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The Australian Environmental Assessments and Approvals Summit 2012

Examining the assessments and approvals processes to manage environmental issues

28-30 May 2012
Radisson Blu Hotel
SYDNEY

EXPERT SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- **Martin Karm**, Statutory Planner, Education and Communities, Planning and Delivery, Asset Management Directorate
- **Bruce Petersen**, Environmental and Development Planning Manager, Port Stephens Council
- **Aaron Bowden**, A/Senior Manager- Planning, Transport Projects, Transport for NSW
- **Nigel Buchanan**, Manager of Environmental Approvals and Compliance, Transgrid
- **Chris Mahoney**, Social Performance Practice Leader, Coffey Environments
- **Keiran Croker**, Approvals Manager, Capital Delivery, Melbourne Water
- **Dean Lal**, Senior Environmental Advisor- Southern Region, Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd
- **Michael Long**, Head of Environment Australia, Lend Lease
- **Glenn Hedges**, Environment Manager- Project Support, Thiess Pty Ltd
- **Kelly Pearsall**, Principal Environmental Planner, AECOM Australia
- **Graham Mackay**, Technical Director- Environment and Advisory, Aurecon
- **Paul Greenhalgh**, Team Manager Environment NSW, Parsons Brinckerhoff
- **Michael Chilcott**, Institute President, Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand
- **Christine Wyatt**, Global Market Leader- Environment, GHD
- **Maryanne Kelly**, Contracts Manager, SKM Recycling
- **Tony Date**, Senior Environmental Consultant, Environment Essentials
- **Nathan Scholes**, Consultant, RM Consulting Group
- **Nick Thomas**, Partner, Clayton Utz
- **Christine Covington**, Partner- Environment and Planning, Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- **Henry Prokuda**, Partner- Environment and Planning, Corrs Chambers Westgarth

KEY BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Gain in-depth knowledge of the Government's involvement in environmental assessments and approvals
- Learn how to overcome the challenges of managing environment concerns
- Develop best practice communication strategies to close the staff knowledge gap onsite
- Effectively utilise your resources to improve waste management plans
- Examine proven frameworks for successful environmental management plans
- Understand the significance of agency auditing and onsite projects monitoring
- Gain knowledge of tools and techniques to achieve approvals from Government bodies

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DAY ONE: MONDAY 28th MAY 2012

8:00 Registration Opens

8:50 Opening remarks from the Chair

Michael Chilcott, *Institute President, Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand*

DISCUSSING GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND APPROVALS

9:00 Introducing planning approvals and Environmental Impact Assessments (a NSW perspective)

- Understanding the Statutory framework of Federal, State and Local Government in environmental assessments and approvals (a NSW perspective)
- Types of environmental impact assessments and planning approvals
- Implementation of environmental planning approvals

Martin Karm, *Statutory Planner, Education and Communities, Planning and Delivery, Asset Management Directorate*

9:40 CASE STUDY

Understanding local government involvement in environmental compliance issues

- Examining council involvement in regulatory issues
- Discussing proven strategies to prevent unresolved fines and wrong doings
- Local government compliance staff: how to be part of the plan

Bruce Petersen, *Environmental and Development Planning Manager, Port Stephens Council*

10:20 Developing a social licence to operate through social assessment

- Introducing rigour to social assessment
- The 'significance' of social attributes
- 'Mandatory' social investment through social impact management plans
- Beyond compliance - social performance

Chris Mahoney, *Social Performance Practice Leader, Coffey Environments*

11:00 Morning Tea

HIGHLIGHTING UPDATES ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

11:20 CASE STUDY

Understanding legislative requirements for assessment standards

- Brief overview of the statutory planning approvals pathways in NSW (e.g. exempt, complying, Part 4, SSD, Part 5, SSI)
- Judicial precedents for determining level of assessment/planning approvals pathways
- TfNSW's procedure for determining level of assessment (inc. case studies)
- Statutory framework/judicial precedents for assessing design changes post-approval
- TfNSW's procedure for assessing design changes post-approval (inc. case studies)

Aaron Bowden, *Senior Manager- Planning, Transport Projects, Transport for NSW*

12:00 CASE STUDY

In- depth understanding of environmental legislation reforms

- Determining the different Government assessments impacting your project
- Examining project consistency to ensure approval
- Using effective strategic approaches to provide long-term certainty of project improvements
- Implementing best practice solutions to meet environmental assessments criteria
- Reviewing the significance of the National Environment Law Reforms

Kelly Pearsall, *Principal Environmental Planner, AECOM Australia*

12:40 Networking Luncheon

OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND APPROVALS

13:40 CASE STUDY

Managing the complexities of the environmental assessment and approvals process

- Forward planning for effective approvals
- Dealing with Government agencies
- Dealing with Controlled Actions - Assessment and approval under the Commonwealth Environmental Planning and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Managing compliance with approvals during design and construction.

Paul Greenhalgh, *Team Manager Environment NSW, Parsons Brinckerhoff*

14:20 CASE STUDY

Examining the challenges of gaining internal and external approval

- Addressing the difficulties of gaining project approval on behalf of clients
- Understanding the importance of approval requirements contractors need to meet
- Examining strategies to ensure environmental requirements are met at pre-approval stage
- Highlighting implementation methods to gain government approval on your major projects
- Analysing the process for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and approvals to minimise risk and maximise outcomes

Christine Wyatt, *Global Market Leader- Environment, GHD*

15:00 Afternoon Tea

IMPORTANCE OF MONITORING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

15:20 CASE STUDY

A relationship based approach to managing approvals

- Applying the IAP2 spectrum for approvals agencies
- Building relationships to identify and manage required approvals
- Proactively managing approvals conditions, and their implementation and monitoring
- Working within the project team to achieve environmental outcomes
- Case studies of capital projects delivered by an Alliance model

Keiran Croker, *Approvals Manager, Capital Delivery, Melbourne Water*

16:00 CASE STUDY

Effectively monitor environmental issues in assessments and approvals

- Ensuring agencies are following up and clearly communicating all environmental aspects
- Communicating effectively with regulators
- Aligning the requirements of environmental assessments and approvals between developers and government bodies
- Appropriate governance framework as a self regulator

Nigel Buchanan, *Manager of Environmental Approvals and Compliance, Transgrid*

16:40 Closing remarks from the Chair and conference adjourns

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 29th MAY 2012

9:00 Opening remarks from the Chair

Michael Chilcott, *Institute President, Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand*

UNDERSTAND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ORGANISATION AND CONTRACTORS

9:10 Building organisational capacity to meet environmental challenges

- Engagement with the Executive Management Team
- Robust environmental due diligence processes
- Strengthening existing operational resources – energy, carbon & climate change expertise
- Setting global minimum requirements for environmental performance
- Comprehensive internal environmental reporting

Michael Long, *Head of Environment Australia, Lend Lease*

9:50 CASE STUDY**Effectively communicating environmental issues to stakeholders**

- Managing staff members understanding of regulations in the project development process
- Closing the knowledge gap between onsite environmental issues and staff members knowledge
- Analysing proven frameworks to meet the standards of the organisations environmental procedure

Dean Lal, *Senior Environmental Advisor- Southern Region, Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd*

10:30 Morning Tea**11:00 PANEL DISCUSSION****Understanding the link between your organisation and contractors**

- Devising strategies for implementing the best communication channel to prevent environmental issues from arising
- Incorporating contractors involvement in early stages of project planning
- Strategies to protect your organisation and clients from environmental breaches

Bruce Petersen, *Environmental and Development Planning Manager, Port Stephens Council*

Keiran Croker, *Approvals Manager, Capital Delivery, Melbourne Water*

Glenn Hedges, *Environment Manager- Project Support, Thiess Pty Ltd*

11:40 Successfully managing project approval risk

- Developing an integrated approach to project approvals
- The importance of a "social licence" to operate
- Allocating risk and responsibility for project approval compliance between principal and contractor
- Identifying and managing climate change risk in project approvals
- Incorporating sustainability in project approvals

Nick Thomas, *Partner, Clayton Utz*

12:20 Networking Luncheon**DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE PLANS FOR TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES****13:20 CASE STUDY****Beyond compliance and innovating for sustainability**

- Inspiring innovation to go beyond compliance
- Tools to assist innovation and removing barriers to change
- Assessing innovative ideas to drive sustainability outcomes
- Developing an effective environmental sustainability plan

Glenn Hedges, *Environment Manager- Project Support, Thiess Pty Ltd*

14:00 CASE STUDY**Developing a waste management plan for greater recovery of recyclables for the approval of your projects**

- Identifying and implementing strategies to ensure recoverability of recyclables in projects processes
- Managing recycling for project approval as a future success plan

Maryanne Kelly, *Contracts Manager, SKM Recycling*

14:40 Afternoon Tea**MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL RISK AND IMPACTS****15:10 CASE STUDY****Gaining in-depth understanding of water quality management controls**

- Assessing the importance of assessment for ground water and water quality management plans
- Overcoming the challenges of project activities impact on surface water
- Implementing strategies depending on scale of impact to meet environmental requirements
- Managing water quality controls to mitigate risk

Nathan Scholes, *Consultant, RM Consulting Group*

15:50 Implementing environmental risk assessment methodologies

- Understanding the importance of environmental risk assessment to avoid fines and shut downs
- Minimising risk exposure by creating a thorough understanding of risk management frameworks

- Understanding effective risk analysis in the planning phases of the project
- Examining the various mitigation controls for environmental assessments and approvals
- Communicating risk management obligations for positive environmental outcomes and to avoid environmental incidents

Graham Mackay, *Technical Director- Environment and Advisory, Aurecon*

16:30 Concluding remarks from the Chair and conference adjourns**POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS:
WEDNESDAY 30th MAY 2012****Workshop A 9:00 – 12:30****How to prepare an effective "Environmental Obligations Register"**

The workshop explores the different tools available for gathering a comprehensive list of environmental, legal and other obligations. Avoiding fines and prosecutions involves not only establishing what your obligations are, but setting up compliance systems to ensure good control and checking via internal audits. The workshop will cover:

- Obtaining lists of environmental legal obligations
- Including licence conditions and other project/site-specific obligations
- Establishing good controls that ensure legal compliance
- Understanding where these obligations fit in your Environmental Management System (EMS) and Environmental Management Plans (EMPs)
- Implementing strategies to effectively track compliance (eg internal audits)
- A number of case studies showing how companies and other organisations have achieved this

Tony Date, *Senior Environmental Consultant, Environment Essentials*

Workshop B 1:30 – 5:00**Managing approvals processes and minimising non compliance risk**

Every project moves from an application planning and assessment pathway to operationalising approvals obtained. The complexity of approvals and conditions (increasing compliance risk) can reflect the complexity of projects. Equally, in some jurisdictions, some simplification of approvals pathways may be possible. This workshop considers legal issues in approvals planning and compliance. It considers a variety of project types in more than one jurisdiction;

- Emphasising the importance of the regulatory framework in which one is operating
- Understanding the interdependence of some approvals and conditions
- Understanding the importance of proper "risk allocation" between principals and contractors
- Emphasising strategies for managing risk and consequences of non compliance

Christine Covington & Henry Prokuda, *Partners- Environment and Planning, Corrs Chambers Westgarth*

Morning tea and afternoon tea will be provided. Lunch is provided for delegates attending both workshops only.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**Directors and Managers in charge of:**

- Environmental Compliance Managers
- Environmental Advisors
- Health, Environment and Safety Managers
- Environmental Managers
- Environmental Coordinators
- In- House Counsels
- Project Engineers
- Project Managers

