

## Quarterly Report

### First Quarter – January to March 2019

#### 1 Progress summary

- Formation of the new ecosystem science council and election of officers.
- Two new communication pieces publicly available on ESC website; election statement and submission to agricultural enquiry.
- Purchasing guidelines completed.

#### 2 Governance

##### Ecosystem Council membership

New council members were announced following a successful election at the end of 2018. The new members are Rachel Standish, Susanne Schmidt, Mark Lonsdale and Dan Rogers, and began their term on council 1 January 2019.

New office bearers elected: Chair: Glenda Wardle, Deputy Chair: Alan Andersen, Secretary: Bryony Horton, Treasurer: Noel Preece

The current membership of the council is: Glenda Wardle (Chair), Alan Andersen (Deputy Chair), Bryony Horton (Secretary), Noel Preece (Treasurer), Steve Morton, Pauline Mele, Anita Smyth, Dan Rogers, Susanne Schmidt, Rachel Standish.

##### Terms of Reference

ESC Terms of Reference were reviewed and updated to give council flexibility for reappointing officers.

##### Meetings

Monthly ESC meeting held 11 Jan, 8 Feb, 3 Mar.

Secretary circulated notes from joint ESA/ESC meeting held at ESA conference November 2018.

#### 3 Communication and engagement

##### Publications and submissions

Agricultural sector submission was completed and published on the web -

<http://ecosystemscienceplan.org.au/Submissions-pg32793.html#Agriculture>

Election message and engagement plan developed and published on the ESC website

<http://ecosystemscienceplan.org.au/2019-Election-Message-pg32810.html>. Was also distributed to all political parties for comment.

#### 4 Finance

##### Income and expenditure

As per business plan ESC to transition to independence through generating own income. To enable this transition a funding framework will be developed.

## Purchasing

ESC purchasing guidelines were developed and endorsed.

## 5 Progress against Key Directions

### Maximising impact -

- Joint meeting between the ESC and National Marine Science Council hosted by Australian Academy of Science. A joint working group was formed between ESC and NMSC. One idea was to pursue a joint project of case studies showing monitoring and its benefits for the environment.

### Supporting Long Term Research –

- A new approach to seek and secure long-term funding was inspired through consultation workshops at ESA 18 that involves developing a national system of long-term biodiversity research with the non-government sector as they own, manage and study a significant portion of Australia's landscapes.

## 6 Forward planning and priorities

Progressing the ESC funding framework.