IIA Australia

Elevating Impact

WAIA 2026

Western Australia Internal Audit Conference

WESTERN AUSTRALIA INTERNAL AUDIT CONFERENCE

PARMELIA HILTON PERTH

17 SEPTEMBER 2026 - CONFERENCE

18 SEPTEMBER 2026 – WORKSHOPS

Program Overview

IIA-Australia is delighted to invite you and your team to attend the 2026 Western Australia Internal Audit Conference.

As organisations navigate increasing uncertainty, rapid technological change and evolving stakeholder expectations, internal auditors are being called upon to provide deeper insights and broader assurance across a wide range of emerging and traditional risk areas.

This year's conference brings together leading practitioners and subject matter experts to explore the challenges and opportunities shaping the profession, including artificial intelligence, climate reporting, privacy, third-party risk, enterprise risk management, project assurance, organisational resilience and ethical decision-making. Delegates will gain practical insights, technical guidance and forward-looking perspectives to help strengthen audit effectiveness and support their organisations in an increasingly complex environment.

Beyond the technical content, the conference provides an invaluable opportunity to connect with peers, share experiences and expand your professional network with colleagues from across Western Australia.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Yulia Wood PMIIA

Western Australia Chapter Chair

IIA-Australia

Sue Ironside PMIIA

President

IIA-Australia

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2020 GLOBAL BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

Conference Program Day 1 – Thursday 17 September

7.30am – 8.45am **Chief Audit Executive Breakfast Forum**

This is an exclusive invitation-only event limited to CAEs, which will focus on the challenge of "How do we govern AI". This interactive forum will provide the opportunity for you to engage with, debate, question and discuss issues at a strategic level with your peers, as well as provide insight into senior executives' and stakeholders' expectations of internal audit.

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EY Shape the future with confidence

8.30am – 9.00am **Registration and arrival refreshments**

9.00am – 9.10am **Welcome address and opening remarks**

9.10am – 10.00am **Keynote 1**

Economic outlook and emerging risks – What should be on your radar

- The 2026 macro-outlook – Key economic, geopolitical and market trends shaping organisational risk
- Emerging risk pressures – The impact of inflation, cyber threats, supply chain disruption and geopolitical instability
- Cost and resilience under pressure – How organisations are responding to rising costs, operational strain and supplier risk
- Implications for internal audit – Where audit should focus to assess risk, resilience and organisational preparedness

Leo Prendeville, Senior Economist, Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA

10.00am – 10.50am **Keynote 2**

AI in Practice – Governance, assurance and opportunity

- AI is changing the game – Understanding the opportunities, risks and organisational impact of rapidly evolving AI technologies
- Governance that keeps pace – Establishing practical oversight, accountability and control frameworks as AI adoption outpaces traditional governance approaches
- The reality of implementation – Managing decentralised AI use, balancing innovation with risk and embedding governance into day-to-day decision-making
- Lessons from the front line – What organisations are learning as AI moves from experimentation to enterprise-wide adoption, including common pitfalls and success factors
- What comes next – Preparing organisations and assurance functions for the next wave of AI-driven change

Alex Jenkins, Director, WA Data Science Innovation Hub

10.50am – 11.20am **Morning networking break and exhibition viewing**

Conference Program Day 1 – Thursday 17 September

11.20am – 12.10pm Concurrent sessions 1

1A Climate risk and reporting – What audit needs to do now

- Understanding the reporting landscape – What AASB S2 means for climate disclosures, governance and assurance expectations
- Assessing climate risk – Identifying climate-related risks, dependencies and impacts across strategy, operations and reporting
- Internal audit's role in climate assurance – Supporting governance, control readiness, data quality and confidence in climate reporting
- From compliance to capability – Practical lessons from early adopters and how to embed climate risk into audit plans and assurance priorities

Karien Erasmus, Director, ESG and Climate Services, RSM

1B Privacy and data protection – Managing evolving obligations

- Navigating the changing privacy landscape – Key regulatory developments, including WA PRIS requirements
- Where the risks sit – Common gaps in data governance, privacy controls, third-party oversight and information handling practices
- Internal audit's role in privacy assurance – Practical approaches to auditing privacy compliance, control effectiveness

Representative from the Information Commissioner of Western Australia

12.10pm – 1.00pm Concurrent sessions 2

2A Supply chain and third-party risk – Strengthening oversight

- Auditing third-party risk management – Assessing governance, due diligence, contract oversight and ongoing supplier monitoring
- Testing supplier resilience and dependency risk – Identifying critical supplier concentrations, business continuity gaps and control weaknesses across the supply chain
- Applying the IIA Third-Party Topical Requirement – Practical guidance for aligning internal audit approaches with evolving assurance expectations
- Lessons for stronger assurance – What recent disruptions reveal about common gaps, audit focus areas and opportunities to strengthen oversight

Mark Evans PMIIA, Vice President Internal Audit, Clough, a Webuild company

2B Auditing AI

- Auditing AI in practice – Moving beyond theory to examine how assurance teams are auditing AI in their organisation
- Scoping audits in changing environments – Defining audit boundaries, risks and assurance objectives in fast-evolving AI implementations
- Navigating transparency challenges – Addressing explainability, documentation gaps and the limitations of auditing "black box" AI tools
- Testing outputs and decisions – Practical approaches to validating AI-generated outputs, decision logic, reliability and consistency

Dr Peter McLeod PMIIA CIA GradCertIA, Associate Director (Internal Audit), The University of Queensland

1.00pm – 2.00pm Lunch networking break and exhibition viewing

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Quantum Assurance

Conference Program Day 1 – Thursday 17 September

2.00pm – 2.50pm Concurrent sessions 3

3A Project assurance – Getting oversight on major initiatives right

- Why projects fail – Common governance, oversight and decision-making gaps that derail major initiatives
- Key risks that matter – Managing scope, delivery, budget, vendor, stakeholder and benefits realisation risks
- Internal audit's role across the lifecycle – Providing timely assurance, challenge and insight from project initiation to delivery
- Practical assurance in action – Proven methodologies and lessons from successful and failed major projects

Jerry Zhuo, Senior Manager, PMO, Landgate

3B The role of internal audit in Enterprise Risk Management

- Defining internal audit's role in ERM – Understanding how internal audit provides independent assurance and insight while aligning with the updated Three Lines Model
- Assessing ERM maturity and effectiveness - Examining whether risk frameworks, appetite and reporting are embedded in decision-making
- Importance of providing Insights on emerging and interconnected risks - Helping boards and executives understand strategic, technology, third-party and culture-related risks
- Insights on global practices – Practicalities of how internal audit can strengthen ERM whilst maintaining independence

Sue Ironside PMIIA, President, IIA-Australia

2.50pm – 3.40pm Concurrent sessions 4

4A Worst-case scenario planning – Building resilience before it's tested

- Beyond the scenario by focusing on impact - Why the trigger matters less than the outcome; loss of systems, loss of data, loss of key people, and how designing around impact covers you for whatever comes.
- Building genuine resilience – Moving from paper plans to practical readiness: clear roles, trained people and response plans that hold up under pressure
- Where the real gaps are – Challenging how well organisations actually understand their critical impacts and whether their resilience planning matches that understanding
- Internal audit as a partner in planning – How internal audit can support organisations in building genuine resilience, not just testing plans after the fact, but helping shape sharper risk and impact thinking upfront

Tammy Foott, Managing Director, Scyne Advisory

4B Ethical dilemmas and "wicked problems" – Navigating complexity

- Why ethics matters more than ever – Exploring the ethical challenges for organisations and internal auditors today's environment
- Navigating complex and competing priorities – Balancing risk, compliance, commercial objectives, stakeholder expectations and the public good in organisational decision making
- Lessons from real-world ethical failures and successes – Examining case studies and stories from the world of probity and insights from poor governance and fraud
- How internal auditors can apply ethical principles, exercise professional judgement, ask difficult questions and provide trusted challenge to support better governance and decision-making

Stephen Linden PFIIA, Director, Assurance Advisory Group

Conference Program Day 1 – Thursday 17 September

3.40pm – 4.10pm	**Afternoon networking break and exhibition viewing**
4.10pm – 5.00pm	**Keynote 3**
	Staying positive in a world of bad news • Managing constant disruption – Navigating relentless risk, uncertainty and negative news without losing perspective • Building personal resilience – Practical strategies to maintain motivation, adaptability and wellbeing in high-pressure roles • Leading through uncertainty – Supporting teams, sustaining morale and creating stability during periods of change and disruption • Staying energised and effective – Simple habits and mindset shifts to protect performance, focus and long-term resilience **Dominic Siow, Director, EQ Strategist**
5:00 PM – 5:15 PM	**Closing Comments**
5:15 PM – 6:15 PM	**Networking drinks** *Sponsored by* William Buck ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

Workshop Program Day 2 – Friday 18 September

8.15am – 8.30am	**Registration and arrival refreshments**
8.30am – 12.30pm	**Workshop 1 - Building AI Agents for internal audit – From concept to practical application**

This hands-on workshop explores how internal audit teams can design and build AI agents to automate routine tasks, enhance audit efficiency and transform the way audit work is delivered. Moving beyond theory, participants will gain practical insights into how AI agents can be applied across the audit lifecycle—from planning and testing to reporting—using real-world examples and demonstrations.

Key areas to be covered:

- Understanding what AI agents are and how they can be applied within internal audit functions
- Designing AI agents to automate audit planning, testing and documentation activities
- Using AI tools to build simple audit-focused agents for data analysis and control testing
- Demonstrating real-world use cases of AI agents being deployed in audit environments
- Managing risks, governance and controls when implementing AI agents in audit

Key learning outcomes:

- Understand how AI agents can be applied to automate and enhance audit activities
- Identify practical use cases for deploying AI agents within internal audit
- Gain confidence in designing and implementing simple AI-driven solutions
- Develop a roadmap for introducing AI agents into their internal audit function

Dr Peter McLeod PMIIA CIA GradCertIA, Associate Director (Internal Audit), The University of Queensland

Dr Peter McLeod is the Associate Director (Internal Audit) at the University of Queensland. Prior to beginning a career as an internal auditor Peter worked within the Accounting and Information Technology industries. Peter made a transition from being audited to auditing others in 2019. His Information Technology background enabled Peter to implement continuous controls monitoring, robotic process automation and data visualisation in internal audit. Peter is a firm believer that Internal Audit should set the benchmark for business to maintain credibility, utilise resources effectively and ensure that sampling bias does not exist. This ensures that Internal Audit maximises the value of the business especially when artefacts are handed back to management post audit.

Peter progressed to Professional Membership of the Institute of Internal Auditors-Australia based on the outcome of his external quality assurance assessment conducted by the Institute of Internal Auditors-Australia in 2021. Peter completed his Graduate Certificate in Internal Auditing in 2022. He was awarded the Emerging Internal Auditor of 2023 by the Institute of Internal Auditors-Australia for his contribution to the profession.

Peter has written several fact sheets, white papers and presented at a variety of institute of Internal Auditor conferences including SOPAC® over the last few years. Peter is also a Fellow of the Certified Practicing Accountants (CPA), Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a PhD in Artificial Intelligence.

Workshop Program Day 2 – Friday 18 September

12.30pm – 1.00pm	**Lunch for those attending both workshops**
1.00pm – 5.00pm	**Workshop 2 - Building an integrated assurance model - Connecting risk, internal audit and assurance**

This workshop explores how organisations can build an integrated assurance model, bringing together risk, internal audit and other assurance functions to deliver a holistic view of enterprise risk and control.

Key areas to be covered:

- Foundations of integrated assurance – Understanding the principles, objectives and value of a unified approach to risk and assurance
- Consolidating risk, control and assurance information – Creating a comprehensive enterprise view to support decision-making
- Integrating internal audit, risk and assurance efforts – Aligning activities, responsibilities and reporting for maximum efficiency
- Aligning internal audit programs with the "big risk picture" – Ensuring audit plans reflect enterprise-wide risk priorities
- Realising the benefits of integrated assurance – Demonstrating value through improved oversight, reduced duplication and enhanced stakeholder confidence

Key learning outcomes:

- Gain a practical understanding of integrated assurance concepts and frameworks
- Learn how to consolidate and interpret risk, control and assurance data for enterprise-wide insight
- Develop strategies to align internal audit plans with overarching risk priorities
- Identify ways to enhance collaboration and realise tangible benefits across risk and assurance functions

Ernest Sellers PMIIA, Head of Risk and Assurance, Sandfire Resources

Ernest has more than 30 years' experience in senior governance, risk and assurance roles across Mining and Industrial sectors.

He has a history of successfully building and managing high performance risk and assurance teams in complex, diverse, listed companies operating across multiple jurisdictions and product groups. He is currently the Head of Risk and Assurance for Sandfire Resources, an ASX100 listed copper mining house working on adopting integrated assurance. His exposure to integrated assurance also includes acting as the Head of Risk at a global explosives manufacturing organisation, pioneering the early design of the 2nd Line Stewardship program in global diversified miner South32 and supporting the design of the 2nd line at Rio Tinto.

Ernest has also led and managed various Internal Audit Functions and teams, giving him insights on how the 3rd line connects with 1st and 2nd Lines of assurance. This includes the building of Integrated Assurance Maps to provide insights to a dynamic assurance strategy informing coverage and reliance by the 3rd Line.

Ernest has significant line management experience allowing him to adopt the "operator" view, giving him the right level of contextual and practical awareness when managing risk and assurance work.

How to register

Online Registration
Register online at www.iia.org.au and follow the prompts. Each delegate must complete a separate online registration form. Please note this is a secure website.

Registration forms
If you require an invoice, registration forms can be scanned and emailed to conferences@iia.org.au
Please complete and return the registration form along with full payment. Each delegate must complete a separate registration form.

Venue details
Parmelia Hilton Perth
14 Mill Street
Perth WA 6000

Conference fees
All fees are quoted in Australian Dollars and are inclusive of the 10% compulsory goods and services tax (GST).

CPE
Attendance at the conference will provide 7.5 CPE hours. Attendance at each workshop will provide 4 CPE hours.

Western Australia Internal Audit Conference 2026 – Registration Fees	
Early Bird	Register before 31 August 2026
Member	$990
Non-member	$1180
Standard	Register after 31 August 2026
Member	$1165
Non-member	$1385
Workshops (In-person only)	Register anytime
Attend One Workshop - Member	$450
Attend One Workshop – Non-Member	$550
Attend Both Workshops - Member	$800
Attend Both Workshops – Non-Member	$1000

Group discount – 3 or more people from the same organisation booking at the same time receive a 10% discount.