



The State of Digital IA Practice - Webinar Series

Exploring Western Australia's Transformation to Digital Environmental Assessments

Webinar: Wed, Jul 13, 2022

This free webinar is the second in the *IAIA-Fothergill/TC Digital Impact Assessment Webinar Series*. The series delves deeper into specific areas and examples of practice as identified and discussed in their late 2021 report on *The State of Digital IA Practice*.

The webinar provides a deep dive into the power on data, digital analytics, and collaborative action in Western Australia, where a transformation to an over-arching digitally supported IA system is making significant progress.

The focus of the webinar is a presentation by Chris Gentle - Program Director for Biodiversity Data and Information Management at WABSI (Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute). Chris explains current progress on their work to enable digital transformation of IA via the Shared Analytic Framework for the Environment (**SAFE**) project.

SAFE is a "next-step" solution to use data and digital analytical tools to generate high quality and reliable predictive environmental information on the interactions and outcomes between WA's environment and multiple different types of development projects that are relevant to the region's economy. **SAFE** assists the analysis stage of both EIA and strategic assessments to provide confidence in environmental trends and predict contributions to impacts from different activity, a key aim being to use the new system to enable less need for development to be stopped by the application of the precautionary principle around cumulative impacts; instead, **SAFE** applies actual shared analytical prediction and

integrated monitoring to actively forecast, review, and manage the complex environmental inter-relationships in the region.

The final 20-30mins of the webinar are dedicated to a facilitated discussion with the Speaker by the Chair, with opportunities for delegates to pose questions.

Presenters

Chair: Josh Fothergill, Founder & Director – Fothergill Training & Consulting



Josh is the lead author of *The State of Digital IA Practice* launched in late 2021. He has regularly lead in-depth reviews into IA systems, including: the UK's Proportionate EIA Strategy (2017), Global EIA Accreditation Systems (2019), and Linking the Circular Economy & IA (2021). Josh founded Fothergill Training & Consulting to provide independent IA expertise and capacity building services. He previously spent a decade at the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA), co-authoring much of the UK's IA guidance over that period, and creating the award-winning EIA Quality Mark scheme.

Speaker:

Chris Gentle, Program Director - WABSI



Chris has over twenty years' experience consulting at a strategic level within the information management industry for natural resources and government sectors. He has specialised knowledge in developing and implementing location-intelligence strategies and leading ICT strategy and implementation planning for resource infrastructure capital projects. Chris has a focus on customer outcomes with his multi-disciplinary expertise gained through years of working in the data management and systems as well as the engineering services industry. Chris has been leading the WABSI efforts to digitally transform environmental assessment since 2017.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Science from The University of Western Australia, a Graduate Diploma in Technology Management and an M.B.A. from La Trobe University.