



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**

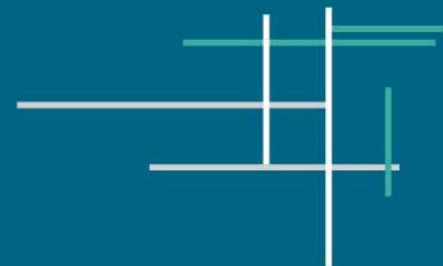
Session Proposal: Let's Talk About This – Evolution or Revolution for IA
(Session ID 79)

Being Agile: Evolving IA in a Changing World

(Abstract ID 287)

Anthony Sutton, Donna Weston and Angus Morrison-Saunders

April 2019





Overview

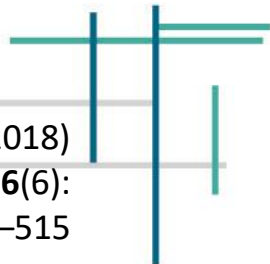
- Let's Talk About This – Evolution or Revolution for IA!
- A Changing World - global megatrends and challenges
- IA in Western Australia – a case study
- The Challenge of IA process efficiency
- The Challenge of IA Communication and participation
- Conclusion – Key Learnings and Application





Let's Talk about this – Evolution or Revolution for IA

- Discussion Paper by Banhalmi-Zakar et al. (2018)
- Evolution - “....gradual development of something, especially from a simple to more complex form”
- Revolution - “....calls for a complete, wide-reaching, and radical change that, by definition, typically means overthrowing the existing methodologies (systems) and establishing a new approach”
- We are practitioners working within an existing IA system
- Our approach is about accelerating evolution





A Changing World - global megatrends

- Global Megatrends in IA
 - rapidly changing demographics
 - rapid urbanisation
 - accelerating technological innovation
 - global power shifts,
 - resource scarcity
 - climate change.





A Changing World - global challenges

- Retief et al. (2016) propose four challenges for IA practitioners arising from the global megatrends
 - i. Dealing with complexity and uncertainty
 - ii. Dealing with significance
 - iii. Dealing with efficiency
 - iv. Dealing with communication and participation
- Two of these regarding ‘dealing with efficiency’ and ‘dealing with communication and participation’ are the specific focus of our paper.





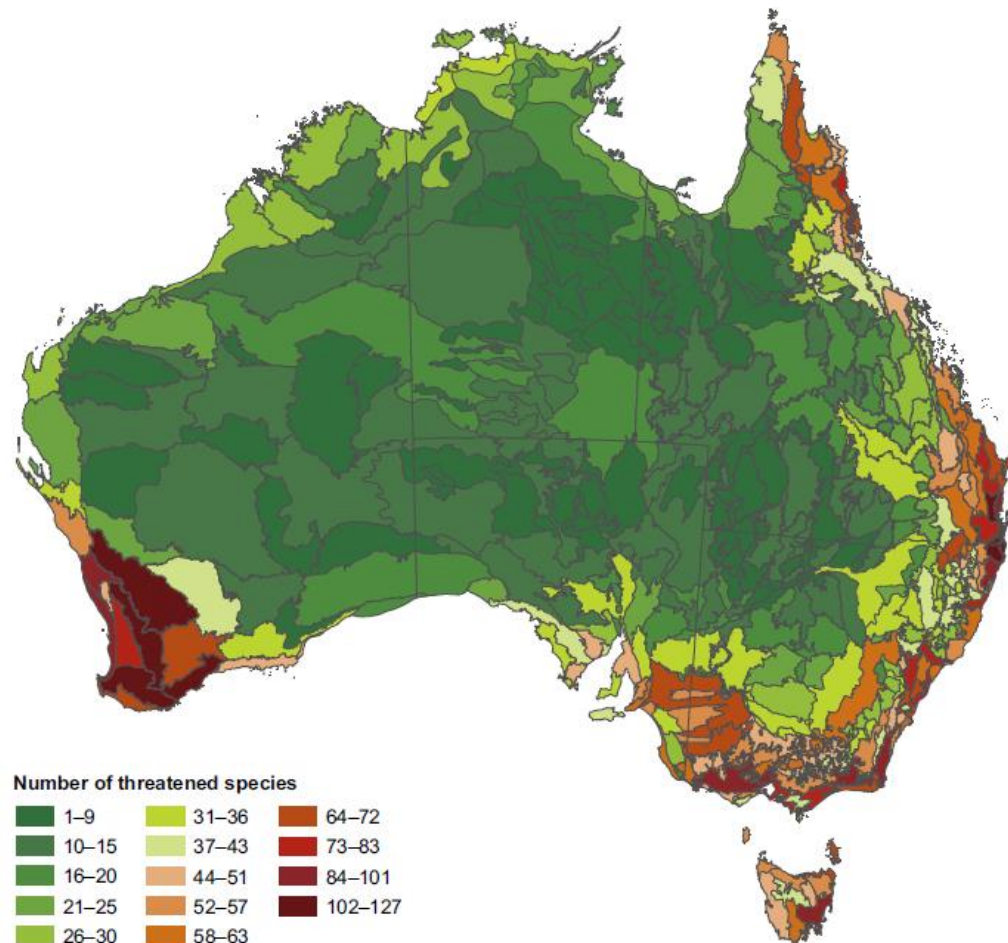
IA in Western Australia – a case study

- WA is a biodiversity “hot spot”.
- IA process “....contains the vast majority of the characteristics of an effective IA system” (Wood, 1999).
- Independent EPA.
- *EP Act* provides broad IA process.
- IA details in procedures, manual and guidance material.
- EPA can adapt the IA process details to be more agile.





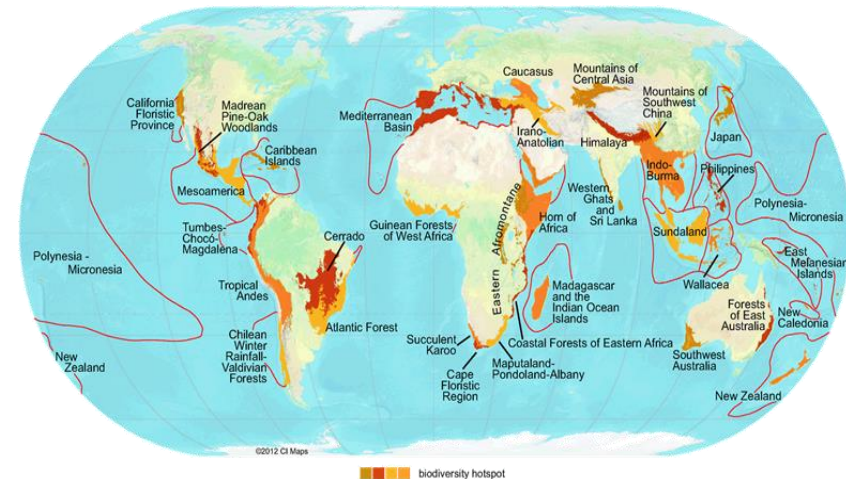
IA in Western Australia – a case study





A Changing World - global challenges

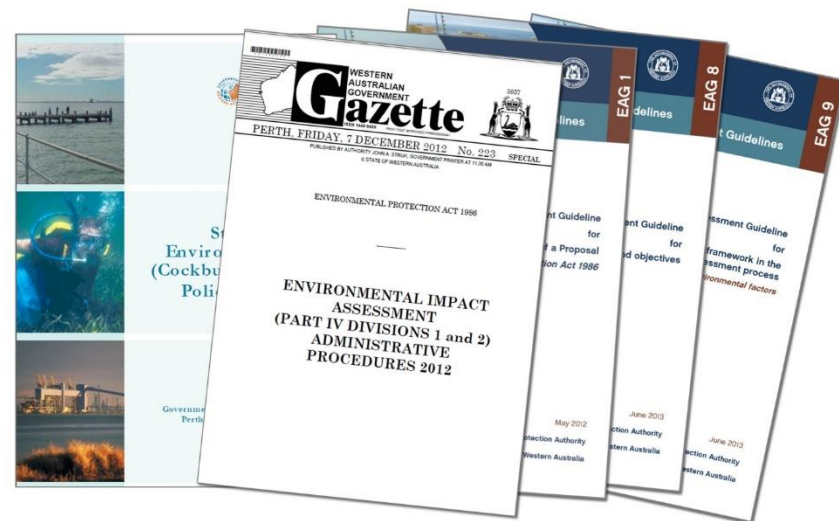
- Challenges for IA practitioners arising from the global megatrends
 - i. Dealing with complexity and uncertainty
 - ii. Dealing with significance
 - iii. Dealing with efficiency**
 - iv. Dealing with communication and participation





The Challenge of IA process efficiency

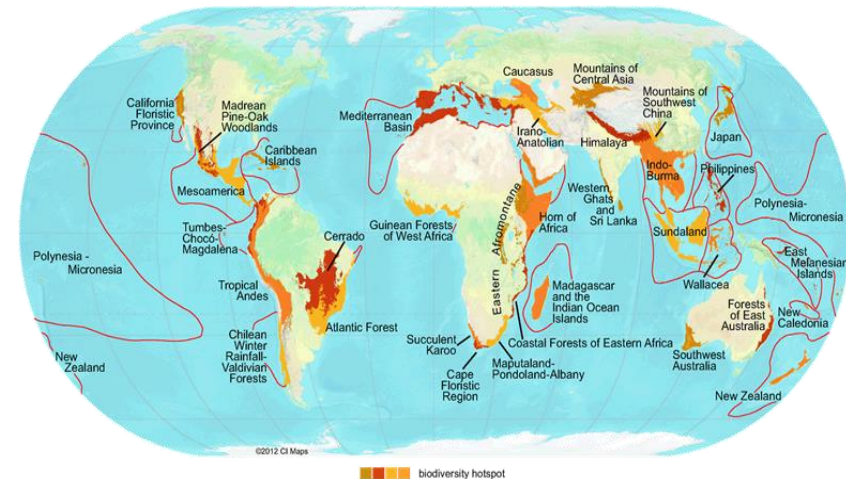
- Being cost-effective and efficient are two basic principles for international best practice IA.
- Practical examples from WA:
 - Legal Certainty for IA
 - Flexibility in IA
 - Trust in IA
 - Strategic and Cumulative IA
 - Digital Information for IA
 - Future Agility in IA





A Changing World - global challenges

- Challenges for IA practitioners arising from the global megatrends
 - i. Dealing with complexity and uncertainty
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 - iii. Dealing with efficiency**
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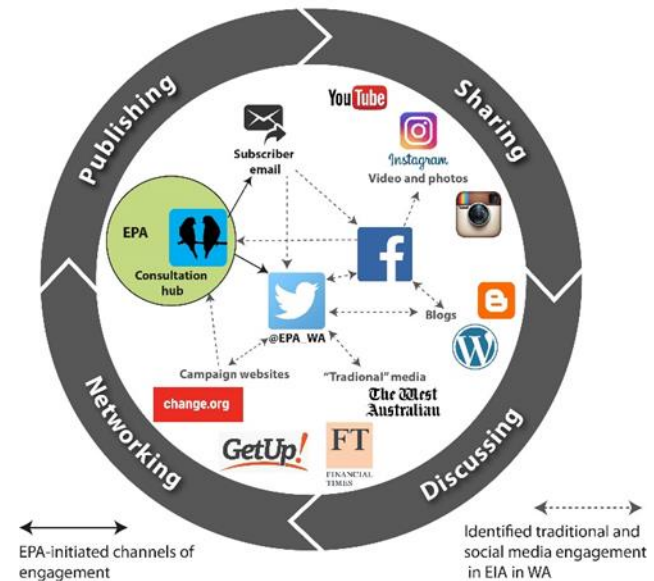




The challenge of IA communication and participation

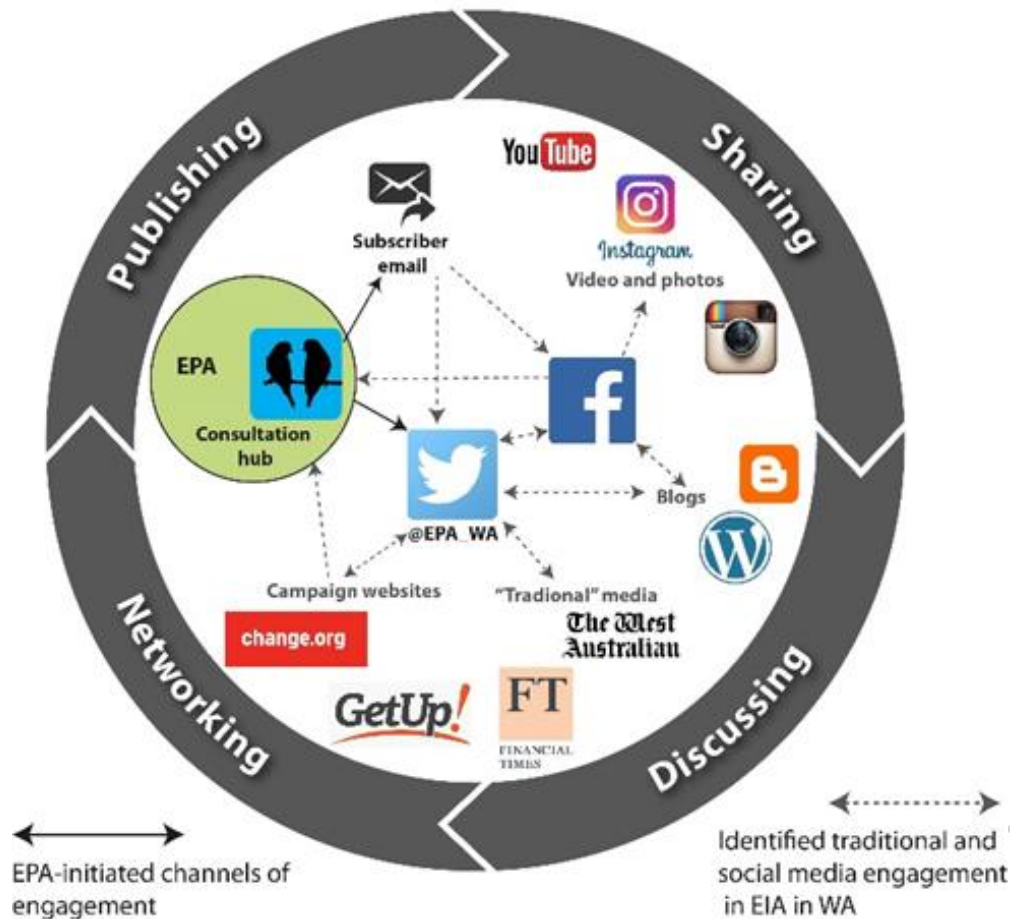
- Central item is the EPA's "Consultation Hub".
- Twitter used to inform public and stakeholders.
- EPA monitors Facebook and blogs to enable response.
- Increasing use of on-line campaigns by e-NGOs.
- Effective campaigns are supported by detailed analysis and practical solutions.

WA Approach to Social Media in IA.





WA Approach to Social Media in IA





Delivering a one-stop-shop service



Water Licensing

- ✓ Apply for a water licence
- ✓ Manage my water licence
- ✓ Submit data for an application
- ✓ FAQs and Exemptions

Water Online
Services



Environmental Regulation

- ✓ Apply for a licence and works approval
- ✓ Apply for a clearing permit

Industry Regulation

Clearing Permits



Environmental Assessments (EPA)

- ✓ Submit a referral to the EPA
- ✓ Submit a request to amend a proposal/conditions

Environmental
Impact
Assessment Guide



Contact us

If you require multiple assessments or are unsure of what you require for your project please contact us

Contact us



Conclusion

- The Western Australian experience shows that evolution in IA processes can be achieved through:
 - i. legally robust, yet flexible “fit for purpose” IA
 - ii. strategic approaches to IA processes and outcomes
 - iii. new digital approaches, replacing bulky, wordy documentation
 - iv. technological innovations in web design and social media
 - v. engendering trust in IA
- And....the challenge is to ensure these evolutions in IA continue to keep pace with a rapidly changing world.





Thank you

IAIA 19 Award



Regional Award

The Western Australia Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) was selected as the recipient of the Regional Award for its sustained contributions to good practice in impact assessment in Australia, visible through its pro-active and pioneering work in developing policy and guidance material.