and their associated regulations. The new licensing regime specifies licences for taking, disturbing, supplying, possessing, processing, dealing, importing and exporting activities in relation to flora and fauna.

It is imperative that all native seed collectors, managers, and consultants familiarise themselves with the new legislation. Some terminology has changed, greater clarity is provided for specific activities, and penalties for unlawful activity have significantly increased.

This article focuses on information for licensing relevant to seed collection and supply. It is not comprehensive and should be viewed as a guide only. Other activities such as flora surveys and fauna are licensed differently. Seed collectors and consultants are encouraged to do their own research and contact the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions with any queries and clarifications.

Key Definitions in the Act - Part 1(5)

The following definitions are the most important to those operating in the native seed industry as they determine the type of license required to lawfully undertake the activity.

Flora

A plant that —

1. belongs to a native species and is indigenous to the State unless the plant is determined by order under section 9(4) not to be flora for the purposes of this Act; or
2. is determined by order under section 9(3) to be flora for the purposes of this Act;

Take - in relation to flora includes the following:

- i. to gather, pluck, cut, pull up, destroy, dig up, remove, harvest or damage flora by any means;
- ii. to cause or permit anything referred to in subparagraph (i) to be done;

Supply – includes the following:

- iii. to sell;
- iv. to send or deliver for the purpose of sale or on sale;



Photo taken by Kelli McCreery at Yalgoo, WA

- v. to receive, or have in possession, for the purpose of sale;
- vi. to dispose of under a hire purchase agreement;
- vii. to give;
- viii. to send or deliver for the purpose of giving;
- ix. to receive, or have in possession, for the purpose of giving;
- x. to cause or permit anything referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) to be done;
- xi. to offer to do anything referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g)

Process - in relation to flora, means to obtain or produce a thing or substance of a prescribed kind from flora using a prescribed method;

Deal (in flora (s.177.2)) - ... a person deals in flora if the person conducts a business that involves the purchase or supply of flora.

New Flora Licensing System

Native flora (including flowers, seeds, whole plants, timber and firewood) is protected in WA. New licensing arrangements apply to taking, supplying, processing and dealing native flora (including flowers, seeds, whole plants, timber and firewood). Transitional arrangements ensure that any current *Wildlife Conservation Act* or Regulations licences continue to be valid until they expire.

The Commercial Purposes License (CP) and Commercial Producers License (PN) no longer exist and have been replaced by the Flora Taking (Commercial Purposes) Crown Land License, and the Private Land Suppliers license. The new titles clarify the actions that require licensing under the new legislation for the two land ownership categories. For example, on private land it is only the supply component that requires a license. The action of taking of flora on private land is exempt, whether commercial or otherwise, provided it is taken with the landowner's written permission. However, if the seed leaves the site for processing or sale, then this constitutes a supply event, and

The definition [of processing] in the Act has been reserved for activities such as wood carving, craft wood, wood chips, wood dust, oil extraction, and logged / sawn timber.

a license is required. If the seed is removed from site, processed commercially, and then 100% of the seed is returned to the landowner this is still considered a supply event and a Private Land Suppliers License is required. The Flora Taking (Commercial Purposes) Crown Land License covers both the taking and supply components.

Taking flora from Crown land for non-commercial purposes (i.e. research, education, art and hobby, specimen lodgement) still requires a license. This is the Flora taking (other purposes) Crown land license.

It is important to note that processing as per the definition in the Act does not apply to the usual process of extracting seed from fruit. The definition in the Act has been reserved for activities such as wood carving, craft wood, wood chips, wood dust, oil extraction, and logged / sawn timber. Therefore, no additional license is required.

The flora dealing license was a cause for concern for some prior to the gazetting of the Regulations. Dealing has been exempted under a Ministerial order for now, but there is a requirement for dealers to keep records for two years from date of purchase and to make them available to Wildlife Officers on request.

New penalties

Under the Act the maximum penalties for the unlawful taking of protected flora start at \$50,000 and can reach up to \$500,000 for individuals. Companies attract a 5X multiplier which makes the maximum penalty \$2.5 million.

The Regulations provide details of additional penalties for offences such as contravention of license conditions, providing false or misleading information, inadequate record keeping, etc. There are some prescribed offences that attract modified penalties for low level offences, which allow DBCA officers to issue on the spot fines rather than attend court. These are detailed in Schedule 9 of the Regulations.

References and links

[Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#)

[Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018](#)

[DBCA Licensing and Authorities website](#)

Engaging with the Department of the Environment and Energy

By Melissa Maly, DoEE

The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy has recently developed a strategic engagement plan to

guide engagement with the regulated community. This builds on the Department's commitment to continuously strengthen regulatory practice, through better tools and processes and through broader engagement, as outlined in the Department's Regulatory Framework (2017).

Targeted engagement plans have been developed to support regulatory engagement with key sectors who interact frequently with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This includes environmental consultants who, as professional practitioners working alongside a wide variety of other sectors, deliver technical expertise and help people understand regulatory processes.

As we begin implementation of the engagement plan, the Department will be working closely with the Western Australian Environmental Consultants Association, as well as other key industry peak bodies to identify better regulatory approaches and to help consultants operate effectively as important intermediaries working within the Australian environmental assessments system.

AMEC Environment Forum

By Harley Lacy

Long-time ECA member Harley Lacy spoke on behalf of the ECA at the Mining and Environment Forum in Perth on 7 March. The theme of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) forum was environmental management, rehabilitation and mine closure as it relates to a perceived negative public perception of the industry.

Sustaining the license to operate: An ECA WA perspective

In order to address the question of perception, Harley presented the findings of a survey circulated to ECA members (thank you to everyone who participated). Respondents included members that were both directly involved in mine management, rehabilitation and closure, as well as those that worked in other areas.

Harley also provided some international case studies that highlighted how important public



Harley Lacy addressing the AMEC Forum on behalf of ECA

perception can be in ensuring the success or otherwise of mining projects. He discussed the importance of effective and balanced regulation, and the need for industry to build trust by being consistent and standing by their policies and results that show continuous improvement. He finished by saying that while much had been achieved, there was plenty still to come.

Policy and regulation

State and federal governments were well represented on the speakers programme. The most consistent message from this sector was that the public had increasing expectations in the area of environmental regulation.

Federal Minister of the Environment Melissa Price advised how best to engage with federal EIA processes, including engaging early, not sugar-coating impacts, considering the costs of offsets early and not assuming that complex issues can be dealt with in post-approval conditions. She said there would be no compromise for high environmental standards in Australia. A focus this year federally will be the scheduled 2019 review of the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

Into the future
DWER will
be looking at
ongoing data
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scale.

WA Minister for Environment Stephen Dawson highlighted his government's intention to modernise the *Environmental Protection (EP) Act 1986* as well as plans to undertake ongoing revisions of sea, water and land guidelines. A \$3.3 million boost had enabled the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) services unit to employ more officers to deal with an increasing workload. He described the community's expectations of the EPA as increasing and pressing.

The Deputy Director General of Resource and Environmental Regulation at Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) Dr Phil Gorey stated that DMIRS main role was to provide safe, fair and responsible regulation. Policy reform areas included:

- environmental amendments to the *Mining Act 1978*,
- support for development of a WA Climate Change Strategy,
- implementing a potash brine policy ahead of potash mining and processing activity in WA, and
- supporting an extended strategic assessment of the Perth Peel Region.

He said WA has the best guidelines for mine closure and that all mines have a mine closure plan, with 40,000 hectares currently under rehabilitation.

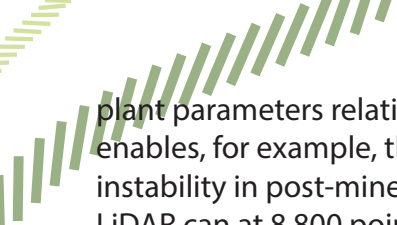
Mike Rowe Director General of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) reinforced that engaging early and providing quality submissions was the best approach to ensure an easier assessment. He said that into the future DWER will be looking at ongoing data collection and sharing, science-based decision-making and a focus on the environment at the landscape scale. Increased staffing has occurred and there would be a focus on training staff and consultants in 2019. Amendments to the *EP Act 1986* were also planned this year and a Water in Mining Guideline.

Mine closure, rehabilitation and monitoring

Dr Renee Young from the WA Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI) spoke on the WA Completion Criteria project, which is a collaborative project that will provide a framework to guide mine rehabilitation and monitoring. It is due for release imminently and will be the first published framework of its kind.

Principal Consultant, Closure Planning Alan Wright from MBS Environmental discussed the concept of 'in perpetuity' from an engineering perspective in reference to mine site rehabilitation and closure. How long is perpetuity? How do you plan for unknowns like climate change and changing expectations of society over the next 1,000 years, for example?

Adam Pratt from Soilwater Consultants demonstrated the amazing capability of ground-based LiDAR to model landforms, and soil and



plant parameters relatively quickly in detail. This enables, for example, the early identification of instability in post-mine landforms. Ground-based LiDAR can at 8,800 points per second, measure 10,000,000 points per hectare (compared to airborne LiDAR that may use 1,000 points per hectare).

Stacey Gregory from Mine Earth provided a case study for the rehabilitation of Atlas Mining's Pardoo Mine. Revegetation was used as the benchmark for success, with monitoring recording species richness, plant cover and weeds. She found that achieving successful outcomes required a careful selection of contractors, regular inspections, good documentation to ensure continuity, stakeholder engagement and adaptable closure criteria.

Also on the topic of revegetation, Troy Collie from Mt Gibson Iron described the process of translocating Threatened Flora *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma gibsonii*, including reinstatement into the post-mining landscape.

Emerging themes

Jess Li from MBS Environmental discussed the challenges of waste disposal and closure for emerging commodities lithium and potassium mining and processing, where solutions are still developing or to be developed.

Claire McGowan Senior Lawyer Mining Access Legal discussed the intricacies of mining within Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), highlighting that the state government Plan for Parks aims to add 5 million hectares to the conservation estate over the next five years.

Richard Phillips and Julie Mahony from Tellus Holdings discussed the Sandy Ridge Project north east of Koolyanobbing, where kaolin clay is to be mined and the resulting mine pit is to be used as a geological repository for Class IV (Hazardous) and Class V (Intractable) waste. While these facilities are not new, it is the first of its kind in Australia, with this type of waste currently stored or exported. This talk described a complex project from practical considerations through to issues of tenure and legacy. A selection of the presentations from the forum can be found [here](#).

Meetings of National Resource Strategy, WA Biodiversity Science Institute

By Harley Lacy

Completion criteria report

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and four WA universities collaborated to produce a completion criteria report, which will soon be released. It will provide a framework for developing site-specific, risk-based completion criteria and associated monitoring. While it is aimed primarily at the resources sector, the framework will guide industries that are developing new criteria or wish to improve existing systems such as in rehabilitation and ecological restoration activities.

More information is available [here](#).

National Resource Strategy

The National Resources Strategy (NRS) is a Federal Government initiative that builds on the recommendations of the Resources 2030 Taskforce commissioned by the Government last year to greater mobilise opportunities for the resource industry. It has five key themes:

- Deliver the most globally attractive and competitive investment destination for resources projects.
- Develop new resources, industries and markets.
- Invest in new technologies and approaches, especially to deliver better environmental outcomes.
- Create well paid, secure jobs.
- Support communities to ensure they receive benefits from the development of Australian resources.

In late March, the ECA attended a launch of the NRS by Professor Stephen Smith and Dr Erica Smyth at the WABSI offices in Perth. The NRS has a broad base of potential stakeholders with a focus

The Government's vision is to have the world's most advanced, innovative and successful resources sector, which delivers sustained prosperity and social development for all Australians.

on Australia's Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS). Mine closure was the focus of the meeting.

Growth Centres have been established in six sectors, which are part of a broad innovation policy. The Government's vision is to have the world's most advanced, innovative and successful resources sector, which delivers sustained prosperity and social development for all Australians. The Australian industry's mine closure and rehabilitation planning processes and practices form a key aspect of achieving this vision.

As many members are consultants to the industry, ECA will stay in touch with the process.

Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for achieving sustainable mine closure

As part of METS (within NRS), a core component is mine closure research. The many themes of research are briefly described in [this document](#). The application is broadly supported by industry (leading resource companies), government, not for profits and 15 research institutions, 13 of which are universities.

There is interest by some ECA member companies in the research themes, and some are participating. The request to establish the CRC is very advanced with a final draft being prepared for submission by the 1 July deadline. In early 2020 the group will see if they are successful. The CRC will operate over a period of 10 years and funding will support this large project with a possible total budget \$10 million per annum of cash and in kind personnel salaries.

Companies / consultancies are still encouraged to participate and get involved in different types of investment and research opportunities, as described in the document. [Email](#) Associate Professor Guy Boggs on for more information. We encourage you to review the document and get involved as submissions close on 1 July 2019.

Current progression of ISO Standards Mining Closure

Closure Terminology and Mine Closure Planning

By Harley Lacy

The Standards Australia Team, formed as a Mirror Committee (MN-012), comprises approximately 18 people and contributes to the international working group (ISO/TC 82/SC 7). Mine Closure is the core theme. The Chair of SC 7 is from France, Mr Christophe Didier, and the Chair of MN-012 is Dr Carl Grant. TC 82/SC 7 has been steadily working on draft standards for some four years and Australia for three years through MN-012 and via two working committees (WG1 and WG2). A number of ECA members in WA are in MN-012 on



Photo Story: Green + Yellow = Orange!

Photo competition 2019 entry by Bernie Masters. This green scarab beetle, probably a *Diphucephala* species, produces orange droppings while feeding on Hibbertia petals in the Ludlow tuart forest.

the working committees and Harley Lacy was the nominated member for the ECA.

ISO/CD 20305 (WG1) Mine closure and reclamation terminology

The Committee Draft (CD) has recently been moved through a voting process, posed as question: "Do you approve the circulation of the CD as a Draft International Standard (DIS)"? Most of the members from Australia (MN-012) voted for the draft to proceed to DIS which was subsequently confirmed with the majority of the 11 countries following suit. So the CD is approved for registration as DIS.

This means the document is moved from an internal CD draft into DIS phase, which will then

be distributed for comment to the member and observer countries. It will then move through another stage (Final DIS), then move to a publishable ISO standard in early 2020. Mr Hwang Sang-II (Korea) and Mr Darren Murphy are currently leading this task.

ISO/CD 21795 (WG2) Mine Closure and Reclamation Management Planning

This document also in CD draft has also recently been moved through the voting process. In this instance MN-012 submitted a "disapprove" ballot to ISO. Most of the members from Australia did not vote for the draft to proceed to DIS, requesting some restructuring and reworking. However, we were not successful as the majority of the 11 countries supported it.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has now formally moved to its new headquarters at Prime House in Joondalup.

So the CD will move to eventual registration as a DIS on 19 September 2019.

There has been some discussion with the Chair of MN 012 and the WG2 drafting group in Canada, (and local committee), to discuss the reasons for our not voting positively. The WG2 Drafting group has requested a person from MN 012 attend a drafting revision soon for two days in consideration of the Australian position and before issuing the DIS. Harley Lacy has volunteered to represent MN 012 and will travel to Canada to do this work.

However, the current document is approved in its current form over the next period, and will (as per the Terminology DIS), be distributed to member countries and observers for comment. Registration as a DIS process will be closed by September 2019, should then move over toward Final DIS and ultimately, to an ISO standard to be published in approximately September 2020. This task is currently led by Mr Kwon Soondong (Korea) and Mr Michael Nahir (Canada).

DWER update

By Ed Schuller, A/Executive Director, Regulatory Services, DWER

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has now formally moved to its new headquarters at Prime House in Joondalup. The official opening was marked by the Premier and Ministers' Dawson and Kelly amongst other dignitaries on 16 April 2019.

The event provided an opportunity for the Department to showcase the new offices to our stakeholders who left the event with a very positive view about the Department's people, work and terrific new facilities.

The Department continues to play a leading role in the Government's agenda of waste reform with a number of open consultations on waste initiatives such as single use plastics and waste levy related matters. Content can be found at <https://www.dwer.wa.gov.au/consultation>

In the regulatory sphere, a number of senior staff were able to attend a series of lectures by Professor Malcolm Sparrow. Professor Sparrow, of Harvard University, is an international expert on strategy, security and risk control, related to regulatory practice, compliance management and law enforcement. The series of lectures provided the Department with an opportunity to workshop and collaborate on ideas and themes with all state regulators who attended the events.

A number of steps have been taken in the Part V space with the imminent release of the Guide to Licensing and Guideline: Odour. These courses will be supplemented by the Part V training course which was developed in conjunction with Professor Angus Morrison-

Saunders, Dr. Jenny Pope (Integral Sustainability) and Megan Jones (PhD candidate – ECU).

The Department understands that there was significant interest shown in the recent Expression of Interest process and is excited about the prospect of participating alongside industry and consultants to achieve a greater understanding of the Part V process. The course will mirror the existing Part IV course and provide a number of opportunities for further integration and alignment of the primary environmental approval processes in the Department.

Finally, the opportunity for alignment is to be further expanded by the Department's leading role (with DMIRS) in the Streamline WA project. The project is to be led by Directors General Mike Rowe (DWER) and David Smith (DMIRS) and will focus on the regulatory processes in the state. The Streamline WA Steering Committee has held its first meeting where it noted 26 regulatory reform proposals submitted by CEOs of various State agencies, industry bodies and community organisations for consideration.

Stakeholder Reference Groups update

By Jason Hick, ECA President

The ECA is currently an active member of number of key stakeholder reference groups, including the following:

1. Environmental Protection Authority Stakeholder Reference Group

This Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) helps build constructive working relationships between the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and its stakeholders. The SRG members provide advice on the policies, strategies and processes that frame the EPA's work. The group has an informal liaison role rather than a formal advisory or decision-making role, and meets quarterly. A current key focus for discussion is the development of EPA greenhouse gas emissions guidance, which is out for public comment.

2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Regulatory Services SRG

This SRG discusses regulator performance, policy and reform within DWER.

3. DWER Offsets Framework Review Stakeholder Working Group

This working group was set up specifically to provide input to a review of the offsets framework being undertaken by DWER. The group has provided input regarding offset case studies, provided feedback on challenges and inconsistencies in the current offset framework and recommendations for future improvements. DWER is soon to release draft Offset Review Recommendations

4. EPA's review of *Technical Guidance for Environmental Impact Assessment of Dredging Proposals* Stakeholder Advisory Panel

The key role of this panel will be to oversee a review of the EPA's *Technical Guidance for Environmental Impact Assessment of Dredging Proposals* and incorporate the key findings of the Western Australian Marine Science Institute's Dredging Science Node (DSN).

5. DWER's Waste Reform Advisory Group

The purpose of this advisory group is to provide advice to the Minister for Environment on waste and recycling policy and legislation.

6. Department of Environment and Energy's Regulated Community Engagement, Environmental Consultants

The purpose of this forum is to enable better communication and engagement between the Department and environmental consultants who are involved with clients who are regulated under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Please contact the committee should you have any issues or queries that you think should be raised through the above reference groups.

Communicating some of the issues that affect consultant botanists, who might not otherwise be considered, is a large part of my motivation for involvement with the ECA.

What does the ECA do for me?

We recently asked ECA WA committee members to reveal their motivations for volunteering their time to represent the ECA in working collaboratively with government and industry to promote the environmental consulting industry.

1. *Why do you think it is important as an environmental consultant to be a member of the ECA?*
2. *What is it that you personally want to achieve through your involvement with the ECA committee?*

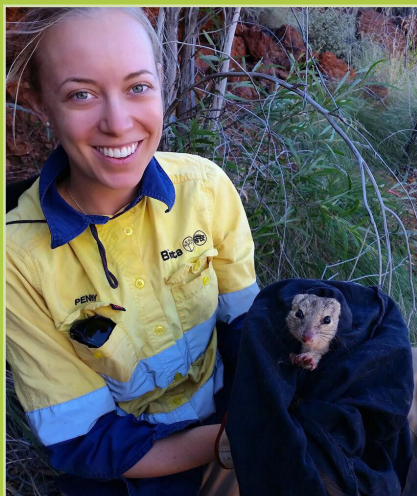
Laura Stevens, Strategen Environmental

I feel it is very important for individual consultants and environmental consultancies to be members of the ECA. I believe it is important to be part of the association that provides a well-regarded, considered and unified voice, which is heard not just in the environmental area, but also industry and government. As an association, we are one of the principal groups representing environmental practitioners, and the opinion of our members has an impact on policies, guidelines, procedures and progression of our industry as a whole.

On a more personal level, membership of the ECA and involvement with the ECA committee gives me an opportunity to be an active participant in one of the main professional bodies that represent our industry. We have a diverse cross section of backgrounds on the committee, which I believe gives a strong representation of the breadth of services our consultants provide. I feel I represent those in the Zoological / Ecological discipline and those with a large field-based element to their work. I have always volunteered in some professional capacity and believe that involvement on committees such as the ECA shows commitment to my career and development of the professional environmental industry. Membership of the ECA committee also gives me an opportunity to build my network of professional contacts to further my career path and my professional development.

Damian Grose, Tranen Revegetation Systems

In my view there are two main reasons to be a member of the ECA. Firstly, members of the ECA need to demonstrate that they are qualified through a peer review process before being endorsed for a particular service area. This gives proponents confidence that engaging an ECA member will result in them receiving competent advice. Secondly, given the recognition of the ECA from industry



ECA Committee members L-R: Damian Grose, Laura Stevens, Lisa Adams, Penny Brooshooft, Kelli McCreery and Jamie Shaw.

bodies and regulators, members stay up to date with industry developments, and are provided opportunities to contribute towards setting industry standards.

Over my time on various committees, I've come to learn that there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes, and that many hands make light work. The success and strength of an organisation depends on a few people who have the drive to make a positive difference to their associations. I participate in a small niche within the greater industry, and many of the issues the association faces I have had little experience with. While I may lack in specific knowledge, my goal is to provide support to other committee members in whatever

way that I can to reduce the burdens placed on them. This allows them to devote more of their time to addressing the key issues, instead of getting bogged down in administrative matters.

Kelli McCreery, One Tree Botanical

It is a good way to keep informed of what is going on in the industry through weekly newsletters and events. It is an opportunity to have basic representation of your areas of interest, by simply being on the membership. Particularly in an industry where there are many different disciplines involved.

Botanists and technicians in general tend to be under-represented in areas where decisions are

Contact the
ECA committee
if you would
like to advertise
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audience of
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400 industry
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being made that affect their work. Communicating some of the issues that affect consultant botanists, within the organisation and further afield, who might not otherwise be considered, is a large part of my motivation for involvement with the ECA.

Penny Brooshooft, Biota Environmental Sciences

When you are an environmental consultant, I think it is all too easy to become stuck in your own world of the consultancy for which you work and to view other consultancies as your competitors. While this may be somewhat true, it is easy to overlook the fact that other consultants are people exactly like you, often with similar degrees, interests and common goals. Therefore, the networking and training opportunities afforded by the ECA allow us, the consultants, to break free of our insular worlds and meet like-minded people, make friends, and most importantly, learn from others.

I have spent my career so far (nearly 10 years) at the same consultancy: something I am proud of, albeit a bit scared by! However, in line with my answer above, I want to learn more about this industry that I am part of, and I think being on the ECA committee is certainly offering me that.

Jamie Shaw - AECOM

ECA membership provides the opportunity to engage directly with our key stakeholders (the regulators) and keeps us up to date with the latest developments in our industry. The Member register is a great way to raise awareness of individuals' and companies' service offerings.

I joined the committee to help shape the way the ECA serves its members. I've always enjoyed the training and networking opportunities provided by the Association, and wanted to help ensure they remained valuable and relevant.

Lisa Adams - Eco Logical Australia

The ECA is great for networking and keeping up to date with what's happening in our industry. The ECA is considered a key stakeholder by regulatory agencies and I enjoy being involved in working with agencies on regulatory and policy reforms.

YECA 2018-19 wrap up

By Andreas Biddiscombe, YECA Committee

It's been a busy and exciting year for YECA. Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to.

What is YECA?

The young committee of the Environmental Consultation Association (YECA) was established in 2013 and is made up of a friendly bunch of Perth's newer environmental consultants who are supported by the greater ECA community. Our aim is to bring together younger environmental consultants, new to the industry, to network and socialise with others in their field and learn a little along the way.

YECA would like to thank long-serving and retiring committee member Ben Leonard for his significant contribution over the past few years, we wish you all the best. We are also excited to welcome two new committee members in Julijanna Hantzis and Jack Stanbury, who have already had a great impact on the committee.

Industry Career Nights

Over the past 12 months, we have run a series of Industry Careers Nights, each focused on a different aspect of the environmental consulting industry. Topics covered have included:

- Environmental Planning
- Mine Rehabilitation and Closure
- Construction Environmental Management

A range of experienced industry professionals from the private and public sectors presented at each of the events to speak about their career journeys and provide insight into their professional experiences, highlights and challenges, including discussions around interesting projects they had worked on along the way. It was great to see high numbers of attendees for all of the events, particularly recent and upcoming university graduates looking to

begin their professional careers. A big thank you to all of our industry speakers and attendees.

What's next on the calendar?

YECA will be continuing to host networking and professional development events into the future. We're currently in the process of confirming our event calendar for the upcoming financial year, so keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages for further updates.

ECA Photo Competition entries on Instagram

The ECA encourages its members to submit photographs for the annual photo competition through the website at [Annual Photograph Competition](#).

With our Instagram account now established, we will be working to better showcase these entries throughout the year. Search for [eca_wa](#) and follow us to enjoy all the stunning photographs our members take while out and about working across this incredibly diverse State.

ECA WA AGM 2019

Don't forget to mark your diaries for the Association's AGM, which will be held on 22 August 2019. Check the [ECA website](#) for more information as it comes to hand.