A lower oil price means there is no room for inefficiency and unnecessary complexity in the production cycle, hence the pursuit of simplicity, clarity and efficiency in all aspects of a business is of paramount importance.

Decreasing headcount doesn’t produce sustainable improvement, unless processes are made more efficient beforehand, and it has left many companies wondering where they will get the expertise they need to ensure efficient operations going forward.

We often discuss economies of scale as the answer to productivity: a proportionate decrease in unit costs as a result of increased levels of production, but economics also tells us that economies of scale are limited by the law of diminishing returns. Large companies can lose sight of core business and the support functions grow and become so complex that the intended economies are lost.

Similarly, information technology was supposed to make us more efficient, but all too often the technology allows ever more complex systems to evolve. Yet the current mantra is that big data will save the day. If specialist services are required and we have to get costs down, is the pursuit of efficiency and excellence in service more important than the provision of scale?
Dr Carla Boehl
With more than 20 years experience in management consulting, utilities and top global mining companies and academia. A key presenter at Asset Management Council Conferences, a Fellow Institute Engineers Australia and Committee member Mining Group WA. A leader for Mentor Women in Industry and Mining. Carla creates forward thinking in Mine Asset Management, Utilities, NPI, Services, Water and Wastewater, Hydrocarbons (Fuel and Lubricants), Sustainability, Decision-making and Diversity. Practicing as a Registered Supervisor of Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Students for Doctorates and Masters, Carla has delivered major conference papers in Asset Management and Hydrocarbons arena and poses the challenge “Are you using your instinct more often than your intellect?”

Kim McArthur
Kim has worked in the utility industry for over 30 years. He began his career in Canadian nuclear operations prior to transferring into electrical power system operations, which included transmission, distribution and hydroelectric generation. During this period, he led PAS 55 road mapping exercises and participated in the Canadian TC/251 Technical Committee developing ISO 5500x suite. In 2012, he moved to Australia, where he continued to practice strategic asset management and acted in a business lead role in a process transformation program for Western Power. In late 2014, he transferred to his current role as Manager – Asset Services with ATCO Gas Australia where he uses his experience to lead a business program aligning AGA with the foundational frameworks of ISO 55001.

Andrew Woodhams
Andrew Woodhams has over 25 years of experience in a diverse range of hydrocarbon activities from exploration to decommissioning. With a particular focus on the LNG business, which he has supported from wellhead to burner tip. Specialising in building distinctive business strategies and deploying them in hydrocarbon developments across the full life cycle. He has particular expertise in the LNG value chain, which spans technical design, operations and commercial management. Renowned for building and maintaining effective working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders that facilitates risk management, resolves conflicts and delivers continuous improvement. Title of his presentation is “The Australian Strategic Imperative For Asset Management Excellence”. Andrew will present an analysis of the strategic drivers at play for Australia in the global oil and gas business and make a case that Australia should strive for first class asset management performance.

Patricia Fuster
Patricia is an industrial engineer with wide international experience in QHSE management systems with focus in quality and environmental protection, all levels of auditing, compliance assurance and provision of systems and environmental awareness training. Her professional experience supports sustainable development through management systems created and enforced aiming to provide efficient operations considering environmental protection and compliance assurance, for best use of human and natural resources. A work passion is in processes’ efficiency and adequacy for best use of resources. She has worked with management systems for many years predominantly around the oil and gas industry various aspects. Patricia believes in the integration of systems for simplification of activities. She is innovative and focus on goals, and participated in the application of management systems for business transformation as well as abandonment.