



CDAO Perth



▶ Connecting you to what's next in data and AI

Agenda

Tuesday, 13 October 2026

08:20	<i>Register; grab a coffee. Mix, mingle and say hello to peers old and new.</i>
08:50	<i>Welcome remarks by Corinium & Chair's opening remarks</i> <i><u>Chair:</u> Cesar Gonzalez AI and Analytics Lead Woolworths Group</i>
09:00	Speed Networking – Making new connections at CDAO Perth!
09:05	Keynote Case Study Scaling AI-Driven Climate and Agriculture Insights with Open Data Ecosystems Hasnein Tareque Director - Systems Innovation Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
09:30	Death by a Thousand Tokens Sebastian Royer Specialist Data Hancock Iron Ore

09:55	Panel Discussion The Data Leader's Blueprint: Turning AI and Data Governance Challenges into Valuable Assets Despite growing investment in AI and analytics, many organisations still struggle with fragmented data ownership, inconsistent quality, and siloed systems that limit business impact. This session explores how data leaders can build trusted, scalable foundations that enable smarter decisions, stronger governance, and enterprise-wide AI readiness. • Establish clear data ownership and enterprise-wide governance to create trusted, accountable data foundations. • Improve data quality and interoperability across agencies, systems, and business functions. • Build organisation-wide data literacy and stewardship to drive adoption and lasting cultural change. • AI readiness with accessible, governed, and trusted data platforms. <u>Moderator:</u> Vaibhav Agrawal AI Innovation Manager Insurance Commission of Western Australia <u>Speakers:</u> Ivy Isack Manager - Governance, Analysis and Improvement Fortescue Aqif Mukhtar Manager - Data Analytics Road Safety Commission Dr Vahid Golkar Data & Analytics Manager Topdrill
10:30	<i>Morning 'Coffee and Connect'</i>
11:05	Keynote Scaling AI is <i>More Human</i> than You Think Cesar Gonzalez AI and Analytics Lead Woolworths Group
11:30	Beyond Data Readiness: The Infrastructure That Turns AI Into Governed Action Mitch Howard Solution Engineer Boomi

11:55	Keynote From Data Teams to Business Partners: Building Strategic Data Pathways That Deliver Value Vanessa Robinson Head of Analytics AFG	
12:20	Beyond the Hype - How to Build the Foundation that Powers AI Success Joseph Minervini Head of Solution Engineering Informatica from Salesforce	
12:45	<i>Lunch Break! Connect and Converse.</i>	
	Track A: Mastering Governance and Business Value	Track B: Enabling Strategic Innovation
	<u>Chair:</u> Cesar Gonzalez AI and Analytics Lead Woolworths Group	<u>Chair:</u> Krista Bell Director – Data & Information Governance Curtin University
13:45	Fireside Chat Build the Chain: Making the Right Calls on Architecting Data Platforms and Partners <u>Speakers:</u> Andy Maher Manager – Digital & Data IGO Nikhil Matthew AI & Enablement Lead Edith Cowan University	Case Study Keynote From AI Strategy to Scaled Delivery: Building a scaled AI Operating Model and MLOps Capability Andrew Lillico Head of Data Strategy Insurance Commission of Western Australia Vaibhav Agrawal AI Innovation Manager Insurance Commission of Western Australia

14:10	From Data Governance to Data Confidence: Operationalizing Trust Across the Data Lifecycle Sharath Chandrasekharan Principal Solution Architect Tricentis	Data Under Pressure: Moving Fast Without Losing Control Matt Coulson Head of Solutions Architecture, Australia & New Zealand Qlik
14:35	Keynote The Paved Path: How Proactive Governance Becomes the Fast Lane for AI Innovation Mario Ribero Head of AI Pioneer Credit Limited	Keynote From Gold Sets to Guardrails: Turning Principles into Controls Anil Omanwar Data Scientist – Generative AI Energy Utility
15:00	Keynote Scaling Intelligence: Trust, Delegation and the Cost of Trust Sameer Chauhan AI, Digital & Data Consultant BHP	Keynote Case Study AI-Enabled Document Lifecycle Management 30% Faster, 45% Less Rework. Matthew Curnow Head of Digital Strategy, Data Management & AI Wood
15:25	Afternoon 'Coffee and Connect'	

15:55	Talent Panel Discussion Building Data Capability in an AI First Workforce – Talent, Budgets and High Performance Data teams are being asked to deliver more while hiring budgets remain under pressure. At the same time, AI is changing which skills organisations need, how roles are structured and what high performance looks like. For Perth data leaders, the question is no longer simply “Where do we find more talent?” but “How do we build the right capability?” • Why does hiring top technical talent individually not guarantee a high-performing team? • Evaluate where AI tools genuinely augment teams versus add complexity. • Exploring the role of a data leader in workforce strategy. • What hiring and retention strategies help turn strong individuals into a cohesive unit that delivers value. <u>Moderator:</u> Douglas Robertson Director & Principal Consultant DR Analytics Recruitment <u>Speakers:</u> Sandhya Krishnan GM, Organisational Solutions, People Tech & Analytics RAC WA Ross Campbell Manager - Data Analytics & Privacy Officer Tas Mitaros Data & Business Intelligence Lead Duratec
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Commented [KG1]: What is an AI First Workforce?
Is this a workforce that understands the risks and focus of AI?
Do all companies want to become an AI first workforce?
Hesitations + Anxieties. What does that mean to us?
Work redesign, things that really articulate benefits and savings with AI.
Priotitising a top notch data catalogue.
IF you don't have training and capability training the risk is huge.

Meat proxy - someone who regurgitates AI to you

16:30	Interactive Wrap-Up Panel Data Unfiltered – An Open Conversation on Data’s Toughest Challenges Get ready to challenge assumptions, defend your stance, and shift perspectives. In this high-energy, interactive panel, senior data leaders won’t just share insights. With live audience polling and daring prompts, this session invites attendees to vote, question, and engage in real-time. Expect lively discussions, surprising consensus, and a candid look at the questions shaping the future of data leadership in WA. • How can CDAOs scale AI responsibly while ensuring governance and compliance keep pace? • What strategies build trust across the business, so AI adoption is embraced, not resisted? • How do leaders balance the urgency for AI-driven growth with the risks of misalignment or misuse? <u>Speakers:</u> Matthew Curnow Head of Digital Strategy, Data Management & AI Wood Harpreet Khalsa Chief Data Officer Edith Cowan University Krista Bell Director – Data & Information Governance Curtin University
17:05	<i>Closing Remarks by the Chair</i>
17:10	Cheers with Peers: CDAO Drinks Reception <i>Continue the conversation over drinks.</i>
17:10	Close of CDAO Perth 2026