

MEDIA RELEASE

1 September 2020

More information

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Rethink the Future with Scitech's New Multisensory Exhibition, Earth Matters

Scitech has collaborated with over 850 West Australian scientists, innovators, students, parents, teachers and artists to create a brand-new multisensory exhibition, *Earth Matters: Rethink the Future*, which was opened today by the Hon. Dave Kelly MLA, Minister for Science.

This extensive community engagement was guided by the principles of design thinking, placing the needs of WA's learners at the heart of Scitech's product and experience creation.

Multiple co-design sessions and extensive customer insights surveys tapped into the wealth of ideas that informed the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) topics the WA community wished to explore

The strongest theme that emerged was a desire to understand how STEM skills, technology and the innovation process can work together to find creative solutions for complex problems.

Earth Matters: Rethink the Future is the result of linking this theme to critical and current global challenges. Visitors to the Science Centre will explore how the world is changing and the innovations and solutions that can help adapt our way of living for a more sustainable future.

Importantly, the Earth Matters learning experience extends beyond the Science Centre through new regional touring school programs and shows.

Kalien Selby, Scitech Chief Executive Officer, said "Earth Matters: Rethink the Future is a major milestone of the New Scitech strategy and defines our commitment to elevating the STEM learning journey in WA.

"The world we live in shows us the importance of STEM skills and knowledge to be able to solve the complex challenges we face, be it pandemics, climate change or effective medical care. We need to provoke interest in STEM and develop the capability of all Western Australians to sustain long term change and improvement.

"With our newest exhibition, Scitech has stepped firmly into its role to support the social well-being and economic prosperity of this state through innovative and impactful STEM engagement. Everyone is invited to experience the unique opportunity of *Earth Matters* and rethink the future together."

To ensure the veracity of the STEM learning experience, expert scientist in fields ranging from biosecurity to sustainability and environmental science, provided advice and guidance for the overarching theme and individual exhibits.

This attention to science detail has been spectacularly enhanced by stunning design, most notably the Banksia Woodland, an immersive and interactive projection created by Perth multimedia artist <u>Sohan Ariel Hayes</u>. Best known for *Boorna Waanginy: The Trees Speak*, which opened the Perth





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International Arts Festival in 2017 and '19, Sohan Ariel Hayes has deepened the Scitech STEM experience with the wisdom of Aboriginal science and the beauty of artistic vision.

To extend the learning journey, specially curated Planetarium, Science Theatre and Puppet shows, Tinkering Space activities, lab workshops and education resources have been created for school programs and general public visits to the Science Centre.

Earth Matters: Rethink the Future and its associated programs and shows have been created to grow STEM participation, encourage inter-generational learning and engage audiences through multi-level problem-solving across both local and broader global challenges.

The Exhibition Experience

Visitors can discover the effect of their actions on the fragile ecosystem of the immersive Banksia Woodland projection, which cycles through the six Noongar seasons. Or use pedal power to explore renewable energy generation, storage and transfer across a 3D Microgrid illuminated by LED animations.

Similarly, an interactive 3D projection map of a coral reef visually demonstrates changes in its ecosystem in response to visitor's everyday decisions. In other exhibits, a tree shows how it breathes, lives and grows, and a mechanical pump demonstrates how much water is used in the production of a single chocolate bar and other popular lifestyle consumables.

A dedicated Reimagination Zone activates critical thinking and invites visitors to discover their own STEM-based solutions for real-world challenges. Perth innovators have added their own inspirational stories, from the creators of the <u>Climate Clever</u> app to the designers of <u>Tiller Rides</u> and more.

The Scitech Planetarium is showing <u>Habitat Earth</u>, which explores the complex connections and relationships of life on Earth and our place amongst them. In the Chevron Science Theatre, <u>Lightbulb Moments</u> explores how we can use creative problem-solving to tackle two of the biggest global challenges: energy and waste.

Details

Date: Now open

Times: 9.30am – 4pm Monday to Friday; 10am – 4pm Saturday & Sunday

Location: Cnr Sutherland Street and Railway Parade, City West

Tickets: Online bookings essential

Price: \$19 Adult; \$12 Youth/Child; Free under 4years; \$52 Mini group

Website: www.scitech.org.au/earth-matters/

