## 2018 Flora and Vegetation in EIA Symposium

(21st to 22nd June 2018)

### Day One

**Registration (from 8:00am)**

**Welcome Session** (8:30 – 9:30am)  
- Introduction by EIANZ & ECA  
- Welcome to Country  
- Keynote Speaker – *Adventures with surveys of Western Australia’s native vegetation for EIA* (Malcolm Trudgen, Consultant Botanist)

**Session 1 – Regulator Expectations** (9:30 – 10:30am)  
- *Flora and vegetation surveys in EIA – a whole of government approach* (Leanne Thompson - DWER)  
- DMA Q&A: DWER (EP Act 1986 Part IV and V administrative processes), DMIRS, DOEE

**Morning Tea (10:30 – 11:00am)**

**Session 2 – Community Expectations** (11:00-12:30pm)  
- *Community led Understanding of Flora and Vegetation Survey* (Bronwen Keighery – Chair Wildflower Society Plant Survey Committee)  
- *Western Australia’s Conservation and Parks Commission - protecting what we value.* (Professor Chris Doepel, PSM - Deputy Chair)  
- *Environmental law, impact assessment and the role of environmental consultants* (Declan Doherty - Principal Solicitor, Environmental Defenders Office of WA)

**Lunch (12:30 – 1:30pm)**

**Session 3 – Legislation Overview** (1:30-3:00pm)  
- *The Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Native Vegetation Clearing* (Denise True – Woodward Environmental)  
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Regulations Update* (Dr Ken Atkins – DBCA)  
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016: The sharp end of the stick* (Melanie Debenham – Senior Associate, Herbert Smith Freehills)

**Afternoon Tea (3:00 – 3:30pm)**

**Session 4 – Roles and Responsibilities** (3:30-5:00pm)  
- *Vision for a Biodiversity (and Environment) Shared Analytics Partnership in Western Australia* (Chris Gentle - Program Director, Information Management, WA Biodiversity Science Institute)  
- *The role of technical information in EIA* (Helena Mills - EPA Strategy and Guidance, DWER)  
- *Flora and vegetation surveys for impact assessment...in the real world...* (Garth Humphreys, Principal Ecologist/Director, Biota Environmental Sciences)

### Day Two

**Welcome Session** (8:30-9:00am)  
- Recap of Day 1  
- Plans for the Small group discussion

**Session 1 – Purpose and design of surveys** (9:00-10:30am)  
- *Towards meaningful significance assessments in EIA.* (Kelli McCready Consultant Botanist)  
- *The shady side of EIA: some personal experiences from NSW.* (Dr. John Hunter, Adjunct Associate Professor University of New England, Director Hewlett Hunter Pty Ltd and Envirofactor Pty Ltd)  
- *An end user’s perspective on vegetation surveys* (Mat Brook, Technical Director, Environmental Assessment and Approvals, GHD)

**Morning Tea (10:30 – 11:00am)**

**Session 2 – Taxonomy and Classification of Flora** (11:00-12:30pm)  
- *Taxonomy, the Western Australian Herbarium, and EIA: current linkages, works in progress, and future opportunities* (Dr. Kevin Thiele – Eubio Consulting & Australian Academy of Science)  
- *A part time taxonomists view of knowledge of the flora of W.A. and how that affects EIA* (Malcolm Trudgen – Consultant Botanist)  
- *An Age of Discovery* (Geoff Cockerton - Consultant Botanist)

**Session 3 – Analysis methods and tools - Identifying Vegetation Representation in a Regional Context** (1:30-3:00pm)  
- *Threatened Ecological Communities in Western Australia: present and future* (Greg Keighery – Chair Threatened Ecological Communities Scientific Advisory Committee)  
- *Vegetation classification – lessons learnt from analysing a 30,000-plot database* (Sarah Luxton – PhD Candidate, Curtin University)  
- *Who is classifying and what for?* (Dr. John Hunter)

**Afternoon Tea (3:00 – 3:30pm)**

**Session 4 – Soil Data in WA: narratives to modelling through strategic partnerships** (Ted Griffin, DPIRD)  
- *Fungi in EIA* (Roz Hart & Elaine Davidson)  
- Small Group Discussion: *Challenges and solutions to improving flora and vegetation assessments in EIA for WA*

**Symposium Closing**  
- EIANZ & ECA (5:00-5:30pm)  
- Sundowner (5:30 – 7:00pm)