

PESA FEDERAL CHAIRMAN REPORT

Year Ended 31 December 2024

In the current rapidly changing national energy landscape PESA – Energy Geoscience remains focussed on promoting professional and technical excellence in all aspects of energy geoscience. Over the last few years, the society's scope has broadened from petroleum exploration to include 'geo-energy' – geoscience aspects of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), gas storage, natural hydrogen and geothermal energy.

The PESA Federal Board remains strongly focussed on creating more value for all PESA members by ensuring that we continue to deliver cost-effective, relevant and innovative services and products in this time of these rapid and dramatic global-national scale changes impacting Australia's energy resource sector.

In order to achieve this, a comprehensive survey was sent to members to inform the planning day, and thanks again to members who provided valuable feedback. The Board then spent a day meeting in person in October 2024 to review and update the society's strategic plan using survey feedback. The new PESA Towards 2030 Plan is built on our society's values: integrity, professionalism, technical excellence, innovation and accountability. It will help guide the Board over the next 5 years as PESA continues to navigate this rapidly changing energy landscape.

The makeup of the PESA Board changes every two years as the roles of President, Treasurer and Secretary rotate around the State Branches. This year the Federal Executive roles move from the Western Australian Branch to the Queensland Branch. I'd like to thank Helen Debenham (President), Janny Spilsbury-Schakel (Vice President and President-Elect) and Chris Watts (Treasurer) for their hard work and massive contributions to our society over the last two years. Helen will continue on the Board as Past President, replacing Bronwyn Camac whose 6 year term as a Board member has now finished.

I'd like to welcome new Board members from the Queensland Branch: Treasurer Kim Owen and Secretary Rachel Kieft, and welcome our new Vice President Matthias Densley from SA Branch. State Presidents make up the other members of the Federal Board and I would like to thank them all for their contributions over the last 2 years. It's worth re-stating that that all PESA Federal Board and State Committee members are volunteers, there are no paid positions and that these volunteers are working hard to deliver:

- monthly technical branch meetings,
- national fortnightly webinars,
- website,
- online bibliographic database of digital PESA papers and publications,
- courses,
- technical conferences,

- field trips,
- social sporting events,
- networking events,
- a monthly email newsletter,
- prizes and scholarships for students, and
- awards: Distinguished Service Award, Meritorious Service Award and the Barry Goldstein Award for Innovation, Communication and Collaboration.

I'd also like to thank Association Professionals for providing excellent administrative services to the society. When I joined PESA in 1985, volunteers (who all had day jobs) handled all of the administration – from stuffing flyers into snail mail envelopes (no email back then) to send to members to taking minutes and paying accounts. Having expert administrative support frees up Board members to focus on the strategic issues the society is facing.

I am looking forward to meeting the new team and working together over the next 2 years.

Elinor Alexander
Chairman