



# THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

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## EP3 - THE THIRD WAVE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS EVALUATING PRACTICES EVOLVING PATHWAYS

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand is pleased to announce that 2007 marks our 20th year as the peak professional body for environmental practitioners in Australasia.

To celebrate our 20th Anniversary, the Institute is proud to present *EP3 - The Third Wave in Environmental Practice*. The first wave in environmental practice was experienced in the 1970s/earlier 1980s and carried with it a growing awareness of the need to address environmental issues in decision-making. This wave saw the introduction of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals)* Act followed by other Commonwealth and state legislation, the creation of environmental positions in government agencies and the start of the environmental consulting profession. With the emergence of a new profession, practitioners had to feel their way and relied on a high degree of commonsense judgement.

The second wave was experienced from the late 1980s to the present time with a growing emphasis on process and procedures, increased environmental knowledge and a move towards more rigorous and often more complicated methodologies. Many more people become involved in the environmental profession or on the fringe of it. Environmental issues became more complex and demanding to resolve and the cost of addressing environmental issues increased dramatically. This, however, has not necessarily led to commensurate gains in good environmental outcomes, particularly at the strategic level.

The third wave provides the opportunity for environmental practitioners to look holistically at how to capitalise on the positive aspects of the first two waves to make the world a better place for people to live in. While global survival has been on the environmentalists' agenda since the early 1970s, concern has never been as acute as it is today. Sustainability, which emerged during the second wave, in a key concept which will dominate the third wave, and embraces most of the major environmental topics.

EP3 will consist of eleven one-day forums across Australia and New Zealand. Each forum will be divided into two halves. The morning will contain keynote speakers addressing the future of environmental practice over the next 20 years including key areas such as future approaches, global Impacts and required skill sets. The afternoon session will run parallel workshops discussing best practice options in the Institute's key policy areas of Water, Climate Change, Sustainability and Energy.

The roadshow of forums will conclude with a gala dinner to be held in Sydney where the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand began in 1987. Earth Foundation Australia is the designated charity for the evening.

The dates and venues for the forums are listed on page 2. More information will be released soon including detailed programs for your area and registration forms. Please note that programs will vary from location to location. Visit the website at [www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org) for the latest information.

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Dates and locations for the EP3 forums are as follows, so mark your diary now.

Date	Location	Venue
Thursday 30 August 2007	Brisbane	Citigate King George Square, Cnr Roma & Ann Sts, Brisbane
Friday 7 September 2007	Townsville	Jupiters Townsville, Sir Leslie Thiess Dr, Townsville
Monday 17 September 2007	Auckland	Skycity Auckland Convention Centre 86 Federal Street, Auckland
Wednesday 19 September 2007	Wellington	Duxton Hotel, 170 Wakefield Street, Wellington
Friday 21 September 2007	Christchurch	Rydges Christchurch, Cnr Worcester St & Oxford Tce, Christchurch
Wednesday 3 October 2007	Melbourne	Novotel on Collins, 270 Collins St, Melbourne
Friday 5 October 2007	Hobart	Hobart Function & Conference Centre, Elizabeth St Pier, Hobart
Tuesday 9 October 2007	Perth	Sheraton Hotel, 207 Adelaide Terrace, Perth
Thursday 11 October 2007	Adelaide	Mercure Grosvenor Hotel, 125 North Terrace, Adelaide
Tuesday 16 October 2007	Canberra	Rydges Capital Hill, Cnr Canberra Ave & National Circuit, Forrest
Friday 19 October 2007	Sydney	Citigate Central, 169-179 Thomas Street, Sydney
Friday 19 October 2007 Gala Dinner	Sydney	Citigate Central, 169-179 Thomas Street, Sydney

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## 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 (September): 7 August 2007.**

The e-mail address for newsletter contributions is [newslettereditor@eianz.org](mailto:newslettereditor@eianz.org).

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.



## Editorial

# HOW EVERY MEMBER CAN HELP EIANZ DEVELOP

The EIANZ, like many other not-for-profit organisations, relies on the voluntary efforts of many of its members plus a core of dedicated paid staff to maintain its operation. The human effort to make the Institute work effectively is probably much greater than many members appreciate. It is no easy task to balance reasonable voluntary and paid workloads with membership fees that are not so high that they would discourage membership.



The only way that the Institute can realistically expect to grow in stature and influence is by building up its professional resources in the Central Office and Division offices. This needs money, and the largest and most reliable source of income is membership fees.

The number of potential EIANZ members in Australia and New Zealand vastly exceeds the current membership total of around 1900. Members are no doubt aware of colleagues who are not current members but who would benefit if they were. **If every member could convince one of these colleagues to join**, this would be a big step in enabling the Institute to develop a staffing structure capable of achieving those tasks that would benefit the membership and raise the standing of the environmental profession.

A major component of the Institute's operation is the Central Office, which has had its highs and lows over the years. Right now, it is riding on a high, due in no small part to the dedicated efforts of Denise Sheard who has recently completed a term as Office Manager.

As of the end of June, Denise has decided to move on, but her contribution has been greatly appreciated by the Executive, Council and others who have worked with her. The Executive is working to fill Denise's position and, at the same time, has been reviewing a range of positions in the Central Office in the context of the Corporate Plan and budget. There is no question that the Central Office staff resources are well below those that would be justified on the basis of what the Institute could or should be doing. At the present size and growth rate of the Institute, at best only a modest growth in staff resources is feasible within budgetary constraints.

Since 1998, the Institute has had a comprehensive and ambitious Corporate Plan which looks ahead at the tasks that it would like to achieve to strengthen the Institute and help develop the environmental profession in Australia and New Zealand. Regrettably, as each year passes, many of these tasks remain not done, due primarily to a lack of human resources.

The Institute may be able to achieve much more if it were able to marshal more voluntary resources among its membership. It is only the most dedicated professionals, however, that are prepared to devote some of their spare time to work that may not be greatly different to what they do in their daily employment. If one is going to volunteer for something, it is much more fun to coach a football team or lead bushwalks. While some members contribute significantly through their work time, this is not feasible in many situations. The most committed contributors are commonly self-employed people who are prepared to make significant time and/or income sacrifices in the process. Such sacrifices have their limits.

**David Hogg**  
Editor

## SORRY FOR BEING LATE

This issue of *The Environmental Practitioner* is about a month later than planned. Part of the reason for the delay was a major software malfunction on my computer, which resulted in the deletion of all stored e-mail contributions. It was necessary to go back to the contributors and ask them to resend their material.

It is possible that some contributors may have been missed in the process. If you have sent any contributions which have not appeared in the newsletter, please feel free to send them again, if they are still current. Also, if you had offered to send material and are still awaiting further advice or confirmation from me, please contact me again at [newslettereditor@eianz.org](mailto:newslettereditor@eianz.org), as your original correspondence and any previous replies have also been deleted.

### Best Practice Bibliography

A number of e-mails containing suggestions for documents or websites to include in the best practice bibliography were also casualties of the same software malfunction. If you had sent any of these suggestions, could you please send them again.

David Hogg



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings from Denmark, where I'm currently on sabbatical. I've been enjoying spending time with my family and visiting the many different attractions of Kobenhavn (I've even changed the way I spell Copenhagen!). Next week I'm planning a visit the Formarsk nuclear waste facility in Sweden, then tour around Stockholm for a couple of days. And, of course, I'm still keeping in touch with what's happening in Australia and New Zealand.

Over the past year Australia has seen a build-up of community concern, media discussion and political attention to climate change. Minds have been concentrated by the long-standing drought and associated water shortages affecting most of Australia. As well, the major scientific and economic reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change, and the popularity of Al Gore's documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, have all grabbed media attention.

The debate has shifted quickly from considering the extent of human influence on climate systems, to now focus on the likely rates of change and the required mitigation and adaptation measures. Market-based instruments, such as emissions trading and carbon taxes, have been hot topics on both sides of the Tasman.

So I'm very pleased that the Institute has now published its Position Statement on Climate Change [www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org) (scroll down the home page). Its release was delayed pending publication of the Fourth Assessment Report by the IPCC. The latest science has been incorporated into the Institute's Statement. The other approved Position Statements, on water, sustainability and energy are also on the page.

I commend the Institute's Statement to all members and other environmental practitioners. It identifies the leadership position, the mitigation and adaptation measures, and research needs to address climate change and to help prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

As professional environmental practitioners, most of us have the ability to contribute to this issue and will be required to do so for many years to come. In doing so, however, we should ensure that rigorous scientific and engineering principles are adhered to, in all aspects of the debate, as well as in pursuing research, mitigation and adaptation measures. The Institute's Statement can guide practitioners in this complex area.

We also have a significant role to play in helping to set the standards and best practices for delivering

sustainable outcomes. If carbon dioxide is going to be captured for storage, biologically or geologically, then society needs to ensure that the storage sites are environmentally viable. As practitioners we need to know:

- The best practice or best available techniques for carbon dioxide capture and storage
- The most relevant environmental assessment and risk management tools
- The standards that should determine best practice - should they be determined under a national standard, or are international standards and approaches, such as those defined under the Kyoto Protocol, more appropriate?
- How to use the precautionary principle in these assessments

These are a few of the many questions that need to be asked. As professional environmental practitioners we should make sure the questions are asked and be involved in developing the answers, to help ensure that the solution to one issue does not create a larger problem down the track.

Our Impact Assessment Special Interest Section (IA-SIS) is currently looking at this broader question. How do we ensure policy and decision makers are asking the right questions? How are the answers being supplied to them, through policy formulation and impact assessment processes? Are they relevant, robust and credible. The IA-SIS is aiming to deliver an Impact Assessment standard/benchmark for use throughout Australia and New Zealand by early 2008.

There is no doubt that we need national leadership backed by good policy and regulatory frameworks. This is particularly the case right now for climate change. It is crucial that these frameworks should be based on good science and engineering principles, rather than on political expediency. They need to be well thought through, visionary in scope, and accompanied by long-term plans and short-term actions.

While many impacts of climate change will occur as long-term creep, some potential impacts and hazards are likely to mirror current major natural disaster



impacts such as bushfires, super hurricanes, tectonic plate shifts, tsunamis, cyclones and super volcanoes. Focusing on long-term adaptation to climate change may ultimately help deliver better outcomes in managing these various major natural disasters.

Our up-coming conference series, *EP3 - The Third Wave of Environmental Practice*, will be a wonderful forum to table these questions and issues for discussion and debate. The program has been structured to encourage the development of standards and identify best practice. Depending on the location, the afternoon programs will have up to two to four concurrent sessions, chosen from our key themes of Energy, Climate Change, Sustainability and Water. We encourage everyone to be involved.

Environmental management is now ready to take the next step in its evolution. It revolves around setting clear standards based on best practice. We need to clearly identify these standards for our new practitioners, so they can confidently operate and lead sustainable outcomes. To do this we need everyone's input and help. We all believe we know best practice and the most acceptable standards. It is now time to share our experience and knowledge with our colleagues, collate them and document them for all practitioners to access, with the environment the main beneficiary.

I strongly encourage you all to get involved in EP3, and to bring along as many other practitioners as you can. This will help provide as much professional input as possible at these events, as well as generating the rigorous and through debate that these issues deserve. Please see the detailed article on the Conferences elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Council has also been busy on a number of other initiatives over the past few months. We have supported a Far North Queensland Division proposal to employ a part-time secretariat. Concurrently, the Tasmanian Division has made a similar appointment from its own resources. We have also formally changed the name of the Student Initiative Committee to the Students and Young Professionals Standing Committee. This name better reflects the Committee's purpose.

For Central Office, the focus has been inward looking, with a thorough review of our staffing arrangements close to completion. Important preliminary planning has also taken place on the restructuring of our membership database and its integration with our website operations. As well, this is the membership renewal period and the active attention of members to prompt renewal has ensured a heavy but welcome workload. We must be doing something right!

Also, a fond farewell to Office Manager, Denise Sheard, who has left us for greener pastures. Denise

has made an enormous contribution to restablising the Institute's affairs over the past three years. We will miss her!

I would also like to congratulate the Institute's two latest Fellows, Assoc. Prof. Peter Skelton (New Zealand Vice-President) and Mr Alan Chenoweth (SEQ Committee). Peter and Alan are both very active Institute members and are continuing to help contribute to the profession in many ways.

And finally, the Executive and Council will finalise the Corporate Plan and budget over the next month or two. We have been working to develop a number of new and exciting initiatives that we believe will appeal to all Members, and to the wider audience of environmental practitioners. We hope to be able to announce these developments as they come on stream in the next year.

**Bill Haylock**  
President

## **CEnvP - Mid Year Intake extended 2 weeks!**

**Due to popular request, the Mid Year Intake for Certified Environmental Practitioner applications has been extended by 2 weeks. Completed applications are now due by 13 July. Please take this time to complete any final sections of your application for submission.**

Questions regarding applications can be directed to Wendy Stegman, Interim Registrar, [registrar@cenvp.org](mailto:registrar@cenvp.org). Completed applications including application fee and referee reports should be submitted to the CEnvP Registrar by 13 July.

Please post signed hard copies of applications to:

CENVP Registrar  
c/- EIANZ  
GPO Box 211  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Australia

Digitally scanned copies can be emailed to: [applications@cenvp.org](mailto:applications@cenvp.org).

For more information, please direct enquiries to [registrar@cenvp.org](mailto:registrar@cenvp.org).



# THE POWER OF THREATENED SPECIES

## David Hogg

A number of proposed residential developments on the outskirts of Queanbeyan, in New South Wales close to Canberra, have been a source of environmental, town planning and political controversy for many years. The main source of controversy has been the location of the development areas beneath the flight path for Canberra International Airport, and the implications for constraining airport operations and for noise-sharing in existing residential areas if the development were to proceed.

Recently the NSW Planning Minister endorsed the development of one of these areas, known as 'Tralee'. The following week, *The Canberra Times* carried the headline, *Rare pea the latest threat to Tralee*. The accompanying article drew attention to the presence of the largest colony of the endangered small purple pea, *Swainsona recta*, within a railway corridor that abuts the development, a fact which, according to *The Canberra Times*, was not mentioned in the strategy planning documents issued by the NSW Department of Planning.

While there was some dispute about whether the pea actually occurs in the part of the railway corridor that is adjacent to the development area, this did not inhibit one reader making the following observation in a letter to the editor the following day. Surely the Tralee development is a threat to the rare pea, he pointed out, rather than the other way around! On first reflection, this seems a sensible comment, but there is also much truth in the original headline.

In recent years the presence of threatened species or endangered ecological communities has assumed an increasingly powerful role in influencing planning and development decisions. This was brought home to me a few years ago when I was approached by members of a local community group who wanted me to undertake an ecological survey of a patch of bushland and find a threatened species so that they could mount a case for stopping its proposed development for housing. Being familiar with the area in question, I politely declined, explaining that they would be wasting their money and my time, as the chances of finding anything threatened were almost zero. I suggested instead that as they were primarily concerned about protecting their own residential amenity, they should base their case on amenity issues. I never found out if some other consultant had been paid for a fruitless search, but the proposed development was eventually abandoned by the ACT Government (or at least deferred indefinitely) on residential amenity grounds.

Threatened species are a common trigger for a



*Small purple pea (Swainsona recta).*

*Photograph by Julie Lindner.*

*Courtesy National Parks Association of the ACT.*

condition which I have described previously as *environmental hypochondria* (see *The Environmental Practitioner*, June 2006). A large amount of unnecessary environmental investigation and documentation derives from concerns by developers, consent authorities or the community that a proposal may have a significant adverse effect on some threatened species, even if commonsense consideration of the circumstances clearly demonstrates otherwise. Such work may be reassuring for nervous proponents who are prepared to pay what it takes to avoid any potential legal or political obstacles to the development, and is financially, if not intellectually, rewarding for those consultants who feel obliged to undertake the work, even if their sense of professional ethics tells them that it is unnecessary. From a practicable viewpoint, however, such work seldom results in improved environmental outcomes and, from a broad environmental perspective, can sometimes have the reverse affect by diverting scarce professional resources away from more important issues.

The modern fixation on threatened species derives partly from the fact that their protection is enshrined in legislation. In particular, the



Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act)* has greatly increased the attention paid to species and communities listed under this Act, even if they were already listed under the relevant State or Territory legislation, which itself can be unnecessarily onerous at times.

In many cases, threatened species legislation makes little difference to the project, other than increasing costs and delays. The seriousness of these effects depends very much on how that legislation is implemented. My own experience with the *EPBC Act* is that the responsible Commonwealth department manages this legislation efficiently and sensibly and that the main cause of unnecessary work under this legislation is nervous proponents who prefer to operate in a minimum risk environment, rather than relying on sound scientific judgement and commonsense. In some other jurisdictions, however, it is the consent authorities rather than the proponents that generate unwarranted concern in relation to threatened species.

While concern for threatened species commonly biases professional environmental planning and assessment effort in that direction, and on occasions leads to better environmental outcomes for the project, the proportion of cases where a proposal is rejected purely because of the impacts on threatened species is very low. There are two reasons why this should be so from an environmental best practice perspective.

First, if the early planning of a proposal points to the likelihood of a significant impact on a threatened species or endangered ecological community, the proposal would probably be modified to reduce such impact to what may be regarded as an 'acceptable' level. Second, rational decision-making should not be based just on a single factor and, even if there is an impact on a threatened species which some people may consider significant, there are often circumstances where this is outweighed by other environmental, social or economic considerations.

Another effect of the fixation on threatened species can arise in so-called 'due diligence' reports, where someone conducts a desktop exercise using a coarse database to compile a long list of threatened species which need to be addressed in subsequent environmental assessments. The databases used for this purpose are commonly based on large mapsheets, which may extend over hundreds or even thousands of square kilometres and a diverse range of ecosystems. Consequently, such due diligence reports can generate a large amount of irrelevant information which can alarm the proponent and create extra work for a competent ecologist in explaining why most of these threatened species are not of concern in relation to the proposal.

A similar situation arises in the preparation of project briefs which are prepared without professional environmental input, and which list specific threatened species to be addressed with no consideration of the broader ecological context or of certain other important environmental issues. Such inadequacies in environmental scoping have been evident in the past but, from my observations, are becoming more acute in some organisations due to the excessive emphasis on threatened species.

The fixation on threatened species was brought home to me a few years ago when I was working on a project located outside my usual geographical area. I contacted the local office of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, to find out whether it could provide any useful general ecological information relevant to my study area, and was surprised by the response that I received.

"We don't have that sort of information", I was told. "We're only interested in threatened species." I do not believe that this is the official position of the Service, which is considered to be the foremost government authority on ecological issues in the state, but it is a sorry situation when its own staff members believe it to be the case.

I have been working professionally with threatened species and ecological communities for about 30 years, long before they became fashionable as an environmental issue or had any systematic legislation to protect them. While the level of protection afforded to these species and communities has increased over this period, along with knowledge and awareness of them, the greatest change that I have observed has been a disproportionate increase in the amount of professional effort required to address the accompanying procedures. Commonly, however, the increased effort is not accompanied by better outcomes.

In summary, threatened species can wield a lot of power, not necessarily to the extent of stopping projects but certainly in providing proponents with greater challenges to get their projects off the ground. Some people may see this as desirable in reducing environmental risks, while others see it as diversion of scarce professional resources away from work that could be more productive in protecting and enhancing the environment in other ways, including proactive recovery of the species at risk.

As far as the proposed Tralee development is concerned, I doubt that the small purple pea will prove to be a real threat to the development or that the development will threaten the pea. The controversy continues, however, driven mainly by conflicting views over airport flight paths. The pea will still be sitting there, giving hope to some opponents that the legislation that protects it could help them to win their case.



## CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATE - June 2007

With the end of the financial year just past, it is a great opportunity to review our activities of the past few months, and to take a peek forward.

We are at the peak of our membership renewal period and are happy to report a fantastic response from members. The inflow of renewal letters has kept Debbie fully occupied until late into the night (on a few occasions). We have received over 800 renewals to the end of June, which is a much better response than in previous years. So if you haven't already renewed, please find that letter and let us know that we still have your membership support.

With the renewal letters, we sent out a donations form seeking support for the Earth Foundation. I am happy to report that we have received well over \$1000 in donations so far. Many thanks to these donors - your contributions gives the Earth Foundation a financial base from which to move on to greater things.

For all of us in the Office, the past three months have been a time of intense navel gazing, as we have undertaken a thorough and detailed review of the personnel structure of the office and future staffing requirements. In particular this review addressed the heavy workload of the Office Manager, and the need for effective support for that position. The changes involved are set out in a separate item in this newsletter. In conjunction with a review, a new Central Office Business Plan has been prepared, the Corporate Plan has been updated and the 2007/08 budget has been prepared. These documents have now received ratification from the Executive, and go to Council for full approval on 24 July.

## STAFF CHANGES IN CENTRAL OFFICE

Over the past few weeks a number of staff changes have occurred in Central Office. Both personnel changes and changes of duty are involved. The changes of duties have been ratified by the Executive Committee, and will be put to Council for final approval at its meeting on 24 July 2007.

Many of you would have talked to our Office Manager, **Denise Sheard**, over the past few years. Early in June Denise decided to move on; her last day was 29 June. She is joining a medical research company associated with the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute in Melbourne. She wishes members, staff and Council all the best for the future - she expressed on many occasions how she especially enjoyed the contact with members and has had some wonderful e-mail exchanges with many of you - something she says she will really miss! Denise made an enormous contribution to re-establishing Central

As many of you have experienced, the Professional Indemnity Scheme, run for the Institute by brokers Marsh, has provided significant savings when renewing your policies. We have had some wonderful positive feedback, both for the financial benefits, as well as the ease of the process and the service provided. If you want to know more, call John Delves at Marsh on 03 9603 2190 or email [john.delves@marsh.com](mailto:john.delves@marsh.com).

Our 20th Anniversary celebration *EP3 - The Third Wave of Environmental Practice* is progressing, with the first forum planned for Tuesday 30 August in Brisbane. This will be followed by others around Australia and New Zealand. Full details will be available shortly on our website. A strong program of speakers, both local and international, will address the issues identified by our recent poll of members. The four streams will be Water, Climate Change, Sustainability and Energy.

Looking forward, we are working on the redevelopment of our website and our membership database. Unfortunately, this is a complex process and we are inching forward slowly. Integration of the database and website will offer members many benefits such as chat rooms, direct access to their membership data, improved access to data for Divisions and other enhancements, as well as fast the enhanced membership and office administration.

Meanwhile, remember the 20th Anniversary Celebrations and we look forward to meeting you there.

Geoff Parr-Smith  
Interim CEO

Office over the past years. We wish her well.

**Robin Carter** has joined us as Temporary Operations Manager until a new permanent appointment can be made. Robin's position has been renamed from Office Manager to Operations Manager, reflecting an increase in status and a revision of duties to take a more independent role in office management. Robin continues with all of the duties and responsibilities of the previous position, except for the changes mentioned below. Robin has come to us from a staffing agency on a temporary basis. Her interests include Toastmasters, Hereford cattle showing and being around her weekend home at Clarkes Hill near Ballarat. Robin takes over the e-mail address [office@eianz.org](mailto:office@eianz.org).

Important changes have been made in relation to financial management. These affect the duties of



the Operations Manager, CEO, Treasurer and Accountant. Previously Accountant **Kerrie McMahon** undertook more complex financial transactions (GST, salaries calculations etc.), preliminary monthly reporting, and preparation of Institute's consolidated accounts prior to auditing. Her role is now upgraded to Finance Manager. She now takes up all accounts payable and receivable, bookkeeping and accounting functions, including preparation of full monthly reports for the Treasurer (who will present them to the Executive or Council as appropriate), preparation of predicted financial outcomes, assistance with budgeting, full coordination of annual consolidation and audit, and assisting the CEO in preparation of expenditure recommendations and project budgets. Hours for the position have been increased, but remain relatively low. Kerrie should now be contacted in relation to financial and accounting matters. In the next week or two we will establish her with the e-mail address [finance@eianz.org](mailto:finance@eianz.org).

Membership Administrator **Debbie Howell** ([info@eianz.org](mailto:info@eianz.org)) is extended from four days per week to full time, reflecting the workload in membership administration, particularly in relation to the upsurge in memberships.

And on a final note, full ratification of the Central Office Staffing Strategy by Council will finalise personnel arrangements required to appoint the CEO (currently **Geoff Parr-Smith** interim) and Operations Manager as permanent positions. These positions will be placed with a recruitment consultant in the near future and advertisements can be expected on the website and in newsletters (and elsewhere), during August.

**Geoff Parr-Smith**  
Interim CEO

## NEW MEMBERS AND UPGRADES

Welcome to the following new members who were accepted for membership in June 2007.

### Australian Capital Territory

Robert Coorey Member

### New South Wales

Nicole Brewer Member  
Christiaan Donnetti Member  
Andrew Cook Member  
John Hills Member  
Sharon Rixon Member  
Matthew Hollis Member  
Louise Collier Member  
Shayne McGregor Student

### New Zealand

Dr Simon Wild Member  
Dr Erik van Eyndhoven Member

### South Australia

Dr Ruth Keogh Member  
Joanne Tymko Associate

### South East Queensland

Robert Worrall Member  
Brigita Arrowsmith Member  
Paul Dodd Member  
Stuart Roberts Member  
Desmond Wheeler Member  
Andrew Davidson Member  
Brad Comley Member  
Istvan Vaczi Member  
Scott Cowell Associate  
Oliver Miller Associate  
Kelly Lynch Associate  
Kathy Yeo Student

### Victoria

Carly Martin Member  
Simon Mustoe Member  
Nicole Rogers Member  
Dr Abbas Khan Associate  
Dr Kate Brooks Associate

### Western Australia

Jeremy Sofonia Member  
Shona Guilfoyle Member

### MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE

The following members had their membership upgraded in June 2007.

### New South Wales

Greg Bartlett Member  
Nicholas Skelton Associate

### South East Queensland

Dr Lionel Pero Member  
David Fleming Member  
Candy Daunt Member  
Taryn Krawczyk Member

### Tasmania

Danielle Farmery Member

### Victoria

Sally Joyce Member  
Susan Blacklow Member  
Chloe Tame Member

### Western Australia

Ray Creese Member  
Wilhelmina Ballot Associate



# THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## IAIA/EIANZ Conference, 4-10 May 2008

The 28th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) will take place in Perth (Western Australia) on 4-10 May 2008. Together with the Australian Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources, the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation and Murdoch University, the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand is a Host Organisation for this conference.

IAIA is a forum for advancing innovation, development, and communication of best practice in all areas of impact assessment, including environmental, social, health and other forms of assessment. The conference will cover a range of topics, including climate change, energy issues, water and resource development. There is scope in the conference program for EIANZ members to chair or participate in theme forums or concurrent sessions focussing on environmental practice in Australia and New Zealand.

The theme of IAIA 08 is 'The Art and Science of Impact Assessment'. Impact assessment has developed over the past 35 years as a tool for incorporating sound scientific knowledge into decision-making. As practice has evolved and new forms such as SEA have emerged, it has become increasingly apparent that expertise in the biophysical sciences must be complemented by an understanding of social and political processes. Impact assessment is therefore best seen as both science and art, and it is only in this way that it can fulfill its potential as a tool for influencing decision-making processes.

The current trajectory of global development highlights the need for fundamental change in the way in which we think act and make decisions. This conference will explore questions of the role of impact assessment in promoting societal change towards sustainability, and particularly how the biophysical and the social sciences can be meaningfully alloyed with the art of policy-making to contribute to the change process. This is the challenge that impact assessment practitioners are now called upon to meet.

What works? What doesn't work? What challenges lie over the horizon for impact assessment? We hope that you will come and share with other participants your ideas, your experience, your concerns and your hope for the future on these themes and the topics listed.

The First Announcement and Call for Submissions for

Special Pre-conference meetings, Theme Forums and Concurrent Sessions has been sent by e-mail to EIANZ members. To make a submission, follow the instructions at [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org)>Conferences>IAIA08, where you will be asked for the following information:

1. Title of theme forum or session.
2. Complete name(s) of submitter(s) and complete contact information for each submitter.
3. Name of corresponding submitter.
4. Submission (150 words maximum).
5. Key words.

Organisers will receive an immediate confirmation of receipt with successful online submission. The Program Committee will notify session organisers of acceptance status by 15 September 2007.

The organiser of the proposed theme forum or session is required to submit a registration form, with full conference fees paid, by 28 February 2008. Organisers not able to comply with this requirement will be dropped from the program.

The preliminary program for IAIA 08 will be available in October 2007, when paper and poster submissions will also open.

For further information about IAIA 08, please see [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org).

### Have you earned your elephant stamp?

We are delighted to say nearly 40% of you have! To date, this has been our best year ever for renewals being paid before the tax man comes calling, so a big thank-you to you.

To make sure you are able to claim your renewal fee [check with your accountant], please pay your subscription by post, fax, email or pay direct. If you require another tax invoice, just let Debbie know on [info@eianz.org](mailto:info@eianz.org) and she'll send one straight back.

And we just love giving elephant stamps...

Debbie Howell  
Membership Administrator



# AJEM SPECIAL ISSUES

The Australasian Journal of Environmental Management intends producing two special issues in 2008, one in partnership with the Finance and Energy Exchange, on environmental markets, and the other to present a selection of papers from the IAIA Conference in Perth. Call for papers for each of these themed issues are as follows:

## Environmental Markets

A Special Issue of the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management will be published early in 2008 featuring articles related to the topic of 'Environmental Markets'. For the purpose of this Special Issue, Environmental Markets include market systems that feature:

- products and services suitably certified as having some type of credentials for making positive contributions towards the management of environmental problems (e.g. organic food, sustainably sourced timber building products etc.);
- trading forums and exchanges invented to harness market forces for the purpose of managing environmental problems (e.g. carbon credit trading);
- products and services that directly work to ameliorate and/or reduce risks associated with environmental problems (e.g. landcare services, efficient waste management services, biofuel etc.); or
- products that serve as alternatives to products and services that are environmentally problematic (e.g. recycled products etc.).

Articles of 4000 to 6000 words are invited on contemporary issues in any of the following three broad sub-topics.

1. The role of environmentalism in the evolution of environmental markets.
2. The performance and effectiveness of environmental market systems.
3. The reasons why businesses engage with environmental markets.

This Special Issue is made possible by the generous support of the Finance and Energy Exchange Ltd ([www.fex.com.au](http://www.fex.com.au)) and the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand.

To express interest in submitting an article for publication in the Special Issue, please contact Paul Dargusch from the University of Queensland by e-mailing [p.dargusch@uq.edu.au](mailto:p.dargusch@uq.edu.au) and provide an abstract of the proposed article. Abstracts will be considered and a limited set of articles invited. Manuscripts need to be available for review

by 30 September 2007 at the latest. Please note that invitation to submit a full manuscript does not guarantee publication in the Journal.

## Impact Assessment: Best Practice in Practice

A themed edition of the AJEM will be produced to follow the joint EIANZ and International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference to be held in Perth in May 2008. The edition will be themed 'Impact Assessment: Best Practice in Practice'. The intent of the edition is to promote knowledge and awareness of impact assessment and to advance ethical and competent impact assessment practice.

Papers are sought for this special edition. Papers which discuss approaches to or demonstrate implementation of best practice impact assessment are welcome. Papers may address the overall impact assessment process or specific elements such as social, cumulative or strategic impact assessment. Submissions, in the form of 300 word maximum abstracts, are sought from EIANZ members by 15 August 2007.

Abstracts will each be considered by a panel of practitioners in September 2007. Abstracts that are accepted will be notified by early October 2007. Full papers will be due by 30 January 2008. Papers to be presented at the EIANZ/IAIA conference may be submitted.

Submission of abstracts should be accompanied by a proposed title of the paper and the names, contact details and position of the author(s). Early expressions of interest and queries in relation to possible topics and the submission of abstracts and panel proposals are welcome.

Abstracts should be submitted to Danielle Bolton at:

Email: [seq@eianz.org](mailto:seq@eianz.org)

Post: Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (South East Queensland Division)  
Suite 105, 1B/192 Ann Street, Brisbane, Qld 4000.  
Enquiries to Bryce Skarratt on 07 - 3316 3523.

Details of contributors' guidelines for the AJEM can be found online at [www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org).



## DIVISION NEWS

### South East Queensland Division

The South East Queensland Division is preparing to implement a new year of strategic and business planning. In February 2007, the SEQ Executive, along with Geoff Parr-Smith (the Institute's Interim CEO), went to a farm stay on the Queensland/New South Wales Border. This idyllic sanctuary is the perfect retreat for our strategic planning sessions as it reminds us why we are environmental professionals and what we work so hard to protect. We feel it is important to include our families in these retreats as, being volunteers, much of our work for the Institute is in personal time. With this balance, we are able to seclude ourselves for a number of planning sessions but then rejoin for communal meal times. It is a weekend that is not only fruitful but also very enjoyable.



*Standing: Participants at the retreat (left to right) Lindi Bowen-Needs, Piet Filet, Geoff Parr-Smith, Fiona Berry, Alan Chenoweth.  
Seated: Howard Briggs, Simon Cavendish, Claire Gronow, Sue Korecki with Gidgit.  
Floor: Danielle Bolton.*

As well as strategic planning, the Division also relies on the dedication of motivated environmental practitioners. One of the ideas from our weekend was to implement 'share your passion' events which would bring together environmental professionals to discuss topical issues, network with likeminded individuals and demonstrate the potential rewards of being involved with the SEQ Division. Our first event was held in May with over 50 attendees coming to share their passion and a glass of wine. It was a very successful event that was enjoyed by all. Our next 'share your passion' is being planned for September and will be in the form of a tree planting event. This will be followed by a barbecue. This is an event that will be for families as well as professionals as it will be held on a weekend. More information with a date will be forthcoming soon.

In addition to the 'share your passion' event, we have held other events on corporate sustainability, construction environmental management plans, impact assessment and speed mentoring. We also held the World Environment Day Ecodrinks which is run in conjunction with for other not-for-profit organisations.

The SEQ Division is actively engaged with commenting on various policy issues with both a State focus and as part of a national committee. Recent submissions have been on the Brisbane City Council's energy and



climate change report, the discussion paper for a new national action plan for education for sustainable development and work continues on a submission for the 2050 Climatesmart report. If you would like to be involved with commenting on such papers, please email Adam Beck at [adam.beck@arup.com.au](mailto:adam.beck@arup.com.au) The SEQ Division has written 'fun' into its business plan. Whilst we take our code of ethics very seriously, we still feel it is essential to have fun in the implementation. We hope to see you at one of our events in the near future.

Danielle Bolton



## ACT Division WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY FORUM ON GROUNDWATER

On Tuesday 5 June 2007, the ACT Division and Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM), the Institute's National Benefactor, held a 'Thought Leadership' forum in Canberra to recognise World Environment Day. The forum was held over breakfast at The Lobby restaurant, with the focus being an inspiring presentation from Dr Richard Evans, Principal Hydrologist at SKM and one of Australia's leading groundwater scientists. Participants included local members of the Institute and senior managers from key clients of SKM.

Dr Evans, a recent recipient of a Land & Water Australia Research Fellowship, argued that more practical management of the interaction between surface water and groundwater was needed, as the current situation only had negative consequences for all water users and principally for the environment. He pointed out that surface water and groundwater were part of the same system within the hydrological cycle, yet tended to be regarded separately, sometimes leading to double allocation of the same water. He called for integrated management of ground and surface water, with a focus on efficiency. The thought-provoking presentation was followed by some insightful discussion among the participants, who departed amply stimulated for the rest of their activities of the day.

The insights gained from this Forum will be included in a collation of highlights from similar forums that SKM is conducting in other parts of the globe. These highlights will be published in an easy to read booklet that will be distributed to all forum participants.



*Dr Richard Evans addresses the forum.*



## SITE CONTAMINATION - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

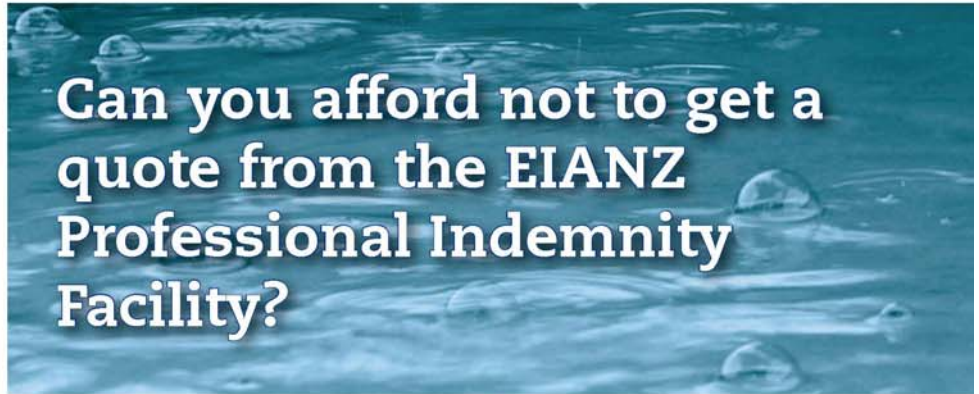
A series of new web pages on site contamination have been added to the South Australian Environment Protection Authority web site. The pages are intended to inform and assist the public, developers and planning authorities on a range of site contamination issues from the Environment Protection (Site Contamination) Amendment Bill; the role of the EPA and planning authorities; the differences between environmental auditors and consultants; how to find information in relation to particular properties; how to manage remediation; and advice on how to address underground storage systems.

Please visit the site contamination web pages at <http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/contamination.html>

The release of the site contamination web pages are part of an ongoing EPA communication strategy and coincide with the Environment Protection (Site Contamination) Amendment Bill going to Parliament in May. It is anticipated that the Bill may be assented later this year, with regulations under the Bill also currently being progressed. Due to a number of consequential amendments to other legislation that also have to be made to support the Bill, as well as the development of a comprehensive series of publications and internal processes, it is expected that the full provisions of the Bill would not come into effect until late 2008.



## Professional Indemnity for Environmental Consultants



**Can you afford not to get a quote from the EIANZ Professional Indemnity Facility?**

**In your role, as an environment professional, the need for insurance protection has never been more important.**

Marsh and the EIANZ understand your industry needs and have tailored an insurance program to protect you.

Marsh, in consultation with EIANZ, has developed a professional indemnity insurance facility designed for environmental professionals that addresses the specific risks that you are exposed to and recognises and understands your business.

Some of the key features of this facility are:

- A competitive insurance product in: premiums, deductible, endorsements and exclusions
- The facility recognises the role that the CEnvP initiative plays in risk management within the businesses.
- A facility which is able to provide cover to the majority of environmental businesses with EIANZ
- A streamlined application/proposal form
- An effective administration process that promptly deals with enquiries, renewals and claims through a dedicated team
- Premium can be paid in monthly instalments using our Premium Finance facility

**If you would like to receive a quote through the EIANZ PI facility for your Professional Indemnity Insurance or for further information:**

**Call John Delves on**

**03 9603 2190**

**or email**

**[john.delves@marsh.com](mailto:john.delves@marsh.com)**

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This information is general advice only and takes no account of your individual circumstances, needs or financial objectives. We recommend that you contact us to obtain a copy of the policy wording in order to understand whether the cover provided is appropriate for you.

Please note that EIANZ receives a financial benefit from the sale of this insurance product, enabling them to continue to develop and provide further services to their members.

**Alternatively**, if you would like to receive a quote when your insurance cover falls due, complete the information below and Fax John Delves on 03 9603 2753.

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call you \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm Renewal Date of your Current PI Policy / /



**ENVIRONMENT  
INSTITUTE OF  
AUSTRALIA AND  
NEW ZEALAND**



## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Australian Solar Radiation Data Handbook and Software

The Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society (ANZSES), has just published a fully revised 4th edition of the Australian Solar Radiation Data Handbook (ASRDH), an essential tool when considering any designs related to solar energy, including passive solar buildings. The ASRDH provides a range of information including climatic conditions as well as a full range of solar radiation data and statistics. Solar radiation data is available for flat planes at any incline and orientation, for any hour of the year. Visit [www.anzses.org](http://www.anzses.org) to view the list of tables and the table of contents.

The related software, AUSOLRAD and associated electronic files of data for 28 Australian locations is available in its current form, written in VB.NET for MS Windows, for those who want the flexibility of surface orientation and tilt to assess real designs that, for whatever reason, cannot be constructed to the ideal geometry that is tabulated in the Handbook itself.

- **Australian Solar Radiation Data Handbook (ASRDH).** Standard Price: AUD\$104 for one state or AUD\$320 for all Australian sites (hard copy extra)
- **Associated AUSOLRAD software with manual.** Standard Price: AUD\$40 for one state or AUD\$80 for all Australian sites.
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The ASRDH is available on CD-ROM and in hardcopy from ANZSES ([www.anzses.org](http://www.anzses.org) or 02 9402 1638).

The ANZSES member discount of 20% has been negotiated for EIANZ members.

### It is easy being green

This is the title of a new guide prepared by EIANZ member, Jean Cannon, to help businesses navigate environmental awareness and sustainability. Written in readily understood language, it provides down-to-earth anecdotal stories of real people in real small to medium businesses who are trying to improve their business relationship with the environment.

For more information or to order a copy (price \$19.95), visit [www.itiseasytobegreen.com](http://www.itiseasytobegreen.com) (email: [jean@enviroaction.com.au](mailto:jean@enviroaction.com.au)).

## GREEN PROCUREMENT TRAINING COURSES

During August 2007, EIANZ Vice-president, Suzanne Little, will be presenting a series of Green Procurement Training Courses around Australia in her capacity of Executive Director, Good Environmental Choice Australia. The courses are directed at people who make decisions about which goods and services an organisation buys.

The locations and dates of the courses are as follows:

Brisbane	2-3 August
Adelaide	14-15 August
Canberra	20-21 August
Melbourne	23-24 August
Sydney	30-31 August

The courses run for two days and include the reasons for green procurement, how to buy green, and writing green specifications. If you know of someone within your organisation who may be enlightened by attending the course, please pass the message on.

Further information is available on the website: <http://www.greenprocurement.org.au/>



## ElANZ DIRECTORY

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Western Australia: Scott Bird

### CENTRAL OFFICE

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Office Manager (Temporary): Robin Carter

Research Officer: Vanessa McKenzie

Membership Administrator: Debbie Howell

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES

Are there any environmental best practice publications which you find to be a useful reference and would recommend to clients or colleagues as an information source? Perhaps you or your organisation have prepared such a document and would like to encourage its wider use.

The Institute, through its Policy and Practice Standing Committee, is compiling a bibliography of such documents (printed or electronic) to assist its members.

If you can suggest any publications for listing in this bibliography, please forward information in the following format to David Hogg at [dhpl@bigpond.com](mailto:dhpl@bigpond.com).

1. Title of publication.
2. Author/organisation.
3. Publication date.
4. Format (i.e. printed, electronic, both).
5. Number of pages.
6. Intended readership (e.g. professional engineers, construction contractors, general community).
7. Is the publication currently available?
8. If so, source of publication (i.e. address for obtaining printed material, website for electronic publications).
9. Purchase price (if any).
10. General comments on scope of publication (e.g. topics covered, relevant geographical area if applicable).
11. Any restrictions on availability or use?
12. Special features, other comments etc.
13. Your own phone contact details (in case of any queries).

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