

## DR SARAH BEKESSY

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**PROPOSED ROLE:** Research Leader  
**CURRENT POSITION:** Senior Lecturer  
School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning,  
RMIT University

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### **Examples of direct impact of recent research**

- Our work in the urban fringe of Melbourne has received extensive media attention and has led to substantial changes in the methodology used to assess biodiversity values in Melbourne's growth corridors and green wedges,
- Our institutional change for sustainability ARC project has contributed to the development of the Victorian Government Sustainable Education strategy and has directly influenced sustainability policy and practice across RMIT University,
- The first monograph from our Land and Water project assessing trends in peri-urban areas has been requested by management agencies across Australia.

### **Examples of advice to government and industry**

- Member of the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability's reference group
- Member of the Victorian Government's panel to review vegetation clearance exemptions
- Direct advice to numerous other agencies including: the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authority, Hume and Whittlesea City Councils
- Bekessy is a member of **The Landscape Futures Alliance** which is a newly formed research group of 15 leading scientists and managers from Universities and State Government Departments who have joined forces to address some of today's biggest questions in land and vegetation management. The group aims to significantly improve decision making and target setting in rural and urban-fringe landscapes and to improve cost effectiveness of efforts to restore ecological function to degraded land.

### **Most significant recent publication**

Bekessy SA, Ennos RA, Burgman MA, Newton AC & Ades PK (2003) Neutral DNA markers fail to detect divergence in an ecologically important trait. **Biological Conservation** 110: 267-285.

### **Publication summary 2001 to present**

Number of peer-reviewed papers in ISI Web of science (verifiable): 5  
Number of book chapters: 4  
Other publications: 3

<b>Research Training</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Past</b>
Postdoc	2	0
PhD	3	0
Masters	4	2
Honours	1	1

### **Major awards and prizes**

1999 Australian Bicentennial Award for postgraduate research  
2001 John S. Turner award for Botany postgraduate students  
2004 & 2005 RMIT Research Prize  
2005 RMIT Collaborative Research Prize  
2005 Brian Robinson Fellowship for Environmental Sustainability

### **Other recent evidence of impact and standing**

- Editorial board of the international journal *Conservation and Society*
- Key note speaker at the National Conference of Sustainable Universities, 2002
- Invited speaker at the New Dimensions in Agricultural Landscape Planning conference, 2004
- Coordinated the Water Futures conference at the Melbourne Museum, 2004