

Vanessa Bain

Project Manager / Ecologist



Vanessa Bain has worked as an ecologist with Cumberland Ecology for two years and has excellent communication skills and relations with clients and government bodies. As a project manager, Vanessa manages flora and fauna assessment and related report writing for a range of projects, including environmental management plans, and flora and fauna assessments with related Section 5A assessments and Part 3A assessments of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as well as referrals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

EPBC/DEH Experience

Vanessa has been involved with a number of large and complicated projects being assessed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Through this experience she has developed a high level of understanding of this process and the consultation which is involved.

Vanessa has worked on complex and ongoing assessments that are required for controlled actions to obtain approval. In particular, she has negotiated with Major Assessment Officers of the Environment Assessment Branch of DEH in regard to conditions of consent, and communicated progressions of the fulfilment of these conditions to the officer and the client throughout the process.

Areas of Expertise

Recent consultancy work has included:

- Investigations for flora and fauna impact assessments, including consultation with a number of State and Federal Government Agencies including NSW Department of Planning, Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Natural Resources, and

Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage;

- Development of bushland management plans with focuses on threatened species habitat management, weed control and bush regeneration;
- Pre-demolition fauna surveys and supervision of building demolition and fauna rescue; and
- Kangaroo and Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby census and presentation of management options.

Fields of Competence

- NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*
- NSW *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, particularly Section 5A and Part 3A
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Biodiversity issues, flora and fauna field surveys, biological monitoring and environmental impact assessment.

Key Industry Sectors

- Urban development
- Natural Resources
- Power
- Transport

Education

B EnvSci. Australian Catholic University 2004.

Key Projects

Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment

Vanessa is managing Part 3A assessments of both terrestrial and aquatic environments for a tourist development at Eden on the far south coast. Vanessa has undertaken many assessments for subdivisions, particularly for

development of the former ADI site at St Marys in Western Sydney, and in the Blue Mountains, including sustainable development outcomes which incorporate environmental protection.

Vanessa was involved with the extensive study and documentation for the TransGrid Wollar-Wellington Species Impact Statement. Through this assessment she gained knowledge of the biota of this area, near the Great Dividing Range.

Management Projects

Vanessa has been involved with major macrofauna population monitoring projects, including monitoring Endangered Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies for the Coffs Harbour Clarence Valley Regional Water Supply project and associated consultation with DEH to satisfy conditions of consent, and kangaroo census and management for the Department of Defence. Vanessa has developed management plans for threatened species, endangered ecological communities and weed control for conservation trade-off areas in Pacific Palms and the Blue Mountains.

Vanessa has developed protocols for fauna protection during demolition processes, and performed pre-demolition fauna surveys, supervision of building demolition and fauna rescue for approved developments at the St Marys Project Site.

EPBC Act Assessments

Vanessa has been involved with the full EPBC Act assessment process as a declared controlled action for the Coffs Harbour Clarence Valley Regional Water Supply Project, which was approved and began construction this year. This project involved extensive Species Impact Statements for aspects of the development, assessing a large number of State and Commonwealth listed threatened species. She was also involved in the preparation of the extensive management plans, and implementation pre and post approval.

Vanessa has contributed to a number of referrals under the EPBC Act, including the TransGrid Wollar-Wellington Powerline EIS, Medallist Residential Development EA, and the Richmond Road extension EIS by RTA which has not been completed.

Vanessa has been involved in the preparation of a referral and subsequent documentation for a controlled action project, the Cooks Cover redevelopment. Vanessa performed extensive desktop reviews of previous studies and plans for this site, and contributed to assessments and associated management plans.