

# Kate Cranney

Communications and engagement specialist, scientist, artist  
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## Summary

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I am a communications and engagement specialist with 18 years' experience across research, not-for-profits, industry, consulting and government, with a recent focus on energy projects. As a subject matter expert in sustainability and science communication, I manage projects, synthesise and communicate complex technical information, build stakeholder relations, and connect people, ideas and organisations for positive impact. I have a track record of successfully training technical professionals to communicate their work to diverse audiences.

## Skills

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### Subject matter expert on the interface of science, industry and stakeholder engagement

- Master of Science (Distinction), and dual Bachelor of Laws / Environmental Science (Honours) graduate
- Wide-ranging networks across science, industry, government and not-for-profits in Australia and abroad
- Solid understanding of international, national and state environmental and climate change laws, policies

### Communication of complex technical content

- Communication strategy development and implementation
- [Translation](#) of complex technical and scientific information for different audiences
- Exceptional [writing skills](#), including reports, briefing notes, policy documents, digital content, features
- Pitching stories to journalists and building media networks
- Confident and [engaging public speaker](#), presenting to both internal and external audiences
- Delivery of storytelling, media and social media training to scientists and senior management
- Capacity to quickly learn and adopt new communications techniques, tools, and technologies

### Stakeholder engagement, people management and leadership

- Demonstrated ability to quickly identify and build relationships with diverse external stakeholders
- History of building strong internal relationships: for example, I promoted 800+ scientists' work, at CSIRO
- Proven ability to lead high-performing teams, and to create supportive, collaborative workplace cultures

### Program and project management

- Self-starter, accustomed to handling multiple projects, tight deadlines and competing priorities
- Strong organisational skills, including delivery of high-impact national communications campaigns

## Employment

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### CAREER BREAK | Jan 2025–Aug 2025

A long-planned, eight-month adventure spent hiking in Chilean Patagonia, exploring Scotland by bike and boots, and cycling-touring 2500 km over three months, through Austria, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, France and Switzerland.

### THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAM'S RESILIENT LANDSCAPES HUB | Sept 2023–Dec 2024

#### Communications Manager, Perth

- Led a team that supported and showcased the work of 50 diverse research projects across Australia
- Responsible for strategy oversight, project and team management, reporting and managing budgets
- Substantially increased editorial, media, social media output and impact during my tenure, e.g. [this story](#)
- Built strong relationships with 300+ research partners; led the liaison with the Ministerial comms team

### FREELANCE COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT | 2022–2023

- Managed communications strategies, content and coaching for several public and private agencies
- Led communications and media for remote expeditions, e.g. a [deep-sea voyage](#) to Cocos (Keeling) Island

### CSIRO | 2019–2022

#### Communications Advisor for Energy, and Land and Water divisions, Corporate Affairs, Melbourne, Brisbane

- Delivered communication campaigns for 800+ scientists across two divisions: Energy, Land and Water
- Pitched stories to media, resulting in high pick-up. [A release on turtles and AI](#) won a Mumbrella Award.
- Wrote and edited articles, managed issues, coordinated content-creation. Editor of two CSIRO blogs.
- Ran Australia-wide media, social media and storytelling training for CSIRO scientists and executives

## Employment: continued

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### INTERNATIONAL SPECIALISED SKILLS INSTITUTE | 2018–2018

#### International Fellow through the George Alexander Foundation

- Awarded one of five International Specialised Skills Institute fellowships
- Learned best-practice science communications and media practices from leading science agencies (including museums, aquaria and NGOs) in Africa, Europe, Canada, and the USA over 10 months

### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY | 2016–2018

#### Science Communicator (Melanesia Program), *Brisbane, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands*

- Created educational materials, reports, web stories and films on Indigenous ranger groups in the Pacific
- Coordinated the inaugural 'Nature's Leading Women' training event for 30 Indigenous women rangers

### BUSH HERITAGE AUSTRALIA | 2015–2016

#### Science Communicator / Science and Conservation Systems Officer, *Melbourne*

- Communicated BHA's science using engaging storytelling, film, and social media content
- 'Reporter in the field' for expeditions to the Simpson Desert and Tasmania: writing stories, making films
- Reviewed monitoring reports, wrote reserve scorecards, and wrote stories for the web and print media

### RMIT UNIVERSITY | 2015–2017

#### Research Assistant, Centre for Urban Research, *Melbourne*

- Entomologist on an insect ecology project between RMIT University and the City of Melbourne
- Pitched, illustrated and co-wrote [a popular, highly-regarded kid's book](#) about the urban insect research

### TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY | 2011–2013

#### Project Officer, Land and Sea Management Unit, *Waiben (Thursday Island), Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait)*

- Managed the expansion of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge database to new islands
- Facilitated the finalisation of new Indigenous Protected Areas
- Organised community meetings, liaised with 55 rangers, coordinated management trips to remote islands, and managed contracts, budgets and reporting. Built strong cross-cultural communication skills.

### QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES | 2007–2012

#### Policy Officer, Water Allocation and Planning, *Brisbane*

- Wrote strategic policy and supporting documents for amendments to Queensland's water legislation

## Education

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- **Master of Science (with Distinction)**, University of Melbourne, 2014–2016  
Majors: Communication, Botany, Modelling  
Overall result: High Distinction (82% Weighted Average Mark)
- **Bachelor of Law (Honours) / Environmental Science**, Griffith University, 2006–2010  
Majors: Environmental law, climate change law, Indigenous natural resource management  
Overall result: Distinction (GPA of 6.24, where 7 is the highest)

## Training and Awards

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- Guest lecturer aboard inaugural 10-day [Australian Geographic voyage](#) around WA's SW coast | 2024
- Peter Cullen Trust Leadership Program | 2023
- 'Effective Communication of Science Award' (team) at CSIRO's Land and Water Awards | 2022
- 'Excellence in Support Award' (individual) at CSIRO's Land and Water Awards | 2021
- Awarded one of five International Specialised Skills Institute/ GAF Foundation fellowships | 2018
- Awarded one of six national OEH/ ESA Prizes for Outstanding Outreach in Science | 2017
- Volunteer science teacher with CSIRO's STEM Professionals in Schools program, Melbourne | 2017
- 'Griffith University Award of Academic Excellence' (GPA above 6) | 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010

## Referees available on request

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