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Monitoring and Follow-up Workshop Presentation

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Overview

- Introduction - Purpose and outcomes
- Overview of follow-up / monitoring
- Why do we need it?
- What is Best Practice?
- Case Studies
- Barriers to implementing follow-up

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What are we talking about?

Focus is on the pre-approvals assessment. How do we know whether anticipated effects have occurred at the scale and time predicted?

Follow-up = monitoring, auditing, evaluation, post decision analysis/management, EMS

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Reasons for Follow-up

- Ensure conditions of approval are met;
- Monitor effects of project and effectiveness of mitigation;
- Strengthen future EIA studies and mitigation;
- Optimisation of environmental management;
- Dealing with uncertainty in impact assessment;
- Allows response to unanticipated changes; and
- Overcomes biases, subjectivity, data and errors.

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When do we need Follow-up?

Subject to:

- extent of uncertainty in EIA analysis or predictions
- Familiarity with mitigation measures
- The complexity of potential environmental impacts
- The risks if mitigation not well implemented

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Why Do We Need It?

- Wood et. al, 2000 - 21% of predictions in EIA inaccurate, 30% nearly accurate
- Tennoy et. al, 2006 – 29% of predictions in EIA inaccurate, 29% nearly accurate
- Ellwood, 2004 – 30% predictions from US studies accurate. In Australia only 50% accurate
- Errors from model errors, errors in data or assumptions, bias

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What is the State of Play?

- International
 - Hong Kong, Portugal, Netherlands, Canada,
- Federal
 - EPBC Audit or compliance monitoring
- Queensland
 - No detailed requirements in any of the statutory IA processes

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Best Practice Principles

- Follow-up should be on a scale consistent with the significance of project impacts
- Requires legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions
- Requires mechanism to provide for inspection, enforcement monitoring and control of unacceptable impacts

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Best Practice Principles

- Major functions and activities include:
 - Inspection and surveillance
 - Effects monitoring
 - Compliance management
 - Impact management – verifying effectiveness of EIA and mitigation

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Best Practice Principles

- Inspection and surveillance – routine or periodic activities
- Monitoring, audit and follow-up when:
 - Potential effects uncertain but significant
 - Species or areas of concern act as trigger
 - Changes can be realistically detected

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Components of Follow-up

- Institutional Arrangements
 - What is required?
 - Who is responsible?
 - Follow-up linked to approvals decisions
 - Establishment of external (independent) bodies responsible for reviewing follow-up programs

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Components of Follow-up

- Techniques
 - Early and explicit scoping to identify follow-up requirements
 - Targeted programmes linked to consent decisions
 - Make use of existing monitoring and evaluation
 - Needs to be flexible to focus on important issues

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Components of Follow-up

- Communication and Participation
 - Openness – reporting and public participation
 - Sharing can enhance local capacity building
 - Active public participation can enable cumulative effects to be addressed in EIA

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Components of Follow-up

- Improving Project Management
 - Promotes application of EIA principles throughout project lifecycle
 - Promotes adaptive environmental management and links to EMS
 - Need not be onerous to proponent or regulators – needs to be flexible, pragmatic and utilise existing monitoring

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Components of Follow-up

- Training and Development
 - Outcomes used to improve EIA systems and practice
 - Advantages in learning from experience for both practitioners and regulators
 - Should be generic screening and scoping criteria for follow-up

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Fictional Case Studies

- What should a Follow-up program consist of?
 - Gympie Pulp Mill
 - Route 20

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Barriers and Strategies

- What are the barriers to implementing follow-up?
- How do we address these barriers and gaps?

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Thank You