



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

Careers in the Environment Night 2025

Meet our Panellists

Sarah Hart

Sarah is an ecologist with nearly 10 years' experience in natural resource management, including impact assessments, state significant developments, and long-term ecological monitoring in the NSW mining sector. She holds a Master of Science in Ecology and Zoology (James Cook University) and a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management (University of Queensland).



An accredited assessor under the BC Act (BAAS21026), Sarah is skilled in Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and well-versed in legislation including the EPBC Act, BC Act, and ACT Nature Conservation Act. Her skills include flora and fauna project design, delivery, and reporting for impact assessments and the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme, including Biodiversity Development Assessment Reports (BDAR).

Her field expertise includes vegetation surveys, mapping, BAM/BBAM plots, and threatened species surveys. She has also designed and managed long-term monitoring programs in the NSW Southern Coalfields, focusing on sensitive ecological systems and threatened species. She is proficient in fauna survey techniques such as spotlighting, acoustic detection, and trapping.

Sarah has led field teams and coordinated major infrastructure projects, providing strategic biodiversity advice grounded in both legislative knowledge and practical ecological experience.

Todd Brookes

Todd is a Principal and Environment Service Line Lead at bd infrastructure, with nearly two decades of experience guiding major infrastructure projects through complex planning approvals and environmental assessments. Todd has worked for large consultancies, boutique firms, and within government, giving him a well-rounded perspective on working environments across different organisations. Recognised as a leader in his field, Todd has played pivotal roles on transformative projects such as Sydney Metro West, Sydney Metro City & Southwest, NorthConnex, and the High Speed Rail Business Case. His expertise spans the full project lifecycle—from business case development to delivery—bringing strategic insight into the relationship between planning approvals, procurement, and construction. He is passionate about mentoring emerging professionals and sharing lessons learned with industry.



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Suzanna Remmerswaal

Suzanna is Group Leader – Impact Assessment and Planning, Sydney at AECOM. An engineer and planner by training, Suzanna is passionate about making spaces that are better for people as we adapt to our new climate. Suzanna has over fifteen years of experience helping organisations to better understand and manage risks and opportunities relating to climate change, community resilience and our low carbon future.



Allison Reynolds

Allison is a Project Hydrogeochemist and Senior Consultant with JBS&G in Sydney with over eight years' experience in contaminated land assessment and remediation across Australia and the US. She began her career as a uranium geochemist with the US Department of Energy before moving to Australia in 2022. With JBS&G, Allison works across the contaminated land, assessment and approvals, and auditing teams. Passionate about mentoring and collaboration, Allison enjoys supporting graduates, working with clients and stakeholders, and talking to anyone about the importance of field parameters and the collection of representative data.



Meet our Networking Guests

Martin Lee

Martin is a Senior Approvals Advisor with over 7 years of experience in the environmental sector. Martin has a strong experience working in Critical State Significant Infrastructure and Development projects, particularly in the industries of transportation infrastructure, energy generation and transmission. Martin have provided environmental planning, approval and on-site management advice and guidance for major infrastructure projects both locally and internationally, including Project EnergyConnect, Western Harbour Tunnel, Inland Rail Interface Integration Programme, and King Abdulaziz International Airport in Saudi Arabia.



Martin has a deep understanding of environmental planning, approvals, environmental management systems, environmental legislation and compliance in environmental design. This has empowered Martin to develop numerous Environmental Management System (EMS) and associated construction environmental management plans and post approval documents for multiple Major Critical State Significant Infrastructure and Development projects within New South Wales.

Martin's sense for environmental compliance responsibilities have propelled Martin to become a qualified environmental auditor and independent environmental certifier. Martin has undertaken numerous road infrastructure development audits for government departments.

Daniel Shutt

Daniel is an Environmental Advisor at Gamuda Australia, and is currently working on the Sydney Metro West – Western Tunnelling package. For over 2 years, his role has been to support the environmental planning, approvals, construction and compliance in civil and tunnelling delivery. He coordinates with 'on site' day to day personnel, industry stakeholders in contamination, ecology, heritage, noise and vibration and soil and water management. Daniel migrated from the UK 6 years ago where he spent 3 years as an ecologist, before work and travel experience across Australia, including environmental science in mining. He is passionate about the importance of supporting upcoming individuals interested in a career in the environmental field.



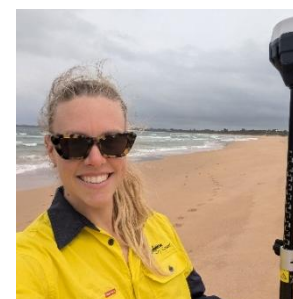
Sarah Bolton

Sarah is a Project Environmental Scientist at Epic Environmental and has over five years of experience in the contaminated land and remediation industry. Her role includes the development and implementation of sampling plans, interpretation and reporting of data, and developing and executing tailored site-specific remediation programs. Her day to day can range significantly but typically includes completing complex field investigations, to technical reporting or assisting a NSW EPA Auditor with technical, independent reviews of consultants' reports for regulatory purposes. Sarah has worked for a wide range of clients, including various construction contractors, property developers, government bodies, the mining sector and Defence across multiple jurisdictions in Australia. She has a deep appreciation of the pressures facing early career professionals and students and hopes this session will provide some valuable insights for attendees on potential career opportunities in the environmental industry.



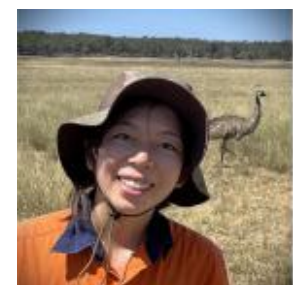
Braiya White

Braiya is an environmental scientist and coastal manager with qualifications in geoscience and maritime policy. She is currently working as a Coast & Estuaries Officer at Shoalhaven City Council. Prior to this, Braiya spent several years as a consultant environmental scientist and hydrogeologist/groundwater modeller.



Kacey Tada

Kacey has been developing a deep knowledge of NSW's flora and fauna and demonstrating strong skills in data analysis, report writing, and consulting. Since joining Eco Logical Australia, she has actively participated in numerous field-based projects, including targeted threatened flora and fauna surveys, long-term biodiversity monitoring, and aquatic macroinvertebrate surveys. As a Project Manager, she has led multiple ecological projects and been developing project management expertise focusing on coordination, planning, and stakeholder engagement.



David Bonjer

Principal Planning Consultant / Sydney Operations Manager – Eco Logical Australia

David is a Senior Planner with over 20 years of experience in urban development, environmental approvals, and strategic planning. He has extensive experience in stakeholder engagement, policy development, and regulatory compliance. David works with developers, government agencies, and private clients to facilitate sustainable development projects.

Elin Griffiths

Elin Griffiths is an Associate Environmental Consultant and Hydrogeologist at ADE Consulting Group, specialising in hydrogeological assessments of contaminated sites. She has over a decade of experience in both New South Wales and the United Kingdom, with particular expertise in landfill hydrogeology and brownfield redevelopment across the transport, infrastructure, and industrial sectors.

Elin's work focuses on environmental contaminant analysis, risk assessment, and the design and implementation of groundwater monitoring programs. She has led and contributed to a diverse range of contaminated land projects in collaboration with NSW EPA-accredited Site Auditors, providing scientifically robust and practical solutions for complex environmental challenges.



Alison Horlyck

Alison Horlyck is a Technical Director at GHD with over 16 years of experience in environmental and waste management engineering. Holding a Masters in Engineering Science (Waste Management) and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Hons), Alison is a chartered engineer who has been involved in a diverse range of waste management, remediation and environmental containment projects across Australia and internationally.

Her experience spans the full life cycle of environmental protection works – including investigation, infrastructure planning, environmental assessment and approvals, practical design development, management plans and compliance, construction phase support and supervision, and closure planning and remediation for contaminated sites and for domestic, hazardous and industrial waste containment sites – working in multi-disciplinary teams to develop bespoke solutions for public and private sector clients in the waste management, water, property, energy, mining and resource sectors.

Alison has contributed specialist insight to secure regulatory approvals for major waste infrastructure projects and in expert witness proceedings before the NSW Land and Environment Court. Passionate about mentoring and knowledge-sharing, Alison is excited to engage with the next generation of environmental professionals and share insights from her career in environmental protection.



Lauren Xuereb

Lauren is currently a Senior Environmental Planner in the GHD Sydney Environmental Approvals and Air and Noise business group.

She has over six years of experience as an environmental planner working across market sectors of waste management, resource recovery, road, rail and water infrastructure, and renewable energy. She is a knowledgeable author of environmental assessment reports and is experienced in obtaining planning and environment approvals under the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Lauren works with clients and stakeholders to minimise the environmental impacts of projects during the planning phase, and maximise their environmental, economic and social benefits.



As an environmental planner, Lauren leads small to medium teams of specialists and sub-consultants in conducting environmental impact assessments for projects across New South Wales. She is enthusiastic about mentoring and working with junior staff to develop their skills and knowledge and fosters a culture of continuous learning.

Lauren recently developed and delivered two conference presentations on the topics of managing community expectations when developing large-scale waste infrastructure and social licence to operate in the energy from waste industry at the EIANZ 2023 Annual Conference and the 2023 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association National Energy from Waste conference (co-presented with a colleague), respectively.

Cynthia Provoste

Cynthia is a Senior Climate Change Planning & Assessment Officer at the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

She began her career as a lawyer in Chile, where she specialised in environmental litigation following the completion of a Master of Environmental Law. Her work focused on Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes for major mining and public infrastructure projects. After five years in environmental law, Cynthia led a multidisciplinary team dedicated to resolving complex environmental disputes involving diverse stakeholder interests.



Driven by a growing interest in climate change, she pursued a Master of Science in Environment, which marked a transition into planning and approvals in Australia. Since then, Cynthia has contributed to a range of projects across government, consultancy, and the private sector, including renewable energy developments, infrastructure projects, and green hydrogen initiatives. She enjoys working in collaborative, multidisciplinary environments where diverse expertise leads to robust environmental outcomes.

Passionate about nature and sustainability, Cynthia is particularly interested in integrated approaches to climate change, where science, technology, law, and policy can develop inclusive and effective solutions across different levels of decision-making.

Fiona Gainsford CEnvP-IA +REAP FEIANZ

Fiona is a leading independent environmental consultant and sole trader. She has expertise in environmental impact assessment, environmental planning, environmental risk and compliance, NSW environmental legislation, climate change risks and opportunities, program delivery, and high-level facilitation with government agencies. She works across an extensive array of infrastructure projects in NSW including in the renewable energy, industrial, water and wastewater, quarries, transport, and services.



Michael Chilcott

Michael Chilcott is an environmental practitioner with experience in the fields of environmental impact assessment, environmental law, natural resource planning and management, protected area planning, environmental policy, community and governmental relations.

Michael's tertiary training is in the fields of natural science, resource management and economics. He has worked in Australia, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.



Immediately prior to his appointment as a Commissioner with the Independent Planning Commission, Michael completed a seven year term as a Commissioner with the Land and Environment Court (LEC) of NSW.

Prior to his appointment with the LEC, Michael worked for 20 years as a consultant in environmental planning and assessment, and he had a 15 year career in the NGO sector with WWF following his graduation.

He is a founding member, and past President, of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), the professional association for environmental practitioners. In 2020 Michael was appointed an Honorary Life Member (HLM) of EIANZ, the eighth HLM bestowed by EIANZ since its foundation in 1987.

Rob Beckett

Rob Beckett is a Senior Project Developer at FRV Australia, one of Australia's leading renewable energy developers. After graduating with a Bachelor of Environmental Management in 2016, Rob began his career with the NSW Department of Planning. Initially working on policy reform Environmental Impact Assessment, he then progressed to environmental assessment of major solar, wind, and battery storage projects across NSW.



Since transitioning from Government to project development in 2021, Rob has worked on the delivery of large-scale solar and storage projects across NSW, Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand, managing everything from environmental impact assessments to community

engagement and planning approvals. He's passionate about championing social licence and sustainable development, including leading First Nations engagement initiatives.

