



Certification

Whether EIANZ will become involved in climate change certification was considered by the previous Executive and continues with the new. A discussion paper was prepared by Simon Cavendish with input from stakeholders that expressed interest at the 2011 EIANZ Conference and the Executive of the time.

[The discussion paper \(October 2011\)](#) found that:

“International organisations are developing certification programs that are being adopted mainly for greenhouse gases (GHG) auditors and processes. The US-based GHG Management Institute and ECO-Canada offer GHG professional certification using defined competencies.

The authors of this paper undertook research to find similar certification programs either for other climate change mitigation initiatives or for climate change adaptation but none were found.

Australia and New Zealand currently have no formal climate change competency or certification programs in place. Programs are limited to Australia’s *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (NGER) auditor registration of GHG emissions, which was established mainly to satisfy international agreements.

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) is well-placed to coordinate competencies and certification of professionals because it has developed proficiencies and certification for environmental professionals. The Institute created a Special Interest Section to focus on certification and developed good contacts and agreements with key climate change stakeholders. It proposes a comprehensive process of proficiency and certification development and implementation.

Other professions have proficiencies and certification processes that range from limited to very detailed. Deciding the most efficient and effective will require research and consultation.

This discussion paper introduces the drivers for certification, explains the status of certification and makes 21 recommendations for further research and consultation before committing to a course of action”.

The Next Steps towards Certification

The next steps are to prepare a short Options paper, agree the preferred option and, if necessary, develop the certification process, resource and launch it.

We have tried to find funding for a comprehensive Options paper. Without funding we prepared a shorter version addressing key recommendations from the Discussion Paper and three options.

The first option is to do nothing. As the need to manage climate change continues to rise, and some may consider may accelerate, this option becomes increasingly difficult to support.

The second option is to develop a certification scheme either as speciality under the CEnvP scheme or under the new Australian Institute of Environmental Accountants (AIEA). CEnvP scheme offers a well tried certification process that relies on a simple interview process that could be extended to mitigation and adaptation. AIEA is potentially linked to NGER auditor scheme and has no certification system in place.

Thirdly, it is to develop competencies and a certification scheme through GHG Management Institute and EcoCanada. This is tied to GHG and not other energy mitigation forms or adaptation.

The second option is proposed. A Climate Change speciality under the CEnvP Scheme – without competencies - offers a good starting point. Competencies (or proficiencies) could develop either through EIANZ's Staged Training for Environmental Practitioners (STEP) or in association with EcoCanada. EcoCanada has developed US-based GHG Management Institute's GHG competencies and has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EIANZ. The Chair of the CEnvP Board that steers the CEnvP Scheme is supportive (see Attachment A).

It is recommended that EIANZ's Climate Change Specialist Interest Section (EIANZ CCSIS) negotiate with the CEnvP Board to add an interview-based Climate Change speciality to the CEnvP Scheme. Further that EIANZ CCSIS actively support the setup and operation of this speciality and develop the speciality over time.

This recommendation will be presented to the 2012 EIANZ Conference for further discussion.