

BIG ISSUES IN BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE



Putting a value on nature: Environmental costs and policy

• **Thursday 23 March**

5.30pm – 7pm (Level Three Eastern Terrace, WA Museum Boola Bardip, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth)

IN-PERSON AND LIVE-STREAMED

This session will be held in person for local audiences and live-streamed for those who wish to join online.

Join us for a discussion on how the natural environment is valued by government, business, Traditional Owners, various communities and more. We'll ask our panel about the challenges of defining value and how it might be considered in a multitude of ways beyond economics. This event is jointly hosted by The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute and the UWA Public Policy Institute.

The 'value' of nature is culturally-dependent and socially constructed, as deeply historical Indigenous ways of knowing and engaging with Country as custodians do not rely on market value, costs and trade-offs, and political agendas.

How can we integrate the 'invaluable' into management decisions and policy budgeting? How do we account for the future invaluable quality of nature and its intergenerational costs in policy settings?

Our panel will discuss key findings from the State of the Environment Report 2021, the net-zero and 'nature positive' pledges and targets committed to by organisations and governments, ways of integrating Indigenous ecological and cultural wisdom, and harnessing scientific knowledge to inform nature conservation decision-making.

Nature and biodiversity is often considered invaluable and beyond a price tag, yet policy discussions concerning the natural environment often rely on placing a cost to action and inaction.

[Register here](#)

Speakers

PANEL

MICHELLE ANDREWS

Director General, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Michelle Andrews is an executive leader and environmental scientist with 30 years' experience in the public sector. Michelle previously led the Department of Communities and reformed the organisation's governance and integrity systems following a major fraud and corruption incident. Michelle has held executive roles within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, State Development and the former Department of Mines and Petroleum, where she focused on major projects, resource

development policy and strengthening relationships across government, industry and the community. She supports stronger partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and prioritises the development of individual leaders to create shared leadership capabilities across the public sector. When she has personal time out, Michelle is a keen walker and likes nothing better than pulling on a backpack and hiking trails in our great state.



JON CHADWICK

ESG Leader and Partner, PwC

Jon has helped many Australian organisations understand, define and take action on their ESG commitments to not only improve their impact but to also add value to their organisations. As part of PwC's Global ESG team, Jon is immersed in the latest trends and technologies that will shape the ESG landscape and impact Australian organisations. Jon is a member of the Steering Group for The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute's

groundbreaking Shared Environmental Analytics Facility; the Climate Leaders Coalition Scope 3 Playbook by CEOs for CEOs and the Climate Governance Initiative established by the Australian Institute of Company Directors in partnership with the World Economic Forum to raise awareness and knowledge of Australian directors on climate and biodiversity.



HEIDI MIPPY

Senior Project officer, Noongar Land Enterprise Group

Heidi is a Senior Project officer with the Noongar Land Enterprise Group, a grower group of Noongar land owners which supports members to develop economic opportunities. Heidi is a co-lead on the socio- economics theme at the ARC Training Centre for Healing Country, Board Member of Blue Beanie Projects, Treasurer of

Djidi-Djidi Aboriginal Women's Corporation, Chair of the Indigenous Working Group at the Forest Stewardship Council and a Board Member of the Rural, Regional, Remote Women's Network of WA. Heidi is grounded in her culture and finds strength, balance and guidance in her connection to boodjar (Country).



Speakers (cont.)

PANEL (cont.)



PROFESSOR OWEN NEVIN

Chief Executive Officer, The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute

Owen is an experienced conservation biologist and research leader. Owen's research work has focused on advancing the conservation of threatened species and their habitats through developing better management and understanding of behaviour and ecosystem function, and human impacts including ecotourism and resource exploitation. In conducting this work, he has applied a combination of behavioural, spatial and economic tools to gain novel insights into population processes.

Owen's previous positions include Head of the National School of Forestry (UK), Dean of Graduate Research and Associate Vice-Chancellor at CQUniversity Australia. Owen has served on the Society for Conservation Biology's European Board and on the Global Board of Governors. He was elected as a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London and appointed as Anniversary Visiting Professor of Conservation Biology at the University of Cumbria.

MODERATOR



PROFESSOR SHAMIT SAGGAR

Director, UWA Public Policy Institute

Shamit's 35-year career spans key roles in academia, government, regulation, commerce and philanthropy. Previous roles include Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Professor of Political Science at the University of Essex; Director of the ESRC South-East Social Science Network Doctoral Training Partnership; Director of the Policy Unit at the Institute for Social and Economic Research; and Senior Advisor in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, Cabinet Office; ESRC Knowledge Exchange

Fellow with HM Government; Professor of Political Science, University of Sussex; Reader in Political Behaviour at Queen Mary, University of London; Harkness Fellow at UCLA; Yale World Fellow at Yale University; and Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto. Shamit is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences and was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to social science and public policy.