

<p>Open Panel Discussion on "Challenges, Barriers & Solutions to improving NZ Freshwaters".</p> <p>Hosted by Jon Harding</p>	<p>The discussion could be in the form of about 5 panellists, who would be asked to present up to 5 challenges/barriers/problems which hinder our ability to improve NZ freshwaters. They would also be asked to suggest one realistic solution to each challenge/barrier they identify. These challenges/barriers might be anything e.g., lack of strategic freshwater priorities, specific threats to ecosystems or species, challenges with water management, funding models, legislation, political interference, lack of research and include anything that limits practitioners, researchers, consultants, citizen scientists etc from investigating & solving freshwater issues in NZ.</p>
<p>Open Panel Discussion on "What do decision makers need to hear and not hear from expert witnesses".</p> <p>Hosted by Rich Allibone & Mike Freeman</p>	<p>For freshwater scientists starting out or long in the tooth – learn how to be a good expert witness. Sooner or later you are likely to be asked to report or give evidence to a council or Environment Court hearing. It is important that you understand the process and how scientific information fits into the legal and planning framework. It is particularly important that you understand your duties under the relevant Expert Witness Code of Conduct. This session will provide guidance on how to prepare for hearings and Court, evidence statements and answers questions to ensure your information is delivered appropriately, and is considered in the decision-making process.</p>
<p>Open Panel Discussion on "Professional Wetland Scientist bodies and their role".</p> <p>Hosted by Swapan Paul</p>	<p>The Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) established its Professional Certification Program (PCP) in the early 1990s. The program certifies Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS) and has been a very successful initiative that supports thousands of wetland professionals who make tremendous contributions in the wetland and allied sectors. Due to its reputation, there has been an increase in the demand for certification. To ensure the quality and integrity of the program are not compromised, the application process remains robust yet accessible to a diversity of wetland professionals from across the world. The PCP has been making efforts to expand the program internationally through its globalization initiative and now has certified wetland professionals in Asia, Oceania, Europe, South America, and North America. The global outreach has developed a greater momentum in recent years.</p> <p>It is, however, acknowledged that current and/or potential certificants often face several barriers in the certification process, including issues around diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the workplace. This Workshop will cover three major components: PCP Globalization initiatives and outreach; DEI explained, with examples of actions PCP is taking to enhance DEI, and support services for participants; and PCP Certification and application process and tutorials. With SWS and PCP now expanding its horizon, and the opportunity for wetland scientists from Asia to find out more about becoming a Professional Wetland Scientist, this Workshop is a fantastic opportunity to sit down in small groups and tease out small but important challenges to becoming certified under the PCP.</p>