



WABSI  
WEBINAR

# Closing the knowledge gaps

A progress update on the  
Subterranean Fauna Research Program



- **Thursday 27th May 2021, Online event**
- **3.00pm - 4.00pm** (Australian Western Standard Time)
- [Register here](#) to obtain Zoom login details

**Join us as we discuss research progress and the benefits to be delivered for Western Australia.**

Our panel comprises steering committee members representing the interests of all stakeholders including end users, researchers and policy makers. The steering committee helps guide program implementation to ensure research activities specifically address end user needs.



The collaborative, end user led Subterranean Fauna Research Program aims to dramatically improve the assessments of the impacts of resource developments and threat mitigation strategies on subterranean fauna by transforming our knowledge of patterns and processes in subterranean ecosystems.

## Facilitator

### **DR LESLEY GIBSON**

**Chair, Steering Committee, Subterranean Fauna Research Program  
Program Leader – Animal Science Program, Department of Biodiversity, WABSI**

Dr Lesley Gibson is a Principal Research Scientist with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) where she leads the Animal Science Program. Dr Gibson provides scientific leadership to a team that aims to better understand the factors and processes that are critical for the conservation of Western Australia's rich and unique native fauna.

Dr Gibson formerly led the Biogeography Program within DBCA and coordinated a major survey of the Kimberley islands as well as several other surveys in the State, and was the Program Director of Biodiversity Survey with The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute for three years on secondment. She also holds an Adjunct Associate Professor position at The University of Western Australia.

Throughout her career Dr Gibson has applied her research to complex conservation questions to help inform the effective protection of Australia's phenomenal biodiversity values.



# Panel

## DR MARK HARVEY

Member of Steering Committee, Subterranean Fauna Research Program  
Senior Curator of Arachnology, WA Museum, Adjunct Professor, UWA School of Biological Sciences

Mark is an internationally renowned systematist who researches the taxonomy and systematics of arachnids and myriapods. He is head of the Department of Terrestrial Zoology at the WA Museum, and oversees the largest arachnid collection in Australia. He has described 750 new species and over 80 new genera. Mark provides expertise to government, several committees and panels, and is a sought-after guest on ABC Radio, where he is known to listeners as 'Spider Man'.



## BRIDGET HYDER

Member of Steering Committee, Subterranean Fauna Research Program  
Manager – Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Bridget leads a group of ecologists including subterranean fauna specialists. Bridget and her branch are the primary providers of terrestrial biodiversity advice to the Environmental Protection Authority. Bridget coordinates the development of subterranean fauna policy in Western Australia.



## BRONWYN BELL

Member of Steering Committee, Subterranean Fauna Research Program  
Manager – Natural Resources, Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia

Bronwyn is a mining professional with experience in industry advocacy, policy development and significant experience in external stakeholder engagement across government, Traditional Owners, industry groups, NGOs as well as in management systems, auditing and assurance.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### THE BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE 2021

#### **Resilient Landscapes**

• **15–17 September 2021**

WABSI, together with Western Australian universities and others, brings together, researchers and practitioners across academia, government, industry and community to share scientific knowledge, biodiversity informatics and best practice in biodiversity conservation.

[wabsi.org.au](https://wabsi.org.au)