

MARIA PEDICINI MEIANZ DIRECTOR | ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS Joined the Institute in 1998

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Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc.

What prompted you to join EIANZ?

I was inspired to become a member by a guest lecturer (Patrice Brown) when I was an undergraduate at James Cook University of North Qld. As a student, I believed that it was important to have my qualifications recognised, have opportunities for networking, and be able to access information, news and professional development opportunities.

What do you value most about being a member?

Contributing to the profession and to EIANZ's evolution; and have EIANZ assist in my own continuous professional development and improvement.

Has being a member helped you develop mentoring relationships and/or extend your professional networks? Can you tell us about the impact these relationships have had on your career development?

Yes, it has helped me build invaluable relationships with mentors who I have gained with my involvement with EIANZ. My networks are wide and deep because of my membership and active involvement with EIANZ. These relationships have been fundamental to my career development, in the decisions I make, and how I approach my work and dealings as an environmental practitioner.

What do you find most rewarding about a career in the environment sector?

Aspects of my career in the environment sector include:

- Observing incremental changes in others' behaviour, culture and understanding in environmental matters
- Being able to work in an area that I have an interest and passion in
- Building relationships with individuals who inspire me, who are intelligent and who do great things.

What advice would you give to recent graduates just starting out in the environment sector?

Be prepared to be challenged in understanding and considering unforeseen and less obvious aspects of situations that you will be involved in. The environment sector is broad, involves many disciplines and your input, which will be important, will be a portion of the greater contributions from a number of others within, and outside of, the environment sector, and as part of a bigger picture. years

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