

Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct:

Proposed changes endorsed by the EIANZ Board in February 2021 in response to feedback from members and CEnvPs on the Special Resolution put forward at the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Compliance with this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is central to sound environmental practice and the credibility of the profession, and is required for persons who are members of the EIANZ and also for Certified Environmental Practitioners.

Environmental practitioners are committed to practice in accordance with this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, and accept personal accountability for professional conduct.

Proposed addition: Environmental practitioners acknowledge and value the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples* in the protection and management of environmental values through their involvement in decisions and processes, and the application of traditional Indigenous knowledge.

* the term 'Indigenous Peoples' includes First Nations, First Peoples, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, tangata whenua (Māori and Moriori).

This Code commits environmental practitioners to:

PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- (a) Advocate the integrity of the natural environment and the health, safety and welfare of the human community and future generations as being central to environmental practice;

Proposed change: (a) Advocate the integrity of the cultural and natural environments, and the health, safety, values, and welfare of human communities and future generations as being central to environmental practice;

- (b) Advocate the protection of environmental values and the mitigation of environmental harm, based on objective scientific and technical knowledge;

Proposed change: (b) Advocate the protection of environmental values and the mitigation of environmental harm, using a multiple evidence base, that draws on science, Indigenous, and community knowledge;

- (c) Advocate and undertake environmental practice in accordance with principles of environmental stewardship, resilience and sustainability, with a view to achieving no net loss of environmental values and preferably a net gain, and to an appropriate standard.

DEMONSTRATE INTEGRITY

- (a) Be honest and trustworthy, avoid misrepresentation or obfuscation, distinguish between fact and opinion, and state opinions which are honestly held;
- (b) Respect obligations of confidentiality and privacy;
- (c) Be objective, seek peer review and other quality assurance of work as appropriate, and accept as well as give honest and fair criticism when required;
- (d) Avoid or manage conflicts of interest, and make all relevant parties aware when there is such a conflict;

REPRESENT AND PROMOTE THE PROFESSION

- (a) Promote and provide leadership in the adoption of high standards of environmental practice;
- (b) Contribute to the development and maintenance of knowledge about environmental practice and standards of professional competence;
- (c) Support others in their development as environmental practitioners;
- (d) Do not advertise or represent services, or those of another, in a manner that may bring discredit to the profession.

PRACTICE COMPETENTLY

- (a) Provide services at an appropriate standard as required to achieve or foster optimal environmental outcomes;
- (b) Only practice and offer services in functional areas and specialisations in which one is appropriately qualified, experienced and competent;
- (c) Comply with all applicable governing laws and statutory requirements, and actively discourage non-compliance by others;
- (d) Promote the involvement of all stakeholders and the community in decisions and processes that may impact on environmental values;

Proposed change: (d) Promote the involvement of Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders and the community in decisions and processes that may impact on environmental values;

- (e) Respect the contribution of other professionals and collaborate in multi-disciplinary approaches;
- (f) Be diligent in practice, providing accurate, up-to-date, objective, impartial and unbiased advice;
- (g) Acknowledge data and information sourced from others, and be accountable for data collected, analyses performed and conclusions drawn or plans developed as part of an assignment;
- (h) Be prepared to explain work and conclusions drawn, and provide the evidence on which the work is based;
- (i) Continuously update and develop skills through relevant professional development as a basis for competent practice.