

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

No. 4 December 2006

WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE AUSTRALIA'S TOP PRIORITIES: INSTITUTE MEMBERS SAY

In a recent EIANZ survey, Australian-based Institute members have identified water and climate change as the top two environmental priorities for Australia. These two issues stand out above all others (see table below); sustainability and energy were the next highest ranked issues.

A similar survey focusing on New Zealand will be conducted in early 2007.

The results are consistent with the top environmental priorities for Australian and New Zealand Environment Ministers, released by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council in early December. The priorities identified by the Council were transport and climate change, water and waste management, heritage conservation and air quality.

While water and climate change came out as the top priorities for Australian-based EIANZ Members, waste and air quality were not seen as high priorities by Institute Members, coming seventh and last respectively. Neither transport nor heritage featured in the EIANZ survey.

So what does this mean for EIANZ and its members? And how can we as the professional association for environment practitioners ensure that these environmental priorities are pursued with the vigour and urgency they require?

EIANZ Priorities Survey Results (Australia)

Topic	Weighted scores*	Rank
Water	522	1
Climate change	498	2
Sustainability	239	3
Energy	234	4
Biological diversity	167	5
An informed and active public	140	6
Consumption and waste	116	7
Built environment and urbanisation	92	8
Other	42	9
Coastal and marine	35	10
Land	31	11
Air quality	15	12

* Weighted as follows: 1pt 3rd priority, 2pts 2nd priority, 3pts 1st priority

The Policy and Practice Committee is using the Institute's priorities to guide its work on the development of Institute policies. Draft Institute policies for the top priorities – water, climate change, energy and sustainability – are currently open for comment on the EIANZ website and members are encouraged to input to this important process.

The External Relations Committee is looking at how the Institute should convey the outcomes of this survey to our stakeholders in government, other professional and industry bodies, NGOs and the media. The Committee is finalising a plan for engaging key stakeholders, which will be taken forward over the next year in cooperation with Divisions and Chapters.

Some Divisions have started discussions on how they can further develop Institute policies on these priority issues, and adapt them to their local settings.

Both the External Relations and Policy and Practice Committees, as well as the Divisions and Chapters, welcome input from all Institute Members in this process. Please help us to define the issues and the Institute's position on them, and to engage stakeholders on the vigour and urgency needed to address the priority issues.

To access draft Institute policies on water, climate change, energy and sustainability, go to www.eianz.org

For more information on the work of the External Relations Committee please contact Justin Sherrard at justin.sherrard@cambiar.com.au

For more information on the work of the Policy and Practice Committee please contact Richard Hoy at rhoy@bigpond.com

Link to EPHC Communique
http://www.ephc.gov.au/pdf/EPHC/Comm_24_11_06.pdf

Tiernan Humphrys and Justin Sherrard

KEEPING TRACK OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

One of the potentially beneficial effects of the exponential growth in both size and number of environmental impact statements and similar environmental reports is the enormous amount of information being compiled about the local environment. The fact that most of this information-gathering is driven by development projects, rather than by a systematic scientific approach, means that the potential information base is patchy and fragmented, but it nonetheless adds to the total pool of environmental knowledge – at least in theory.



we retire from active work in a few years time. One thought was whether the local divisions of the professional institutes should band together to establish a centralised library which is accessible to their members, so that this vast body of information is not lost forever. There would be significant financial and human resources costs in maintaining and updating such a library, but this may be significantly less than the costs of chasing otherwise elusive reports or repeating work that is still relevant.

Information cannot be useful, however, unless it is accessible. To be accessible, potential users first need to know of its existence and then need to be able to get hold of it. Knowing what information is about is not easy when reports are not published in the conventional sense, and are produced only in small numbers of copies, many of which may be discarded when the project is over or disappear to the back of bureaucrats' filing cabinets. Here they may sit forgotten forever, unless someone with a long memory can point the way to their existence.

It is more likely, however, that the work will be done again, which in some cases may be justified anyway if the environment has changed, although the historical perspective, which sometimes may be quite valuable, will still be lost.

The current challenge of information storage and retrieval affects many aspects of society and is assisted by progress in electronic technology. Is there anyone anywhere in Australia or New Zealand who is applying this technology to the systemic and comprehensive storage and indexing of environmental reports, current and past?

While electronic technology may be the way of the future, it has some significant disadvantages compared with the traditional library of printed publications. Canberra once had an excellent reference library of environmental and planning reports within the National Capital Development Commission, but the demise of that organisation eventually resulted in that library not being maintained or replaced with a comparable ACT government facility. Do any other state or local government organisations maintain comprehensive and accessible library holdings of environmental reports?

A former town planner colleague and I were recently discussing what we should do with our respective large libraries of technical reports when

I find the loss of corporate knowledge within government due to departmental restructuring and staff turnover to be quite alarming. In Canberra there are instances where past studies which have significant implications for human health and safety have been forgotten in relation to later planning decisions. One way of attempting to counter this loss of corporate memory is for governments to maintain and upgrade good information services which can be used by their own staff and by others. Unfortunately, the current trend, at least in Canberra, appears to be in the reverse direction.

David Hogg
Editor

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc. unless specifically stated.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I would like to wish all members and their families a wonderful, happy and safe Festive Season.

I also want to thank all members for their contributions to the continuing development of the Institute this past year. Councillors, Standing and Working Committees, Special Interest Sections and Chapter and Divisional committees have all contributed significantly to promoting the Institute. My thanks to them for all of their hard work. And of course our wonderful EIANZ staff also deserve thanks for their endless energy, commitment and innumerable contributions.

Much has been achieved in the past year and I'd like to share with you a few highlights.

The 2006 Adelaide Conference was a wonderful event in many ways. This was the first Institute Conference where we have run professional development workshops. They helped identify what we need in terms of professional standards, professional development needs across the full range of experience levels, and the tools we require to practise as competent, ethical and accountable environmental professionals.

The workshop materials are being used to plan future professional development initiatives, including a review of impact assessment, a review of best practice, and defining who is competent to sign an impact assessment report.

Another significant win this year has been securing a new professional indemnity insurance scheme for Institute members. The scheme is being administered by insurance brokers, Marsh, and is underwritten by DUAL. Marsh provides EIANZ with 25% of the commissions paid by DUAL. As we go to print, 24 members have utilised this service since August, with 34 proposals currently under consideration. The scheme delivers fair and adequate cover, the application process is simple, premiums are based on job risks, credit is provided for Certified practitioners, and premiums are significantly lower than other insurers.

The Institute has negotiated its first benefactor, SKM. I would like to thank SKM for its contribution, which will allow us to continue developing professional development programs as well as increasing member services.

At present the External Relations Committee is working on plans to promote the Institute throughout 2007, with support from the Policy and Practice Committee. This will focus on promoting the Institute and the Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme (CEvP) to Ministers and Heads of relevant government departments, and other professional bodies.



As I mentioned in my Adelaide Conference address, I believe that professional environmental practitioners need to develop environmental standards and identify best practices to lift the standard of

professional environmental practice. We can all help make this happen by contributing to various Institute initiatives. All members can join Divisional or Chapter committees or join the Institute's various Standing Committees or Working Groups.

Of course all contributions made to these committees are counted as professional development points for the Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme. I urge all members pitch in and help make 2007 an even bigger year for the Institute and, in the process, contribute to delivering better and more sustainable environmental outcomes.

While we have been busy with these external initiatives, important progress has also been made in improving governance and the business principles behind the management of the Institute. We now have a Corporate Plan aligned to a detailed budget, so we can deliver efficient and effective member services.

Environmental professionals throughout Australia and New Zealand have experienced a strong demand for their skills during 2006. I believe this demand will continue as society focuses on priority environmental issues, including climate change, water, sustainability and energy. To ensure we can meet society's growing expectations we need to improve professional accountability, competency and ethical practice; it's a challenge I hope we will continue to work on together through 2007.

I wish you all a prosperous 2007, full of professional challenges and enrichment. 2007 will be a very busy year for the Institute – we will turn 20 years old *[we will celebrate our 20th anniversary in style, so stay tuned]* and we will continue our efforts to help develop appropriate professional development programs, and to continue to position the Institute as Australia and New Zealand's peak body for environmental practitioners.

Seasons Greetings

Bill Haylock



PARTICIPANTS RATE THE ADELAIDE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Based on anecdotal evidence and the results of a feedback survey of delegates, the EIANZ Conference held in Adelaide in September was a success in terms of outcomes for participants. 91 percent of respondents were 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with the overall conference, and there was little negative feedback.

Based around the theme, *Environmental Practice*, the Conference offered a good mix of keynote speakers, presentations of papers by other participants, and workshops, with plenty of opportunity for people to get involved. One disappointing aspect, however, was the cancellation of the planned field trips, due to an apparent low level of interest when the time came for conference attendees to confirm their places on these field trips.

While there were 191 registrations for the Conference, the number of full-time registrations, especially of members, was disappointing. This is not uncommon at EIANZ Conferences, perhaps reflecting the difficulty of staging an event which is of interest to such a diverse membership. About 37 percent of fee-paying delegates were from South Australia, reflecting the importance of local support for a successful conference. Queensland (18 percent) was the next largest state represented.



Simon Molesworth was presented with his certificate for Honorary Life Membership at the dinner. Two of the Institute's other Life Members, Mary Lou Morris and Eric Anderson, joined him on the podium. The other Life Member, Tor Hundloe, was unable to attend.



John Scanlon, Independent Commissioner, Murray Darling Basin Commission, was the first keynote speaker.

The Conference was financially successful and was generously supported by a number of sponsors, particularly the South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage, Zero Waste SA, the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage and BHP Billiton (see box on page 5 for a full list of sponsors).

Features of the Conference included:

- the first meeting/ workshop of the newly formed Impact Assessment Special Interest Section;
- the launch of the Institute's new Professional Indemnity Insurance Facility established through Marsh Pty Ltd;
- the announcement of SKM as a major benefactor of the Institute; and
- the awarding of Honorary Life Membership to the Immediate Past President, Simon Molesworth AM, QC.



Claire Gronow, SEQ Division President.





Mr Michael Harbison, the Rt Hon, the Lord Mayor of Adelaide with Dr Bruce Kennedy, Chair of the Conference Organising Committee, at the Welcome Reception.



Richard Sharp (ACT Division President), Lachlan Wilkinson (ACT Councillor) and Brett Odgers (former ACT Division President).



Past and present Editors of the Journal, Eric Anderson and Helen Ross.



The South Australian Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Hon. Gail Gago, opened the Conference.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The EIANZ gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following sponsors for its 2006 Conference:

- South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage
- Zero Waste South Australia
- Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage
- BHP Billiton
- The University of South Australia
- SITA Environmental Solutions
- Environment Protection Authority of South Australia
- John Davidson Associates
- Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Department of Premier and Cabinet (Capital City Committee)
- Creative Decisions Ltd
- CSIRO Publishing
- Federation Press

The photographs of the Conference were taken by Danielle Bolton and Thaimi Croeser.





Steve Wilke, Melissa Harvey, Aaron Harvey and Simon Molesworth at the dinner.



Kim Winter-Dewhurst spoke at the Conference Dinner on behalf of BHP Billiton, which sponsored the dinner.

SKM TO BECOME EIANZ BENEFACTOR

The EIANZ is delighted to announce that leading project delivery organisation Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) has signed on as a Benefactor of the Institute.

SKM is a leading project delivery organisation working to deliver exceptional value to its clients in countries across the globe. SKM has a growing global environmental practice and environmental management is seen as the key to successfully delivering ecologically, socially and environmentally sustainable projects.



Rod Hughes, SKM State Manager, South Australia, presented a benefactor's cheque to the Institute at the Conference.

20 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

In 2007 the Institute will be twenty years old. While there is no single major conference planned for 2007, the occasion will not pass without the opportunity for all members to celebrate.

Danielle Bolton (SEQ Secretariat) is in the process of consulting with Divisions and the NZ Chapter with a view to developing a series of activities in all Divisions and the three main centres in New Zealand, which will take place between August and October and culminate in a function in Sydney, where the Institute was formed.

Any members with suggestions can pass them on through their Divisional Committees. Further plans are expected to be announced following the Council meeting in January.

2008 EIANZ CONFERENCE

The 2008 EIANZ Conference is planned to be held in Perth in April 2008 in conjunction with the international conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA). Details of the conference arrangements have still to be finalised in consultation with IAIA.

EIANZ President, Bill Haylock, was impressed by SKM's corporate commitment to supporting the environmental profession in Australia and New Zealand. "By becoming a Benefactor of the Institute SKM has made a valuable contribution to the continuous improvement of environmental practitioners within Australia and New Zealand" said Bill Haylock. "Capacity building of our practitioners is a critical component in driving the transition to a more sustainable society and the Institute is proud to partner with leading organisations that share this vision".

Geoff Linke, General Manager, Water & Environment, for SKM, noted the logic of supporting a professional body like the EIANZ. "We now employ a large number of environmental professionals and it is important for SKM that we encourage and support organisations that promote environmental knowledge and awareness. We particularly appreciate the work of the Institute in advancing ethical and competent environmental practice through the provision of quality training and learning opportunities", said Geoff Linke. "SKM has a commitment to excellence and by supporting the Environment Institute we can help our people deliver exceptional value to our clients, in addition to making a broader contribution to the environmental profession".



PI INSURANCE FACILITY A SUCCESS

Feedback from members indicated that the new EIANZ professional indemnity insurance facility developed through Marsh Pty Ltd is proving to be a great success.

Comments from some members who have recently joined the scheme are as follows:

- I'm extremely pleased with the ability to obtain a \$5 million cover for a very reasonable premium. The application form was a 'piece of cake' compared to my previous broker's form, and the quote was received within 48 hours. Added to this was the fact that I received my 'certificate of currency' (without my prompting) with my Policy. All in all, I commend the EIANZ for their vision and would recommend the scheme to all environmental practitioners.*
- What a relief to obtain PI cover for reasonable terms with a minimum of fuss. What a*

difference to previous years. At last, through the EIANZ PI Scheme we have a broker and insurer that understand the environmental industry.

- The premium offered by Marsh was only 40 percent of that quoted by my previous insurer, no doubt reflecting recognition of the low risk nature of my business. Furthermore, the cover was more comprehensive and was not qualified by some of the key exclusions in my previous policy.*
- The premium was cheaper, the paperwork less weighty and the process painless compared to other brokers. Full marks to Stephen [Jenkins] for the arrangement.*

Any members seeking PI insurance for their businesses are encouraged to contact John Delves at Marsh Pty Ltd, phone 03 - 9603 2190.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SIS GETS GOING

The first workshop of the Impact Assessment Special Interest Section (IA-SIS) was conducted during the EIANZ Conference in Adelaide.

A draft Business Plan was presented at the workshop as part of a Discussion Paper on the IA-SIS. This will form the basis for the future direction of the SIS.

The proposed structure for the IA-SIS, as discussed at the conference, is to have a core Management Committee. Consensus from the conference workshop was that the Committee would be open to both members and non-members prepared to commit time to the delivery of the Business Plan.

The Convenor, Bryce Skarratt, is seeking nominations for representation on the Management Committee. Ideally, representatives should include different practitioner backgrounds and representing both New Zealand and several Australian states. As a rule of thumb, Committee members could expect to contribute on average 1 to 3 hours a week, particularly in the early phases of the SIS. The Committee is expected to consist of 6 to 8 practitioners, and will convene via regular phone hook-ups.

Following finalisation of the Management Committee, confirmation of the Business Plan actions will be the primary objective. Working groups will be established under the coordination of the Management Committee. Actions may include the following tasks (based on the draft Business Plan):

- Finalisation of SIS inputs into the EIANZ Impact Assessment Policy
- Establishing links with other professional bodies
- Developing a communication strategy
- Impact assessment and sustainable outcomes Document Government policy and legislative arrangements on impact assessment
- Identify the necessary competencies and standards for environmental practitioners to undertake the various roles in impact assessment
- Establish a list of tools that are required to achieve better practice impact assessment
- Develop appropriate tools to support environmental practitioners to undertake impact assessment
- Document details on decision rules used by regulators to achieve specific outcomes.

Other tasks will be included subject to direction from the Management Committee.

Could those interested in nominating for the Management Committee please advise Bryce Skarratt by 12 January (contact bryce_skarratt@ghd.com.au or 07 - 3316 3523). The first committee teleconference is proposed for the week commencing 28 January 2007.

Those who have previously indicated interest in the IA-SIS should have received a recent e-mail containing the draft Business Plan. Any other members interested in joining the IA-SIS can do so by forwarding Bryce Skarratt their contact details.



NEW CHAIR FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Justin Sherrard has recently been appointed as Chair of the Institute's External Relations Committee. He takes over from John Ashe, who was the chair of the Committee from 1999 and oversaw the reactivation of the Committee over the last 15 months.

The External Relations Committee supports the President and the Institute in its external relations work. Since it was reactivated, the Committee has developed a communications plan for the Institute and prepared submissions and responses to public inquiries and reports relevant to its aims.

In the coming year the Committee will support the Institute's President and Division/Chapter Presidents to start engaging stakeholders in government, related professional and industry bodies, and the media, on the importance of certification to good

environmental practice, and on priority environmental issues for Australia and New Zealand.

Justin joined the Institute in 1995. In his professional work he has been involved with national and international climate change policy for more than 10 years, working in Australia, the UK, the US and Latin America. Justin is well connected to the global political debate on climate change, including the campaign perspectives and tactics of the NGO movement.

Justin is a partner in Cambiar, a Sydney-based strategy consultancy which he co-founded with Alan Tate in 2001. Cambiar works with businesses and Governments on gaining competitive advantage and public support through a progressive approach to sustainability, and especially climate change.

CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATE

As the end of the year approaches, Central Office is busy tying up all the loose ends, so if your membership is still outstanding, our new Membership Administrator, Debbie Howell, will be in touch soon.

We are also gearing up for our shift to new premises in Carlton. The new address from 17 January 2007 will be RMIT Building 60, 50 Cardigan Street, Carlton. The contact details will remain the same.

We will be sorry to farewell our CEO, Mark Nan Tie, who leaves us to take up other interesting challenges. We have appreciated all his hard work in steering Central Office into its current strong position.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Festive Season and prosperous year ahead, so until next year, have a safe and happy Christmas.

Denise Sheard, Office Manager

Membership Promotion Committee

The Membership Promotion Committee's goal is to ensure that membership of Institute is highly regarded within the environment profession and desirable to individual practitioners. This means both attracting new members and providing the services needed to retain members. The Committee will shortly be consulting with members to better understand their reasons for joining the EIANZ, the services used, and services they would like to see offered. While this is occurring, we are planning to improve the brochure and other material that can be used to promote the EIANZ.

The Committee still needs representatives from Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales, Far North Queensland and the Northern Territory. If you are interested, please contact the Chair of the Committee, Lachlan Wilkinson (Lachlan.Wilkinson@deh.gov.au) or your Divisional Councillor.

Lachlan Wilkinson

ADVICE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

All members are invited to contribute material to *The Environmental Practitioner*. Contributions may include:

- short articles (up to 2 pages or 1300 words) on topics of interest to other members;
- news items of members' achievements (e.g. senior appointments, awards);
- letters to the Editor;
- brief notes on other items of general interest;
- photographs of EIANZ functions; and
- requests for advice or assistance.

Material should be sent by e-mail as Word attachments. Please proofread carefully before sending. Photographs should be sent as a jpeg file or an alternative format suitable for editing. Deadline for next issue (March): 6 February 2007

The e-mail address for newsletter contributions is newslettereditor@eianz.org.



MEET THE COUNCIL (PART 4)

Steve Wilke, WA Councillor

Steve Wilke was appointed Councillor for the WA Division in 2002. He has been a member of the EIANZ since 1989 and a Divisional Committee member since 1997. Steve became Treasurer in 1999 and Secretary in 2004. In 2005, he also took on the roles of Certification Coordinator and Web Editor for the WA Division. Steve holds a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Impact Assessment from Murdoch University. He also holds a Graduate Diploma in Landcare from Curtin University.



Steve is a Senior Environmental Scientist with the Water Corporation (WA) and has more than 20 years experience in the fields of environmental science including catchment management. His main roles currently include environmental project management, obtaining environmental approvals and providing environmental advice to project managers, planners and designers. Steve is a keen advocate of mentoring and mentors environmental science graduates under both the EIANZ scheme and the Water Corporation's mentoring program. These days, Steve enjoys yoga, cycling and walking following a decade of competing in marathons and triathlons.



Dr Barbara Radcliffe, SA Councillor

Barbara Radcliffe BA, BSc (Hons), PhD, DipEd, Grad.Dip.Occ.Health, RSP, CEnvP CPMSIA specialises in environmental education and training and in the integration of health safety and environment within management systems. She is a Past President of the SA Division of the EIANZ as well as a National Councillor. She is a member of the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand, the Australian Water Association, the Australian Association of Environmental Educators and the Board of Management of Safer Communities Australia.

Barbara's experience includes environmental training, management system development and auditing across a wide range of industries including water treatment, hazardous waste facilities, vehicle assembly, air transport, mining, quarrying, energy and manufacturing.

In the training and education sector, she has developed and implemented curriculum in environmental management up to Diploma level in the Vocational Education and Training sector. She contributes to the occupational and environmental health programs at the University of Adelaide, and was principal author of the Best Practice Environmental Management in Mining Training Kit developed for Environment Australia and the United Nations Environment Program. She was a member of the panel providing advice on environmental degree programs at Flinders University, and is currently providing input into environmental courses at the University of South Australia and TAFE-SA.

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES TRADE MISSION TO CANADA

The Canadian Consulate invites EIANZ members to participate in a trade mission to Canada to visit one of Canada's major environmental technology events, AMERICANA 2007, to be held in Montreal on 20-22 March 2007, as well as to participate in customised activities, site visits and meetings with key Canadian environmental technologies companies between 13 and 23 March.

Further information about AMERICANA 2007 is available on the website, www.americana.org. The contact for further information about the trade mission is:

RG (Bob) Gow, Trade Commissioner - Environment & Energy

Canadian Consulate General, Sydney

Telephone: 02 - 9364 3045 or 0418 206 218

Email: robert.gow@international.gc.ca



FELLOWSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE EXPANDED

The Fellowship Review Committee (FRC) has recently been expanded to consist of all current Fellows of the Institute who have agreed to participate on panels assessing new fellowship nominations. Those who are on the committee as at 29 November 2006 are as follows:

ACT: John Ashe, David Hogg, Richard Sharp, Lynn Bain.

NSW: Pem Gerner, David Bell, John Zillman, Alasdair Guthrie, Dhia Al Bakri, Michael Brennan.

New Zealand: Ian Spellerberg.

SE Queensland: Mary Maher, Bill Gardyne, John Thorogood, Hugh Lavery, John Brannock.

Victoria: Allan Bremner, Alastair Sharp-Paul, Zena Helman, David Mercer, Donald MacPhee, Robin Saunders, Terry Bellair, Phillip Bachelor, Rob Gell, Tom Beer, Charles Meredith, Frank Fisher.

Western Australia: John Ottaway.

In addition to assessing fellowship nominations, the Executive Committee proposes to use willing members of the FRC to also undertake the following tasks:

- Consider and make recommendations in respect of Honorary Life Members;
- Consider and make recommendations in respect of Certification Appeals;
- Consider and make recommendations in respect of Merit Awards to the membership (these are currently being developed and we hope to make the first awards in 2007); and
- Consider and make recommendations with respect to sponsorship exclusions (as in the Institute's Sponsorship Policy).

With a Committee of 29 members it should be feasible to spread the increased workload so that each member should have to undertake no more than one or two tasks per year.

The procedures for nominating fellows and reviewing fellowship nominations are set out in By-law 8, which has recently been amended to reflect the new Committee arrangements. This by-law can be found on the Institute's website (go to [About EIANZ/Corporate & Statutory Information/Corporate Governance](#)).

Are you interested in becoming a Fellow?

The criteria for being appointed a Fellow are not as stringent in the EIANZ as they are in some other professional institutes or learned societies, but there

is still a strict nomination and review process. The criteria for fellowship include the following:

- *Has substantially occupied a senior position of influence in the environmental profession for a period of at least ten years and acquired a high level of general environmental knowledge.*
- *Be a good character and personal repute and have established a professional reputation, with high ethical and moral standards, and be held in high esteem within the environmental profession and associated professions.*

Simply being in the profession for ten years is not an automatic qualification for fellowship.

Persons who may qualify as a Fellow include:

- a consultant who has established or led an environmental consulting firm and is well regarded within the profession;
- a senior public servant with a key role in developing environmental policy or legislation;
- a leading environmental research scientist;
- an academic who has played a key role in developing and teaching environmental studies courses;
- a leading author of professional environmental publications; or
- a senior employee within a private company or government enterprise who has been influential in improving the environmental performance of that organisation over an extended period.

These examples are not formal guidelines for Fellow membership, but reflect the attributes of many of the Fellows within the Institute.

If you feel that you meet the necessary criteria and are interested in becoming a Fellow, don't be shy about approaching suitable Members to nominate you. Note that the proposer and seconder of a fellowship nomination are required also to be EIANZ Members for at least two years and to have known the nominee for at least five years. The proposer must prepare a supporting letter to the President which sets out the basis for the fellowship nomination.

Alternatively, some Divisions have managed the fellowship nomination process by screening their membership lists and approaching all those divisional members who appear eligible to become Fellows. That is why Victoria is so strongly represented in the fellowship category.



DIVISION NEWS

ACT Division Seminar - EPBC Act amendments

Mark Flanigan, Assistant Secretary, Policy and Compliance Branch, Department of the Environment and Heritage gave an informative presentation on the rationale for the amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* recently tabled in Parliament. Mark explained that the changes were designed to create a better strategic framework for dealing with emerging environmental issues, establish greater certainty about the process, provide more flexibility and efficiency, and strengthen compliance and enforcement.

Mark acknowledged that while the current *EPBC Act* includes provisions for strategic assessments, these had not been used successfully as they did not provide enough value to proponents for the effort invested. The amendments will provide more incentive for local authorities and proponents to prepare strategic assessments. This will allow individual projects to be dealt with in a regional and cumulative context.

Similarly, nominations for listing of heritage places and threatened species and ecological communities must currently be considered as they are received. This hampers the ability to focus resources on areas of greatest need. The amendments will establish an annual call for nominations with the Australian Heritage Council and Threatened Species Scientific Committee advising the Minister on priorities for the work program for considering nominations.

The amendments contain a number of measures aimed at increasing certainty. Perhaps most noteworthy of these are the ability of the Minister to issue Policy Statements, and clarification of the treatment of the consequential impacts of a proposal – the latter is based on the Nathan Dam Federal Court decision.

Several amendments come under a loose umbrella of ‘cutting red tape’. Of interest to practitioners in impact assessment are proposals to reduce the number of steps in the assessment process by allowing the assessment approach decision to be taken when an action is determined to require approval. A new ‘assessment on referral information’ approach will enable straightforward projects to be dealt with quickly. Likewise, projects with clearly unacceptable impacts will be able to be refused at the outset, rather than continuing to progress through the assessment process.

In answers to questions, Mark noted there had been criticism of the amendments due to the increase in some powers they provide to the Minister, but Mark considered there were a number of safeguards in place. There was some discussion of the removal of the requirement for a five yearly review of matters of national environmental significance. Governments could still review these matters as they saw fit. It was acknowledged that there are better instruments for dealing with important environmental issues like global warming, land clearing and water than including them as matters of national environmental significance under the *EPBC Act*.

Further information on the amendments is available on the Department of the Environment and Heritage website at www.deh.gov.au/epbc/2006-amendments

Lachlan Wilkinson, ACT Councillor

Tasmanian Division Biannual Conference - Hobart

On 4 August 2006, the EIANZ Tasmanian Division held their Biannual Conference at the Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel in Hobart. The theme of the conference was *Repair, Reconstruction and Reconciliation: A Profile of Environmental Remediation in Tasmania*.

The conference attracted about 80 delegates to the full-day event, where eleven speakers from a diversity of disciplines presented 30-minute talks on topics relating to sustainability, water, land, air and planning and their relevance to remediation in Tasmania. Topics included mitigation management, stormwater management, biosolid reuse, remediation after construction of linear infrastructure, remediation of the Launceston gasworks, odour impact assessment, wood smoke management in Launceston, air pollution modelling, planning in Tasmania, and community engagement strategies.

The keynote speaker for the event was Ms Deni Greene of Deni Greene Consulting Services in Melbourne. Ms Greene has been involved in sustainability reporting for a number of years and her presentation entitled *Values and Value in Sustainability Reporting* discussed the need for sustainability reporting in Australia.

The other speakers were:

Helen Lochner (Hydro Tasmania)

Marcus Hardie (DTAE)

Paul Carstairs (Earth Tech)

John Todd (Eco-Energy Options Pty Ltd)

Jerry de Grose (Inspiring Place)

Todd Milne (DTAE)

Tim Duckett (LMRS Pty Ltd)

Frank Fleer (AWN Consultants Pty Ltd)

Mike Power (DTAE)

John Wadsley (GHD Pty Ltd)

The conference also allowed the opportunity for students from the University of Tasmania to present posters on their honours or PhD topics to delegates.



EIANZ DIRECTORY

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Contributing to EVRI

The following message has been forwarded to the EIANZ for distribution to any interested members.

The Environmental Valuation Resource Inventory (EVRI) is a searchable international storehouse of empirical studies on the economic value of environmental benefits and human health effects. It has been developed as a tool to help policy analysts use the benefits transfer approach as an alternative to doing new valuation research. The New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation has funded a 2-year membership of EVRI on behalf of Australia (<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publications/evri.htm>).

The usefulness of EVRI for Australian analysts will partly depend on the number of Australian studies in the EVRI database, and hence I encourage Australian authors to consider contributing. I would expect that having your studies in EVRI would lead to a much wider recognition of the work you have done in this area.

Studies are usually entered into EVRI by contracted graduate students or by study authors directly. To be included, environmental economic studies need to be summarised and entered into specified fields within the database, according to the EVRI study capture guide instructions. Studies are then reviewed by Environment Canada economists before being added into EVRI. To add studies, a special user account is required to provide access to the study capture part of the database (where more screen menu options are available). To obtain a special user account, an emailed request should be directed to Robyn.Rittmaster@ec.gc.ca.

Could I urge you, if appropriate, to subscribe to EVRI (for free) if you haven't already done so (www.evri.ca/english/default.htm) and email Robyn.Rittmaster@ec.gc.ca to request a special account so that you can include your studies in the EVRI database.

David Godden
Manager
Environment and Conservation Economics Section
Policy and Science Division
NSW Department of Environment and Conservation
email: david.godden@environment.nsw.gov.au

Editor: David Hogg
Email: newslettereditor@eianz.org
Phone: 02-6251 3885
+ 612-6251 3885 (international)
Fax: 02-6253 1574

EIANZ Central Office
GPO Box 211, Melbourne, Vic 3001
Email: office@eianz.org
Phone: 03-9654 7473
+613-9654 7473 (international)
Fax: 03-9650 1242
Website: www.eianz.org

