

Water Quality Modelling Special Interest Group (SIG)

Terms of Reference

Version: 5.0
Nov 2024

The Water Quality Modelling Special Interest Group (<https://mssanz.org.au/wqsig/>) is organised under the auspices of MSSANZ. This Special Interest Group has been formed due to a need for greater communication and collaboration between water quality modelling researchers and practitioners in Australia and New Zealand, identified at MODSIM 2019 and 2021.

Purpose and objectives

The overarching aim of the Water Quality Modelling Special Interest Group is to build a water quality community as well as to enhance and support water quality modelling practice and research in Australia and New Zealand.

Specific objectives and activities include:

- To organise Water Quality Modelling activities at MODSIM;
- To provide a channel of communication between water quality researchers and practitioners;
- To encourage and strengthen collaboration between water quality researchers and practitioners;
- To promote the latest research, application, tools and datasets that are of interest to water quality researchers and practitioners in Australia and New Zealand;
- To guide and promote best practice in water quality modelling;
- To seek resources and opportunities to promote and support the growth of water quality modelling
- To support the development of Early Career Researchers and Practitioners in the water quality modelling field;
- To ensure diversity and inclusion in the water quality modelling field.

MSSANZ Support

The Special Interest Group will have administrative support from MSSANZ to promote the SIG and the activities it will host, including:

- The use of MSSANZ logo for future activities (e.g., workshops) to be hosted by the Special Interest Group
- Setting up an official MSSANZ webpage and MSSANZ email account for the Special Interest Group
- Executive financial support of promotion and implementation of future plans for the Special Interest Group

Membership

The Water Quality Modelling Special Interest Group will be open to all MSSANZ members.

Steering Committee

Key responsibilities and roles

1. Identifying top needs and priorities for the Special Interest Group
2. Provide oversight of the activities of the Special Interest Group, including co-originating a Special Interest Group meeting at each MODSIM conference.
3. Liaise between the Special Interest Group and MSSANZ
4. Maintain the channels for communication and file sharing within WQSIG, as well as promotion and public-facing of the Special Interest Group to broader communities.
5. Meet regularly to coordinate the above.

Selection guidelines

The Steering Committee should consist of a group of at least 3 members collectively representing diverse genders, organisations, sectors and career stages within the water quality modelling community in Australia and New Zealand, and to serve the following roles:

- Chair,
- Vice-chair,
- Ordinary members.

The number of ordinary members appointed will typically be 2 to 4 members, but may vary to meet the needs of the SIG. The selection of Committee members should consider representations of:

- the MSSANZ executive committee for connecting SIG to the MSSANZ,
- Early career researchers or practitioners,
- Industry and/or government sectors,
- Australia and New Zealand modelling communities,
- Diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Committee will be led by a Chair and Vice-chair, selected by the SIG and appointed at MODSIM. The Chair and Vice-chair will be responsible for organising meetings, assigning tasks to Committee members and keeping track of shared documents. Each Committee member is expected to serve a term of 2 to 4 years.

Current members (2022-present)

Chair: Danlu Guo

Vice-chair: Anna Lintern, Sandy Elliott,

Ordinary Members: Melanie Roberts, Baihua Fu, Susan Cuddy, Andrew Western, Klaus Joehnk, Ulrike Bende-Michl, Tony Weber, Lydia Cetin

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Schedule A: Specific Activities Proposed for 2024-25

Proposed activities in Year 3-4 of the Water Quality Modelling Special Interest Group (2024-25) include:

- Identify key action areas, working groups and short-term plans for each action area [completed in Queenstown Symposium, April 2024]
- Revisiting the SIG ToR with key roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee, prepare for the rotation of committee members and selection of new members [WIP]
- Preparation for MODSIM 2025, including water quality session(s) and workshop [WIP]
- Plan for new activities in 2025-26