



Ecological Impact Assessment - Towards the development of EcIA Guidelines for Australia and New Zealand



ENVIRONMENT
INSTITUTE OF
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND

A full day forum by the
Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand
South East Queensland Division (EIANZ-SEQ)

Date: Saturday 15 August 2009
Time: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, registration from 8.30am
Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

EIANZ Ecology has produced a discussion document
"Ecological Impact Assessment - Towards the development of EcIA Guidelines for Australia and
New Zealand" with forewords by Professor Mark Burgman and Dr Chris McGrath.

To download and provide initial comments, please visit **EIANZ Ecology**
<http://eianzecology.blogspot.com>

Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) is not in the common or legislative vocabulary of Australia and New Zealand. Whether knowingly or otherwise, ecological practitioners implement EcIA every day and it is not confined to environmental impact assessment (EIA). EcIA is a prominent tool of sustainable development and the profession should align itself with an agreeable, consistent and contemporary approach to EcIA, to facilitate better decision-making. Ultimately, EIANZ Ecology aims to create Ecological Impact Assessment Guidelines for Australia and New Zealand, to support implementation of best practice methods for creating biodiversity outcomes. This requirement has been identified in a number of consultation exercises by EIANZ Ecology and we are now ready to discuss how this should be done. By describing EcIA practice, this document provides a focus for that discussion.

Your first opportunity to be directly involved in this important process will be with EIANZ-SEQ at the
INTECOL conference in Brisbane on Saturday 15th August.

We will hear about existing international best practice for EcIA and what key issues for EcIA in practice guidelines could hope to solve. Towards the end of the day, we will discuss the design of EcIA Guidelines, including:

1. Whether guidelines should be generic, legislation-specific (or both);
2. The size/format of such documentation e.g. whether they should be published, or utilise web technology for production;
3. Whether a system can be developed that works for land, freshwater and marine ecosystems;
and
4. How we can make this a living, useful document with standing in more than one country and jurisdiction.

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