

State Design Review Panel Biographies

Indigenous Chair, Biodiversity and Environmental Science

Curtin University

Professor Stephen van Leeuwen is a botanical ecologist, executive manager, and respected Indigenous leader with links to Country in Busselton and Margaret River. He builds collaborative relationships with Traditional Owners and other land managers to co-deliver novel enduring outcomes for biodiversity conservation, bio-cultural land management, and the stewardship of Country.

He is the inaugural BHP Chair of Biodiversity and Environmental Science at Curtin University and has a diverse research pedigree developed over 40 years of applied research, principally in the rangelands (Pilbara and Western Desert) and the Kwongan sandplains of the south-west.

Professor van Leeuwen is the Director of the Australian Research Council Training Centre for Healing Country and Deputy Leader and Senior Indigenous Facilitator for the National Environmental Science Program's Resilient Landscapes Hub. He is a member of the Federal Environment's Indigenous Advisory Committee, Threatened Species Scientific Committee, and Botanic Gardens, and Park Authority; and Chair of the Murujuga Rock Art Sector Reference Group and Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation.