



Biodiversity in riverine ecosystems

Impacts of extreme climatic events

- **Tuesday 13th October 2026**
12.00pm – 1.00 pm (Australian Western Standard Time)

ONLINE EVENT

[Register here](#)

Join us as we explore what an increasingly extreme climate means for riverine biodiversity, and how science can help inform more resilient approaches to managing these ecosystems.

Floods, droughts and heatwaves are becoming more frequent and severe, creating increasingly complex challenges for rivers and the biodiversity they support. This webinar will explore global evidence of how these events affect riverine biodiversity, from genetic diversity and species composition to ecosystem function and connectivity across river networks.

Our guest speaker, Professor Jonathan Tonkin, will discuss how extreme events can interact with other environmental pressures, including the growing concern around compound events where multiple extremes occur together or in sequence. The session will also examine emerging approaches for predicting biodiversity responses and what this means for future management.

Importantly, this webinar will explore why building resilience requires a shift from local, reactive responses towards coordinated, catchment-scale approaches, supported by long-term monitoring, better understanding of ecological legacies and stronger evidence about how ecosystems respond to compounding extremes.

GUEST SPEAKER



Professor Jonathan Tonkin

University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Jonathan is an ecologist working with freshwater ecosystems, leading a research team who work on some of the hardest questions in ecology such as, how populations and communities respond to disturbance, what resilience actually looks like in practice, and what our living world might look like in 20, 50, 100 years.

Jonathan is the author of [Predirections](#), a weekly newsletter which translates research thinking into accessible writing on biodiversity, climate and water.

FACILITATOR



Professor Owen Nevin

Chief Executive Officer, The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI)

Owen is an experienced conservation biologist and research leader and is the Chief Executive Officer of The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI). 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. Owen is a member of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia. 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.