Nomination for Award 8: Outstanding Leadership by a Woman

Nominee: Ms Victoria Lazenby

Role of Nominee: Associate Technical Director, Arcadis Australia Pacific, Melbourne

Arcadis Australia Pacific is proud to nominate Ms Victoria Lazenby for the ALGA Outstanding Leadership by a Woman Award.

Victoria is a highly respected Technical Expert and leader in the fields of environmental research, environmental chemistry, human health risk assessment and ecological risk assessment. Victoria has more than 15 years' professional experience in the contaminated land industry, with project experience across a wide range of industries including oil, legacy waste sites, petrochemical, government, agriculture, property, defence, firefighting, energy generation, gas and mining.

Victoria's expertise is recognised by her status as an accredited ACTRA Risk Assessor and Fellowship with the Australian College of Toxicology and Risk Assessment.

Victoria is an outstanding leader and satisfies all of the judging criteria relevant to this Award. Our response to each of the three judging criteria is provided below.

a. *Demonstrated involvement in advancing the knowledge of peers in the industry*

Victoria is dedicated to, and passionate about, advancing the knowledge of her peers. She actively mentors junior professionals, proactively contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the industry and provides voluntary support across several technical expert working groups and committees.

Victoria is also a voluntary Sessional Lecturer in Environmental Health at La Trobe University since 2013, developing and delivering content on environmental health risk assessments, health, air and catchments. This voluntary role demonstrates Victoria's ongoing commitment to advancing the knowledge of her peers and upskilling the industry.

Victoria is also a member of the ALGA Emerging Contaminants committee and has contributed to the organisation and delivery of PFAS technical sessions at EcoForum in both 2016 and 2018, and Clean-Up in 2019. She has also developed a webinar on human health and ecological risk assessments, which will be accessible to all industry members and regularly shares her learnings at Australian and international conferences.

b. *Demonstrated achievement in advancing industry regulations*

Victoria regularly collaborates with regulatory agencies across Australia to review, contribute to and advance industry regulations. In 2019, she reviewed the regulatory approach to off-label pesticides for the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), and worked with several regulatory agencies to better understand the risks associated with waste streams, to aid in the development of improved waste guidance. This includes:

- QLD Department of Environment and Science (DES) –
  - o Victoria developed a revised list of waste threshold criteria for assessing solid and liquid waste. This advice was adopted by DES as new state threshold values.
  - o Victoria assessed the risk associated with compost feedstocks to support the development of improved guidance on compost materials and use.
- VIC EPA –
  - o Victoria completed an assessment of exposure pathway risks for 50 key waste types to guide the EPA in focusing new waste regulations on higher risk waste types.

Victoria is also an active participant in the regulatory review and consultation processes for new guidance and has helped developed responses for documents such as the NEPM (2013) and NEMP (1.0 and 2.0).

c. *Demonstrated success in their role on a project involving remediation*

As a risk assessor, Victoria assists in the process of refining the scope and optimising the scale of remedial works to manage the human health and environmental exposure effects associated with

contamination. This often prevents unnecessary remediation and results in more environmentally protective project outcomes at a lower cost.

Throughout her career, Victoria has held several critical roles during remediation projects. In 2014, she addressed 'Case Study A' of the Auditor General's report into the contaminated land industry in Victoria. Specifically, she led the community engagement and risk assessment of 19 residential properties constructed on lead impacted casting sands used to fill an old quarry. Her work identified significant potential risks and she successfully developed a risk-based remedial approach following direct community engagement and stakeholder consultation. The project was highly successful and well-received by the community, who were happy with the level of engagement and consideration of their community concerns.

Between 2015 and 2019, Victoria developed site closure, ecological and human health protection criteria for the Woodvale Evaporation Pond Complex (WEPC). Her work involved an assessment of multiple future land use scenarios (agriculture, public open space, ongoing mining uses), and exposure pathways such as off-site dust migration. This project was subject to major community interest and benefited significantly from Victoria's innovative approach to effective site management.

Victoria also used advanced tools such as BioVapour to create risk models at service station sites in regional VIC. She is currently working with an Auditor and regulator to apply statistical approaches to the assessment of soil vapor data and petroleum impacts in groundwater.

In summary, Ms Lazenby is a highly respected, internationally regarded and recognised leader in the field of risk assessment. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership in her field and is a worthy recipient of this award.