

# Annual Report

## SEQ EIANZ Policy Sub-Committee

2010-11

### The Policy Sub-Committee

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) South East Queensland (SEQ) Division supported a Policy sub-committee in 2010-11 as part of the policy and practice arm of activities. This was the second year since the establishment of the sub-committee in August 2009.

The SEQ EIANZ Policy Sub-Committee is a sub-committee of the SEQ EIANZ Division Committee and is responsible to the SEQ EIANZ Division and through SEQ to the International EIANZ.

The Sub-committee, as with the SEQ EIANZ Division committee, is made up of volunteers from the environmental profession, mainly members of EIANZ. In 2010-11, the members were:

<b>Members since 2009-10</b>	<b>Role/participation in 2010-11</b>
Lindi Bowen	Chairperson, elected at SEQ EIANZ AGM 2010
Sepp Malekizadeh	Although resigning twice to move interstate, he has returned both times and been reinstated; attended Government seminars on behalf of EIANZ, input to submissions and prepared collated information resources and summary papers.
Howard Briggs	Substantial input on submissions, and represented EIANZ on Government committees
Nelson Wills	Substantial input on submissions, and attended Government seminars and workshops on behalf of EIANZ
Angela Perera	Input on policy focus and direction
<b>New Members in 2010-11</b>	<b>Role/participation in 2010-11</b>
Charlotte Gill	Input on policy focus and direction (Joined February 2011)
Dr Oleg Makarynskyy	Input on policy focus and direction (Joined March 2011)

#### Others:

- Sheri Fitton (Professional Development (PD) Chairperson 2010-11 – liaison between PD and Policy sub-committees)
- Mark Williamson (resigned the sub-committee to take on the role of SEQ liaison with international EIANZ)
- David Francis (substantially contributed to submissions and attended Government seminar/workshops)
- Alan Chenoweth (contributed to submissions)
- Laura Canavieri (sourced and referred interested members, set up Linked-In site)
- Claire Gronow (attending Green Tape Government committee)
- Chris McCosker (interested, but not able to participate in 2010-11)
- Andrew Evans (interested, but not able to participate in 2010-11)
- Pratik Patel (interested, but not able to participate in 2010-11)

The purpose of the Policy Sub-Committee is to pro-actively engage with and reactively respond to Governments on issues affecting environmental outcomes in South East Queensland; and to enhance the profile of the EIANZ through this professional engagement. This may also include National or International issues that impact on South East Queensland if there is a coordinated National or International response being prepared.

The sub-committee member's involvement has included:

- Identifying EIANZ and environment professionals' issues of concern
- Prioritising issues to be addressed
- Identifying opportunities to provide professional comment on regional initiatives
- Developing submissions and responses that are consistent with EIANZ's objectives and policies
- Liaising professionally with other stakeholders including government departments, community groups and other professional bodies.
- Contributing to analysis of, evaluation of and develop strategic directions for EIANZ, SEQ Division and its members.

## **Identified priority areas 2010-11**

- Identified in Executive strategic planning discussion:
  - Waste/resource use efficiency
  - Urban Agriculture (Food)
  - Climate Change – mitigation/ adaptation
  - Cumulative impacts
  - Population
  - Water?
- Identified at DGs Forum from comments by members:
  - Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Cumulative impacts
  - Environmental offsets
- Identified by Policy sub-committee:
  - Biodiversity and offsets
  - Waste/resources efficiency
  - Green tape and regulatory simplification
  - Regionalisation (sustainable populations)
  - Cross-government integration
  - Anthropogenic sound & underwater environmental impact assessment
  - Coal Seam Gas
  - Sustainability - implementation
  - Impact assessment – implementation
  - Urban Development Areas (UDAs)
  - Definitions of rare and endangered species
  - National Greenhouse Accounts
  - Industrial-use chemicals, flavours and perfumes in sewage sludge applied to land
  - Geothermal Energy - Centre of Excellence (QGECE) at the University of Queensland officially opened in April 2011
  - Queensland Coastal Plan (released early April 2011)
  - Transport Vision for 2031 - long-term transport plan to develop a sustainable transport system in South East Queensland.

## Achievements in 2010-11

Sub-committee meetings were held:

- Monday 13 September 2010
- Monday 15 November 2010
- Monday 31 January 2011
- Monday 14 March 2011
- Monday 16 May 2011
- Monday 6 June 2011
- Monday 11 July 2011

Submissions made:

- Review of State Planning Policy 1/03: Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide (18 February 2011)
- Review of Local Government Statutes Discussion Paper (8 March 2011)
- Building Nature's Resilience: a Draft Biodiversity Strategy for Queensland (9 April 2011)
- Biodiversity Offsets for Queensland (20 April 2011)
- Protecting Queensland's Strategic Cropping Land (26 July 2011)

Submissions invited (indicates a measure of profile for our input to be sought):

- DEEDI invited our participation in a Roundtable process to facilitate the sustainable development of the meat chicken industry in SEQ on 7 September 2010
- Approached by QUT to review their Graduate Diploma in OHS and a new Masters in HSE

Other achievements:

Issue	Achieved	Key people involved
Green Tape	Reviewed Government strategies in October 2011 - no submission made; attending local government and industry Government seminars 2011	Nelson Wills, Lindi Bowen; Howard Briggs, Claire Gronow
Population and Regionalisation (QLD Regional Centres)	Reviewed Government strategies in October 2010 – no submission made	Nelson Wills, Lindi Bowen
Ecology	Joined EIANZ Ecology SIS to liaise with national activities	Nelson Wills
Environmental Impact Assessment	Joined EIANZ Environmental Impact Assessment SIS to liaise with national activities. Have offered to coordinate input to Wiki, but no other contributors in SEQ have come forward.	Lindi Bowen
Online networking with members	Set up Linked-In site for sub-committee as a trial	Laura Canavieri, Lindi Bowen
Reference material for submissions and policy	Created a list of QLD State Government strategies and papers already published	Sepp Malekizadeh

Biodiversity offsets	Submission to QLD Government and attendance at seminar/workshops	Nelson Wills, David Francis, Alan Chenoweth
EIANZ representation in SEQ	Started compiling a list of EIANZ representatives on committees and other forums in SEQ with intent to liaise for updates	Lindi Bowen
EIANZ connections to other professional environment groups	Started compiling list of members' links (formal or informal) to other Environmental professional organisations with intent to liaise and network	Lindi Bowen
Current research and possible speakers	Started list of environmental research and researchers in SEQ and Northern NSW (possible speakers).	Lindi Bowen
Monthly report to EIANZ SEQ committee – legislation update	Report included list of legislation accented during the month that (probably) related to the environment profession	Lindi Bowen

Attendance at consultation forums and seminars of interest:

- **South East Queensland Regional Coordination Group (SEQRCG)** – Howard Briggs
- **National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS)** – Simon Cavendish
- **Regional Landscape and Open Space Advisory Committee** (advises DLGP on SEQ Regional Plan) – Alan Chenoweth
- **Healthy Waterways Water By Design Committee** – David Carberry
- **DERM and Local Government ERA review meetings** – Claire Gronow and Howard Briggs
- **SPP Healthy Waters** presentation on 20 May 2011 - Angela Perera attended & reported back
- **Likely impacts of climate change on rainforests** presentation by South East Queensland Climate Adaptation Research Initiative (SEQCARI), University of Queensland on 14 June 2011 – Laura Canavieri attended

## Plans for 2011-12

Issue	Planned activities	Key people involved
Population and Regionalisation (QLD Regional Centres)	Seminar (or series of seminars) from February 2012	Lindi Bowen, PD committee
FNQ liaison	Make linkages with Far North QLD EIANZ	Chair of Policy Sub-committee
EIANZ national liaison	Stronger national/international EIANZ liaison	Chair of Policy Sub-committee
EIA SIS	Update QLD Wiki on EIA	Lindi Bowen and others TBA
NRM Regional Plan (Policy to PD forum opportunity)	Joint forum in October 2011 on NRM regional plan with Regional Coordination Committee	Howard Briggs (liaising with Paul McDonald RCC)
Waste Management and Product Stewardship	Work with international EIANZ to seek to establish a Waste Management and Product/packaging waste minimisation SIS and Wiki	Lindi Bowen and others TBA

EIANZ representation in SEQ	Contact representatives on committees and other forums for monthly (or periodic) update reports on issues (or copies of minutes)	TBA
EIANZ connections to other professional environment groups	<p>Identify members' links (formal or informal) to other Environmental professional organisations and seek periodic update reports.</p> <p>Create a list of professional environmental organisations.</p> <p>Identify the status of international EIANZ's MOU negotiations with SIA, EMS, AILA, ALGA, CIANZ, NZARM, NZSSES, RMIA and WMAA.</p> <p>Plan and create outline proposal of what an Environmental Council may have as its operating charter. This would be a somewhat informal linkage between key people (Policy chairs) to share documents and comments that were being drafted in submission to the Government</p>	<p>TBA</p> <p>Sepp Malekizadeh</p> <p>TBA</p> <p>TBA</p>
Online collaboration	<p>Trial Open Access Documents for development of SEQ EIANZ submissions by sub-committee and contributors.</p> <p>Learn and teach others how to utilise social media for SEQ EIANZ Policy work.</p>	TBA (Laura Canavieri initiated this)
Public Relations/ Media Liaison	<p>Identify key people with suitable skills to undertake these roles in SEQ.</p> <p>Media presence: formalise documents outlining purposes – teach truth on environmental issues, identify who we are, identify what we do, invite environmental professionals to join us, leverage better environmental outcomes.</p>	<p>TBA</p> <p>TBA</p>
Current research and possible speakers	Complete list of environmental research and researchers in SEQ and Northern NSW (possible speakers).	Sepp Malekizadeh
Reference material for submissions and policy (and possible proactive submission)	Review of all State Planning Policies (SPP).	TBA
Reference material for submissions (and possible speakers)	<p>Compile a list of EIANZ SEQ subject matter experts we can ask to review submissions.</p> <p>Devise a system of recognition and thanking subject matter experts for their assistance</p>	TBA

Thanks to sub-committee members	Submit request proposal to SEQ EIANZ Committee for coffee budget for EIANZ SEQ Policy Subcommittee as thanks for participating.	Policy sub-committee chair
Submissions to Government	<p><b>Upcoming opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 (August)</li> <li>- Food for a Growing Economy (August)</li> <li>- Proposed Biosecurity Bill 2011 (August)</li> <li>- Murray Darling Basin Plan (QLD Darling Basin) (tba)</li> <li>- Review of Protected Plants Conservation Plan (September)</li> <li>- Protected Area Management Plans (September)</li> <li>- Queensland Infrastructure Plan (September)</li> <li>- Queensland Regionalisation Strategy; and Townsville Futures Plan (September)</li> <li>- Naturally Queensland 2020: The master plan for protected areas, forests and wildlife (November)</li> </ul>	TBA

Lindi Bowen  
Chairperson, Policy Sub-committee 2010-11