

# ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### *24th & 25th July 2025*

Program:

*Avoid minimise mitigate: evaluation & justification of options*

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July

8.30 – 9.00	REGISTRATION	
9.00 - 9.10	Conference introduction & welcome	Andrew Lothian, ECA President
9.10 - 9.20	Welcome to Country	Christopher Halls
SESSION 1		<i>Chair - Elaway</i>
9.20 – 9.40	Assessment standards for avoid and minimise	Dr Vanessa Owen, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
9.40 – 10.00	Local Government perspective: Avoiding biodiversity impacts - what, why, when & how	Martin Fallding, Lake Macquarie Council
10.20 – 10.20	'Avoid and minimise' in practice – Lessons from the Land & Environment Court	Alan McKelvey, Partner, Sparke Helmore Lawyers
10.20 – 10.40	Session 1 panel Q&A	
10.40 – 11.10	MORNING TEA	
SESSION 2		
11.15 – 11.40	Vertebrate pest management for the environment and for production - putting knowledge into practice.	Matthew McNaughton, Local Land Services Agency – South East Region
11.40 – 12.00	The role of dingoes as apex predators in the Australian Alps.	James Vandersteen, recipient of the 2023 Ray Williams Mammal Research Grant
12.00 – 12.10	Introducing the Created Habitat Success Database	Corey Mead & Nara Williams
12.10 – 12.20	ECA of NSW Annual Wrap	Rebecca Hogan

<b>12.20 – 13.20</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>SESSION 3</b>		<i>Chair – Rebecca Hogan</i>
13.25 – 14.10	We contaminate rainfall twice in the urban environment, there is now a proven, at every level ‘at source’ solution to protect our water environments.	Craig Rothleitner, Founder & Director, ARI Water Solutions
14.10 – 15.10	From Source to Sea: Reframing Mitigation through Ecological Flows	Dr Pia Winberg
<b>15.10 – 15.50</b>	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>	
<b>SESSION 4</b>		
15.55 – 16.20	Building our knowledge of Southern Highlands koalas to inform local decision-making.	Casey Taylor, Wingecarribee Shire Council
16.20 – 16.45	Connectivity conservation for arboreal marsupials in a fragmented landscape	Ana Gracanin, ANU
16.45	Day 1 close.	
<b>17.00 – 17.30</b>	<b>ECA of NSW Annual General Meeting</b>	
<b>19.00</b>	<b>CONFERENCE DINNER</b>	

## Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July

<b>8.30 – 9.00</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	
9.00 - 9.05	Introduction & welcome	Andrew Lothian, ECA President
<b>SESSION 5</b>		
9.10 – 9.30	Staged Offsetting for Biodiversity Development Assessments	Ben Ellis, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
9.30 – 9.55	You haven’t complied with a guideline! What will the Land and Environment Court do?	Alan McKelvey, Partner, Sparke Helmore Lawyers
9.55 – 10.30	BioNet for NSW ecological consultants	Dani Murphy, Biodiversity Information Systems team, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; Product owner BioNet Vegetation Classification / BioNet Project Manager.

<b>10.30 – 11.00</b>	<b>MORNING TEA</b>	
<b>SESSION 6</b>		
11.05 – 11.35	From Innovation to Application: The Evolution of Drone Surveys in Australian Wildlife Conservation	Dr Chad T. Beranek
11.35 – 12.30	Practicalities of on-ground works, effectively stating what's needed and predicting the cost?	Darrel Davies, Liam Emmington, Will Thurston, Geraldene Dalby-Ball
<b>12.20 – 13.30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>SESSION 7</b>		
13.30 – 13.50	Building Integrity and Capacity : The Accreditation Reset Program – Work program deep dive	Carlie McClung, Principal Project Officer Accreditation Reset Program, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
13.50 – 14.10	Trophic effects of kangaroos on thick-billed grass wrens	Matt Smith, recipient of the 2024 Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Conservation Grant.
14.10 – 14.40	Cool burning for land management – understanding and reliability of outcomes	Noel Webster
<b>14.40 – 15.20</b>	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>	
<b>SESSION 8</b>		<i>Chair – Kat Duchatel</i>
15.20 – 15.50	Noise Impacts on Wildlife: Measuring and Mitigating Effects in the Field	Daniel Natoli, Managing Director, AKA Acoustics Pty Ltd
15.50 – 16.20	The latest from Vegetation and Biodiversity Mapping including Restore Trees NSW and AI	Dr Adam Roff, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
16.20 – 16.30	Conference Close	Andrew Lothian, ECA President

