

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

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## EP3 A GREAT SUCCESS

The Institute's 20th Anniversary roadshow, EP3, proved to be a great success with events held in eleven venues around Australia and New Zealand. Credit is due to staff members, Danielle Bolton (SEQ Division) and Vanessa McKenzie (Central Office) who were responsible for the overall planning and management of the roadshow, as well as to all of the Divisions that organised their own events. Institute President, Bill Haylock, also travelled to all of the venues to introduce and sum up each of the days.

This is the first time that the Institute has attempted such a wide-ranging exercise and the feedback has been very positive. Much of the material presented at the various events has been

recorded for future use in professional development.

The climax to the EP3 program was the inaugural presentation of the Institute's merit awards, which is reported further on page 6 of this newsletter. These were presented at the Gala Ball and a similar event is now being planned for Melbourne in October 2008.

Our conference for 2008 will be a very difficult type of event. The EIANZ is joining with the International Association for Impact Assessment in hosting IAIA08 in Perth in May. This will be a large international conference, providing a great opportunity for Australian and New Zealand practitioners in impact assessment and related fields to interact with their counterparts from throughout the world. Further information is provided on page 10.

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand would like to thank the following EP3 sponsors:

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## In this issue

Editorial: Waste of a week	2
From the President's Desk	3
Science underpins Bali deal	4
Presentation of inaugural merit awards	6
Honorary Life Fellow: Professor Peter Skelton	8
New professional development projects	9
IAIA08—The Art and Science of Impact Assessment	10
Institute appoints Development Manager	10
Are you a consumer or a customer?	12
Division news	13
Choosing remediation options using a best practicable environmental option study	14
Australian Green Infrastructure Council	17
New members	19
EIANZ Directory	20

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SINCLAIR KNIGHT MERZ



## WASTE OF A WEEK

I spent most of the third week of October on EIANZ-related activities – the Canberra EP3 event on Tuesday, followed by two days of Council meeting plus the AGM in Sydney, then the Sydney EP3 event and the Gala Ball on Friday. During this period I had occasion to observe numerous examples of waste or unnecessary consumption which seem to characterise modern western society. To cite a few of these examples:

- On the flight from Sydney to Canberra, the ‘snack pack’ provided contained a plastic knife and fork, which were not required to eat the food provided and were presumably consigned to the waste stream on landing.
- The urinals in the men’s toilet where the Council meeting was held were on an automatic flush cycle of approximately one minute. We appeared to be the only people using the toilets on that floor, and were not going that often! I thought that Sydney was concerned about conserving its water supply.
- At the hotel where I stayed, all of the lights in the room came on when the electricity supply was activated. I spent time finding the switches to turn off the ones that were unnecessary.
- The hotel had a little notice encouraging guests to save the environment by putting out towels for washing only if necessary. So I each day dutifully hung my once-used towels on the rack, where they were to remain, but each day they were still replaced with clean towels.
- Following the AGM, I went with a group of members for a meal at a steakhouse restaurant. I have always regarded myself as a big meat-eater, but found that my choice on the menu was very limited, as most of the servings were larger than I would normally eat. To my knowledge, none of the party tackled the 1 kg steak that was on offer!

With all the talk nowadays about the conservation of energy, water and resources in general, one wonders about how much more needs to be done to get the message through. This Institute should be one of those organisations showing the lead, but how much better does it fare? For a start, the Council was at least considering a *Sustainable and Carbon Neutral Operations Policy* to apply to its own operations. On the other hand:

- The most contentious item discussed at the Council meeting was whether to accept an offer to supply all members with an

environmental trade magazine at a greatly discounted price. While many of those present saw this as a useful service to members as well as an opportunity to promote the Institute through copy in the magazine, others were concerned that such a proposal amounted to little more than subsidised junk mail for those members who would not have much interest in the magazine’s content.



- A similar sentiment was expressed in passing in relation to the Institute’s own journal, which many members (including some Council members) find is rarely relevant to their professional work. Indeed, the problem of unsolicited publications is widespread within organisations that are trying to provide their members with a useful service, which is often not appreciated.
- At the EP3 events themselves, each participant received a bag of publications which may or may not have been useful to them. Much of this material is likely to have finished up unread in the recycling bin. I feel that it is better to have such material on a table where those who want it can collect it, and to return the surplus to its source.

Overconsumption and waste have been on the environmental agenda for several decades and, while some progress has been made in increasing community awareness, there is still obviously a long way to go towards achieving a sustainable society. The examples cited above are probably quite trivial in the wider scheme of things, but are amongst the easiest to address. If significant progress cannot be made in eliminating such unwanted consumption, what hope is there for countering the enormous social and economic pressures that encourage people to keep consuming at an ever-increasing rate?

**David Hogg**  
Editor

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

Dear Members,

The year 2007 has been a very productive and successful year for the Institute. My memory is a blur of travelling throughout Australia and New Zealand presenting the EP3 workshops, a marvellous opportunity to meet many new Institute members and to catch up with old friends and colleagues.

Some of the highlights of the year have been:

- The EP3 program of 11 workshops across Australia and New Zealand, addressing the future of environmental professional practice in the coming decades. There were over 700 attendees and nearly 200 papers were presented. Whilst the numbers were a little disappointing at some venues, we had many wonderful and memorable speakers, including politicians, judges, academics and leading industry figures.
- Shortly in the new year we will present you with the *Blueprint for the Future*. This will be a summary of the salient points presented at EP3 and a guide to the future requirements of our profession.
- Rapid growth in take-up of the Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme.
- Completion of our four key position papers on Water, Climate Change, Sustainability and Energy.
- Completion of our Corporate Plan for 2007-10, setting directions and priorities for the coming years.
- Appointment of new Central Office staff, Ms Anne Young as Office Manager, and very recently, Ms Judith Cowden as Development Manager.
- Initial moves to form an Ecologists' Special Interest Section.
- The SEQ Division became the Division with the largest membership, a testament to the management structure of the Division.
- A significant increase in divisional activity, particularly in Victoria.
- A constant uptake in and recognition of Certified Environmental Practitioners (CEnvP).
- The Council also agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Society of the Environment, an umbrella organisation in the United Kingdom who manage the Royal Chartered Environmental Practitioner.
- Recently we signed a contract with the Environmental Technologies Services Branch of the Queensland Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry, to undertake three projects in the Development of Professional Services. The results of these projects will be presented to the members in

the second quarter of 2008. In brief they will help formalise professional development and the steps required for a new professional to become a CEnvP.

- At the Gala Dinner for the EP3 forum in Sydney we presented the very first Merit Awards. These awards were presented to people who have helped develop environmental practice at the Institute. Congratulations to the award winners, who are acknowledged in more detail later in this newsletter.



There are many exciting things happening in the environment profession and with the change in Federal Government and the signing of Kyoto and a UN agreement on how to go forward addressing climate change, we will have many new tasks and challenges. As always, the outcome of these challenges is as good as the people that we use. The more competent and better equipped the professionals, the better the outcomes will be.

A formalised Professional Development program will help create better professionals, as will a Certified Lead Impact Assessment (IA) Practitioner and a Lead IA Administrator. These are some of the projects we are embarking upon over the next six months.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank some of the Institute's principal business partners – Marsh Pty Ltd, our Professional Indemnity insurance scheme brokers, Hallmark Editions Pty Ltd, publisher of the Journal, and our benefactor sponsor, SKM. We hope to further develop these and many new business relationships in the coming year.

My thanks also to the hundreds of Institute members who have assisted on a voluntary basis, as Council and Committee members both centrally and in the Divisions, giving thousands of hours of time to committee meetings and all the background work that arises from them. Thank you also to the many contributors who have volunteered their time as presenters at our forums and workshops across Australia and New Zealand.

Finally, I wish you all a merry festive season and a safe and relaxing holiday period. The coming year will be exciting period for the Institute and in particular for environmental practitioners.

**Bill Haylock**  
President



# SCIENCE UNDERPINS BALI DEAL

*There are some positive messages for environmental practitioners in the Bali roadmap, writes Justin Sherrard, EIANZ Vice President – Australia, who has just returned from two weeks at the global talks.*

The central challenge to Government Ministers in Bali for the United Nations climate change meeting was best put by Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: “What is your political answer to what science is telling you?” he asked.

The science he was referring to is contained in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which received the Nobel Peace Prize as Ministers began arriving in Bali.

Ultimately the science has been expressed in four ways in the Bali roadmap, the process for designing the global framework for climate action in the period after 2012:

- All countries agreed warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and that delay in reducing emissions significantly constrains opportunities to achieve lower stabilisation levels and increases the risk of more severe climate change impacts.
- All countries agreed that deep cuts in global emissions will be required to avoid dangerous climate change, and emphasised the urgency of action, as indicated by the science.
- Kyoto parties (developed countries except for the US) agreed the global emissions of greenhouse gases need to peak in the next 10 to 15 years, be reduced by at least half by 2050, and as a group to reduce emissions in a range of 25-40 per cent by 2020.

- All countries agreed that actions to reduce emissions need to be ‘measurable, reportable and verifiable’.

For environmental practitioners it is particularly pleasing to see the science driving policy, in the form of the Bali roadmap.

The Bali roadmap is a significant milestone in global climate policy because it brings all countries together into a two year design process. The success of this process will depend on four factors:

- Agreement on what the science indicates is needed by **all** countries to avoid dangerous climate change.
- Clarity on the forward process to put some boundaries around what negotiators will discuss, and when.
- Increased focus on how technology and finance can enable emissions cuts and adaptation in all countries, without excessive cost and risk.
- Goodwill and trust between nations that engenders a spirit of cooperation.

Ministers have left Bali agreeing on all of these factors, although much can and will change over the next two years.

In particular, goodwill and trust can be fragile; the US attempted on three occasions in Bali to impose a ‘my way or the highway’ solution on the global



*Delegates rise to applaud the decision to adopt the ‘Bali roadmap’ for a future international agreement on climate change. Source: UNFCCC Secretariat*



community, before finally backing down and agreeing to join the consensus.

Australia, by contrast, was warmly welcomed by delegates in Bali. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd received a rousing reception in the opening Ministerial session last Wednesday. Australia's new climate change Minister, Senator Penny Wong, was called on to lead small group discussions into the early hours in search of agreement on elements of the roadmap.

Australia's new-found effectiveness in the talks was mirrored by a much lower key New Zealand delegation, which also led working groups on a range of issues, most notably on the contentious

issue of reviewing the Kyoto Protocol. This is indicative of New Zealand's strong and ongoing support of the Kyoto process.

It is important to pause and reflect positively on what has been achieved in Bali – for the first time in six years, all nations are on the same page, working together to address climate change.

As important as this is, the real test lies ahead. It will be a challenge to keep all nations together through what will be two long years of negotiations as we head for Copenhagen in December 2009.

The science demands that all nations rise to meet this challenge.

(ADVERTISEMENT)



## Outstanding career opportunity to help create exceptional outcomes for our environment!

### PLANNING/EIA SPECIALISTS

Join the team setting the agenda for planning and environmental impact assessment to ensure the organisation is an industry leader in environmental management. These positions will be a part of the Environmental Planning and Assessment group. Key responsibilities for the team include review and enhancement of policy and guidelines, providing expert opinion to senior management for decision making, interpretation and practical application of environmental legislation, provide strategic direction and ensure the organisation is embedding best practice across planning/EIA.

- **Senior Planning and EIA Specialist (Ref MK304)**  
Provide hands on leadership and direction to the team responsible for the ongoing development and improvement of environmental planning and impact assessment in the provision of infrastructure.
- **Planning and EIA Officer (Ref MK305)**  
Be a significant contributor to the ongoing development and improvement of environmental planning and impact assessment in the provision of infrastructure.

Your established professional credibility, technical expertise and experience will have a major impact in shaping the future of the organisation.

We are interested in hearing from tertiary qualified individuals (especially with qualifications in environmental law or planning) who wish to continue the development of their environmental planning career. It is envisaged you will have strong skills around the policy, interpretation and practical application of environmental legislation, implementation and review of environmental planning and impact assessments, ideally with exposure to major infrastructure projects.

This is an opportunity for a motivated individual with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to drive and manage change, negotiate and network with influence and have a positive impact on a large organisation and its stakeholders.

These positions will be based in Sydney.

Principal Consulting Group has been exclusively retained to undertake this recruitment assignment. Please email [mkirkland@principal.net.au](mailto:mkirkland@principal.net.au) for a position description (quoting the appropriate reference number and job title above), or telephone Melissa Kirkland on 1300 795 883 for a confidential discussion. Applications must address the selection criteria and technical capabilities outlined in the PD.

Applications close Friday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2008.



# PRESENTATION OF INAUGURAL MERIT AWARDS

During 2007, the EIANZ Council finalised a proposal to present a series of five merit awards to members who had made major contributions to the Institute or to the environmental profession. The inaugural awards were presented at the Gala Ball in Sydney on 19 October.

Four of the awards are named after Honorary Life Members of the Institute. The fifth award is the Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year Award. The award winners for 2007 are listed below.



*David Hogg receives his award from Simon Molesworth.*

## **Mary Lou Morris Award: Simon Cavendish**

The Mary Lou Morris Award is provided to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of the EIANZ and the environment profession at the divisional level. It is judged by Fellows of the Institute.

Simon Cavendish has played a major role in the successful development of the South East Queensland Division in recent years and, in his role as SEQ Councillor, also at the Institute level. He has contributed his considerable managerial expertise to ensure that the Institute is soundly based on a sustainable business model. He has also had a long and distinguished career in consulting, industry and government.

## **Simon Molesworth Award: David Hogg**

The Simon Molesworth Award is provided to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of the EIANZ and the environment profession at the Institute or Chapter level. It is judged by Fellows of the Institute.

Dr David Hogg is a foundation member of the Institute, was a member of the ACT Division Committee from its formation until 1996, and a Council member since 1996. He has held the position of Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. He has also had a successful career as an environmental practitioner since 1973, operating his own consulting firm in Canberra since 1981.



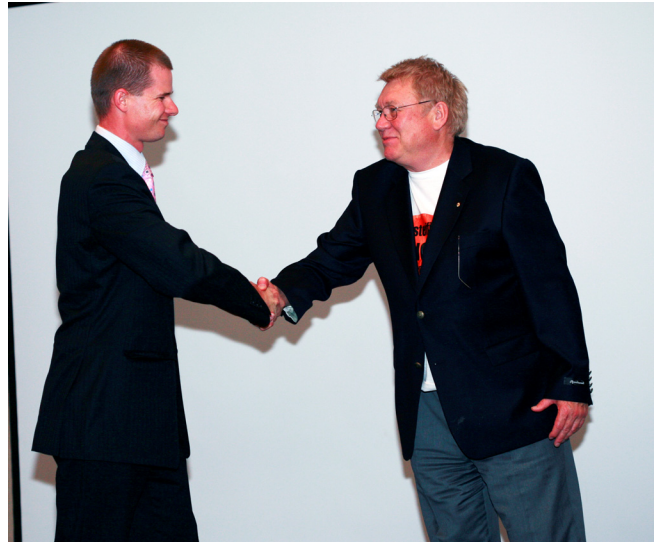
*Simon Cavendish addresses the audience after receiving his award.*



**Tor Hundloe Award: Scott Thompson**

This award is given to a young environmental practitioner whose professional work has led to environmental excellence. It is judged by Fellows of the Institute.

Dr Scott Thompson is a senior environmental scientist with the Coffey Group in Perth with an academic background in ecology and mine site rehabilitation. He provides an outstanding example of a young professional who is making a mark on our profession through the use of innovative management practices in conservation and landscape rehabilitation.



*Scott Thompson is congratulated by the Institute's founding President Tor Hundloe.*



*CEnvP of the Year, Hugh Lavery, addresses the gathering.*

**Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year: Hugh Lavery**

The Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year Award is given to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to environmental practice, particularly in the last five years and is judged by the Certification Board.

Hugh Lavery is in his fiftieth year of professional practice, and has been a pioneer in the environmental field. He helped establish modern nature conservation with his work in Queensland back in the 1950s, and twenty years ago led the way in advising corporate Australia on how to manage the environment. He continues to be active in a field that he has championed.

**Eric Anderson Award: Suzanne Benn, Dexter Dunphy and Andrew Griffith**

The Eric Anderson Award for best article published in the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management during 2006-07 honours the first editor of the journal. The selection of the best article is managed by the current editors of the journal and selected members of the Editorial Board.

The winning article for 2007 was:  
*Enabling Change for Corporate Sustainability: An Integrated Perspective*,  
by Suzanne Benn, Dexter Dunphy and Andrew Griffiths.



*President Bill Haylock, Journal Editor Helen Ross, award winner Suzanne Benn and Past President Simon Molesworth.*

*Continued on page 8.*



The runners up were:

*The potential for solar energy use in a New Zealand residential neighbourhood: a case study considering the effect on CO2 emissions and the possible benefits of changing roof form*, by Sumita Ghosh and Robert Vale; and

*Inadequate faeces disposal in back-country areas, Tasmania: environmental impacts and solutions*, by Kerry Bridle, Julie von Platen, Rhys Leeming and Jamie Kirkpatrick.

Suzanne Benn represented the winners at the presentation.

The judges commended the winning article for showing the business community a well researched and practical way forward, and showing environmental practitioners how they can work with companies to make sustainability an integral part of conducting business successfully. It showed how corporations move from mere compliance with regulatory requirements towards becoming sustaining corporations that integrate environmental improvement with their core business. The keys are innovative leadership from Boards and managers, taking a systematic approach to human resource management, and collaboration with external change agents such as consultants and community activists.

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## HONORARY LIFE FELLOW: PROFESSOR PETER SKELTON



At the Gala Ball, the Institute's first Honorary Life Fellowship was awarded to Professor Peter Skelton CNZ for outstanding service to the environment profession.

Peter Skelton was a judge in the New Zealand Environment Court from 1978 to 2000. He retired from the Court in 2000 and went to Lincoln University to teach resource management law and some aspects of professional practice. Until the end of 2005, he was the Associate Professor of Resource Management Law in the Environmental, Society and Design Division of the University. In 2001 he was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his contribution to environmental law.

**Don't miss  
IAIA08**

**The Art and Science of  
Impact Assessment**

**28th Annual Meeting of the  
International Association for  
Impact Assessment**

**Perth, 4-10 May 2008**

**See page 10 for further information.**



# NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Queensland Government, through the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (formerly known as the Department of State Development), has commissioned the EIANZ to undertake three projects relating to the professional development of environmental practitioners.

The details of these projects are as follows:

## 1. Formalise the structure of the Institute's Professional Development Programs

This project is required to create an industry-wide, formalised structure for a Professional Development Program. It will incorporate the various specialised interests of the environment industry's membership and will take into account the Institute's policies and best practice publications. The program will address the development of practitioners from graduation, development through to full membership and then Certification for Environmental Practitioners Program (CEnvP) and then to potential specialised Certifications.

The following tasks are required for this project:

- Develop a structure for the advancement and delivery of a competent practice program for professional environmental practitioners.
- Identify the requirements of competency for the various levels of experience within the Institute, from students and graduates through to general specialised practitioners.
- Provide guidance as to the content required for the various levels of experience and specialty.
- Assist in the delivery of the programs.

## 2. Create a professional development program for environmental graduates to step towards certification – Staged Training for Environmental Practitioners (STEPS)

The Certification for Environmental Practitioners (CEnvP) Program currently offers certification to those environmental practitioners in the Australian and New Zealand environment industries with more than five years experience. There is now an industry perception that a specific training program is required in order to provide professional development opportunities to those practitioners with less than five years experience. The development of a 'Staged Training for Environmental Practitioners' (or STEPs) Program would achieve this outcome. This initial work, to set a foundation for such a program, will be based in South-East Queensland.

Investigations into a work plan for the first steps towards this program have commenced through the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand South East Queensland Division Students and Young Professionals Committee. The following tasks are required for this project:

- Progress the development of a professional recognition program for environment industry members with less than five years experience.
- Employ a 'STEPS Program Development Officer' to assist with developing the foundation and networks of a STEPs program.
- Research and collate information on relevant professional recognition programs and conduct a brief analysis on their suitability to the Australian context and CEnvP program.
- Develop a model or models for EIANZ STEPs Program and communicate suggested model(s) to a panel for refinement.
- Draft marketing materials for the Program.

## 3. Prepare environmental best practice notes and publications

This project will develop an Australasian publication of best practice notes and documents. This will involve a collation of all materials currently developed within Australia and New Zealand that refer to and explain best practice environmental management. Materials may come from government, industry and professional associations. They may include standards, guidelines and case studies. The following tasks are required for this project:

- Identify the various notes and publications throughout Australia and New Zealand.
- Collage, categorise and reference all the notes and publications.
- Edit, design and publish the materials.
- Promote and circulate the publication to the wider environmental profession.

This project will be based around the Bibliography of Environmental Best Practices that has been initiated through the Policy and Practice Standing Committee.

The projects will be undertaken during 2008. While the current work will be based in Queensland, the products will be of wide benefit to the environmental profession throughout Australia and New Zealand.



# **IAIA 08 – The Art and Science of Impact Assessment**

## **28th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment**

### **4 – 10 May 2008 Perth Convention Exhibition Centre**

*Hosted by: Australian Department of the Environment and Water Resources, Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, Murdoch University, Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation, and Western Australian Environmental Consultants Association*

The preliminary program and registration materials for the IAIA08 Conference are now on the IAIA website, [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org). The program presents a wide range of sessions relating to all aspects of impact assessment. Most of the sessions are organised by international speakers, with six sessions being organised by EIANZ members. Opportunities are available for other EIANZ members to contribute to these sessions.

The topics for the EIANZ sessions and the members organising them are as follows:

**Excellence in marine and coastal impact assessment.** Adam Smith. Theme forum.

**Overcoming barriers to best practice impact assessment.** Bryce Skarratt. Paper session.

**The effectiveness of impact assessment in addressing 'big picture' environmental issues.** David Hogg. Paper session (or possibly workshop?).

**Life cycle assessment: the impact of corporate consumption.** Suzanne Little. Paper session.

**Improving professional practice: the role of accreditation/ certification.** Kerry Laszig. Workshop.

**Enhancing impact assessment in the South Pacific.** Lachie Wilkinson. Workshop.

Further information about these sessions is in the preliminary program on the website.

If you are interested in contributing to any of these sessions as a formal presenter, please contact the member organising that sessions. Their e-mail contact details are as follows:

Adam Smith	<a href="mailto:a.smith@gbrmpa.gov.au">a.smith@gbrmpa.gov.au</a>
Bryce Skarratt	<a href="mailto:bryce-skarratt@ghd.com.au">bryce-skarratt@ghd.com.au</a>
David Hogg	<a href="mailto:dhpl@bigpond.com">dhpl@bigpond.com</a>
Suzanne Little	<a href="mailto:suelittle@optushome.com.au">suelittle@optushome.com.au</a>
Kerry Laszig	<a href="mailto:Kerry.Laszig@dec.wa.gov.au">Kerry.Laszig@dec.wa.gov.au</a>
Lachie Wilkinson	<a href="mailto:Lachlan.Wilkinson@environment.gov.au">Lachlan.Wilkinson@environment.gov.au</a>

Note the following deadlines applying to authors of papers:

Abstract submission	7 February 2008
Registration and full payment	29 February 2008

Further advice relating to papers is contained on page 9 of the preliminary program.

Even if you are not interested in presenting at the conference, IAIA08 is an opportunity not to be missed by any Australians or New Zealanders working in impact assessment or related fields.

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## **INSTITUTE APPOINTS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

The Institute has appointed Judith Cowden to the newly created position of Development Manager. This position was created recently following a review by the Council of the staffing structure of the Institute, and was advertised in the September issue of *The Environmental Practitioner*.

The role of the Development Manager includes co-ordination of development activities within the Institute and the services that it provides to the environmental profession in the context of the Corporate Plan, developing and strengthening of the Institute's external relations, and developing and securing sponsorship and benefactors for the Institute.

Judith Cowden comes to the Institute with extensive management experience in the not-for-profit sector as well as in construction management. She has worked as a consultant to organisations such as the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia, the De Bono Institute, Asthma Australia and the Gawler Foundation. She previously held the positions of Fundraising Manager and Executive Director of the Physiotherapy Research Foundation over a seven-year period. Her skills include strategic planning,



committee management, volunteer management, media relations, government liaison, fundraising and communication.

Judith will be based in Melbourne, where she will be welcomed as a member of the Institute's professional staff.



# THE PERFECT ENVIRONMENT



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# AIM HIGHER

## POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK DEGREES 2008



# ARE YOU A CONSUMER OR CUSTOMER?

Suzanne Little

Are you a consumer or a customer?

When you were young do you remember being called a **customer** when you went to the shop? When did you first notice that cheap products broke soon after you bought them? How old were you when you heard that phrase ‘planned obsolescence’.

Now that the world has become sophisticated these days you are not a **customer** anymore – you are a **consumer**.

**con·sume** /Pronunciation [kuhn-soom] *verb*, -sumed, -sum·ing.

– *verb (used with object)*

1. to destroy or expend by use; use up.
2. to eat or drink up; devour.
3. to destroy, as by decomposition or burning: *Fire consumed the forest.*
4. to spend (money, time, etc.) wastefully.
5. to absorb; engross: *consumed with curiosity.*  
– *verb (used with object)*
6. to undergo destruction; waste away.
7. to use or use up consumer goods.

**Origin:** 1350-1400; **Middle English**    Synonyms: exhaust, deplete, squander, and dissipate.

*Ref; Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1) Based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2006.*

This slight shift in jargon from **customer** to **consumer** is one of the telltale signs that indicates that something has changed in the way we purchase goods and services.

What happened? When and how did you change from being a **customer** to become a **consumer**? Did you even realise that you had stopped being a **customer**? Do you think that by changing to a **consumer**, it means that you have started to **consume**? From the dictionary definition (above) this implies that there is nothing left after you have used the **consumer** product that you bought. So do you want to be a **consumer** and be forced to **consume** natural resources, whether you intended to or not?

Sometime last century, instead of a product being robust or getting repaired, the manufacture of modern products switched to being planned to become obsolete. Household products became **consumer** products. It was a deliberate economic strategy by manufacturers and you were offered another one when your **consumer** product wore out or was superseded by the next model or fashion. **Consuming** was the defining characteristic of the 20<sup>th</sup> century market economy. It was different to other forms of trade, such as (say) the subsistence economy of small Pacific Islands or the regulated economy of Communist Soviet Russia. The throw away society was easy – just **consume** it and throw it away. We all did it.

It seems embarrassing now and it could spell doom for consumerism – but the market economy is a resilient type of economy. It rests on an assumption:

‘The **customer** is always right’.

You know that you are the **customer** – or at least you used to be. Do you want to be a **customer** again? Do you want to be empowered so you can stop being a **consumer** in future? Instead of throwing products away, you could buy and use a product and then pass it on for re-use, recycling and re-manufacturing of its materials and embodied energy. It would save resources from being dumped in a landfill. You would become a **customer** again – if you choose to.

Here are some of the reasons why **consuming** resources, energy and water is not realistic, or normal, or sustainable. All natural resources on our planet are limited and finite. It is a law of science that energy



and matter cannot be created or destroyed on our planet, Earth. What you see is what you get. There is no *Earth factory* making any more energy or matter than the amount that we already have. Also Nature works in cycles rather than in straight lines. We talk about the water cycle or the carbon cycle. Have you heard anyone talk about a 'water straight line' or a 'carbon straight line'?

Although we buy and throw products away in a straight line process, you will be relieved to know that you are not breaking the laws of science. This is because in reality, *consuming* materials is not physically possible. All materials end up somewhere, even when they are thrown away. When the Earth's population was small we could go forth and subdue the Earth by *consuming* its resources without much noticeable pollution or waste. But now that we have soared to **6.6 billion** of us, the accumulated pollution and waste has fouled our nest. So subduing and *consuming* the Earth cannot continue because it is not sustainable. Consuming is the opposite of sustainability.

So next time you buy a product, think about it for a moment. There is information on how to be sustainable in your procurement of goods and services on the website of the product standards-setting body for ecolabelling in Australia at: [www.greenprocurement.org.au](http://www.greenprocurement.org.au)

Become a *customer* again!

*Suzanne Little is the Executive Director, Good Environmental Choice Australia, and a NSW Division Committee Member, EIANZ.*

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## DIVISION NEWS

### A.C.T.

#### New Division Committee

At the Annual General Meeting of the ACT Division held on 4 October 2007, a new Committee was elected consisting of the following members:

President:	Richard Sharp
Secretary:	Andrew Chalklen
Treasurer:	Mark O'Brien
Members:	Ruth Khris, Dugal McFarlane, Lachlan Wilkinson.

In addition, Stefanie Pidcock was elected the ACT Division's new Divisional Councillor on the EIANZ National Council. Stefanie is also *ex officio* on the ACT Division Committee.

### TASMANIA

#### Student Awards Tasmania 2007

This is the fourth year of the Tasmanian Division's University student awards. Each year a selection of the best essays from the class of 60 to 70 students, as graded by the lecturers, is provided to a panel of EIANZ members. The essays are submitted as part of the third year Environmental Impact Assessment Unit in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies. The panel assesses each essay, paying particular attention to the professional style and quality of argument. With as many iterations as necessary, a winning essay and two runners-up are selected. The winner receives a \$200 book voucher and all three students receive a framed certificate and 18-months membership of EIANZ. This year the winner was Anneka Ferguson for her excellent essay on the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. The two runners-up were Vishnu Prahalad Nandagoplan for his essay, also on the *EPBC Act*, and Zoe Lee for her essay on the Madrid Protocol.

The essay prizes have proved a useful way for the Division to interact with final year environmental students. It has helped attract student members, obviously the prize winners, but also other students in the class.



# CHOOSING REMEDIATION OPTIONS USING A BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION STUDY

Dave Robotham

Senior Environmental Consultant, SKM<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Introduction

Remediation of large scale sites can be a complex undertaking. Consenting conditions and concerns from stakeholders can cause delays which increase costs. The Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) study approach is a decision making tool that, if used effectively, can help smooth this procedure. Using the work SKM undertook for Environment Bay of Plenty (EBOP) we can highlight its effectiveness.

## 2. The Project

The Kopeopeo Canal is located outside the western boundary of Whakatane. Its main purpose is to act as a drain for low lying farmland. However in the past it was used to accept surface run-off and storm water discharges from the local timber treatment mill. The mill closed a number of years ago and the former saw mill site is in the process of being redeveloped with retail outlets.

Investigation work indicated that a length of approximately 5km would require remediation. However the best remediation option had to be determined and before this work had begun EBOP recognised the need to include local stakeholders in the process. The BPEO methodology was ideally suited to do this.

## 3. Methodology

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution<sup>2</sup> defines a Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) study as follows:

*A BPEO is the outcome of a systematic consultative and decision-making procedure which emphasises the protection and conservation of the environment across land, air and water. The BPEO procedure establishes, for a given set of objectives, the option that provides the most benefit or least damage to the environment as a whole, at acceptable cost, in the long term as well as in the short term.*

In essence, a BPEO is a decision making tool that introduces a framework for providing sustainable solutions. The concept requires that performance of alternative options be assessed against key objectives, reflected through a range of criteria, in order to identify the option that performs best overall. A BPEO should:

- establish boundary statements and objectives;
- identify possible technical options;
- select parameters / attributes which may be affected by the technical option and specify them so comparison of the technical options can be carried out; and
- determine a scoring system to allow evaluation of the best option.

### 3.1 Study Objective and Assumptions

Boundary statements and a study objective were prepared to set the parameters within which the consultation was to be undertaken. These were prepared and then discussed at a stakeholder meeting to ensure all the parties involved agreed.

The study objective was:

*To determine the best method for remediating dioxin contamination of the Kopeopeo Canal to an acceptable level set in consultation with stakeholder groups.*

The assumptions provided boundaries for the consultation and included the following:

<sup>1</sup> Contact for further information: drobotham@skm.co.nz

<sup>2</sup> The royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (Feb. 1988), the Twelfth Report Best Practicable Environmental Options (ISBN 010 1031025).



- Dioxin contaminated sediments with concentrations over the remediation target pose a potential hazard and must be managed.
- The source of the contamination has ceased.
- Financial constraints will not be the major driver in the solution.
- The contamination remediation goals derived will continue into the future (derived by SKM using qualitative risk assessment).

### 3.2 Technical Options

Research was carried out into possible remediation technologies. Each was then subjected to two questions to further reduce the number options to be fully considered:

**Q1:** Will the remediation option reduce the levels of risks to human health to an acceptable level?

**Q2:** Is the remediation methodology proven for dioxin contamination and available in New Zealand?

The options were reduced from 12 to 6 allowing a more manageable number of options to be discussed at the meeting. These options included 'do nothing' (leave the sediments in place and manage the site), fill the canal in and construct a new one, removal and disposal or removal, stabilisation and disposal.

### 3.3 Attributes for Assessing the Options

To provide a consistent approach in assessing the remediation options a number of attributes were set and presented to the stakeholders. These included:

- general environmental considerations, on and off-site impacts;
- health and safety;
- technical / practical;
- socio-economic;
- statutory requirements; and
- financial.

### 3.4 The Stakeholders

After discussions with EBOP the stakeholders were determined to be:

- EBOP;
- Whakatane District Council;
- Local Iwi Group - Ngati Awa;
- Toi Te Ora Public Health (Pacific Health);
- Saw Mill Workers Against Poison;
- Ministry for the Environment; and
- Ministry of Health.

### 3.5 Consultation Process

The consultation process included issuing a briefing report before the meeting outlining the approach, assumptions, remediation options and the qualifying questions. Information on the remediation approaches which passed the qualifying statements was provided in more detail.

At the meeting the process and remediation options were outlined to all who attended and then the remediation options were scored against the attributes.

### 3.6 Scoring

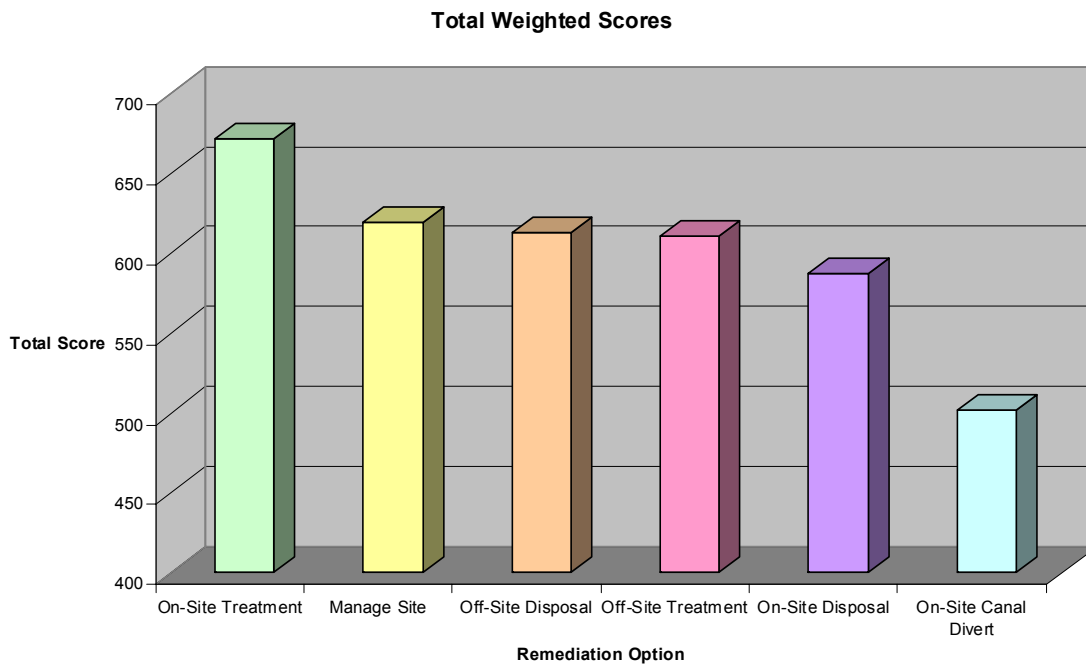
To allow comparison of the remediation options each one was scored against each attribute. A scoring range of 1 to 10 was decided, where 1 represented a negative response and 10 represented a positive response.

Once the scores for each attribute had been gathered from the stakeholders they were added to give total values for each remediation option, however this did not take into account that some of the attributes were considered to have more importance than others. For example, public acceptance of a project was thought to have a higher significance than general environmental considerations. Therefore a weighting factor of between 1 and 100 was decided for each attribute based on the feedback gained during the consultation and a calculated for each attribute calculated. This was then multiplied by the score to give a weighted value.



#### 4. Results

From the raw data and the analysed data the winning option was to remove the contaminated sediment, treat it via stabilisation and bury it in a suitable site near the Kopeopeo Canal (as indicated in the graph below). Leaving the contaminated material in place and managing the site scored second overall as this



methodology was given high scores for its low environmental impact. However, when the scores were weighted it scored less due to low scores from the effect on the local population, stakeholder views and acceptance by the public.

#### 5. Conclusions

The stakeholders felt that it was not acceptable to just move the contaminated material to another area outside of the Whakatane community as this was simply giving the problem to someone else to deal with. If the sediments could be treated locally and then deposited on a suitable site in the local area, this not only returned the Kopeopeo canal to its original state but also dealt locally with the problem.

The BPEO study in this case provided a scientific means in which to engage the local stakeholders and include them in the decision making process, something which they had been excluded from in the past. By including the local population it informed them of the how the remediation was to take place and also removed many of the blocks which may be put in place when trying to gain consents for the work.

#### Acknowledgments

SKM would like to acknowledge the help and support provided to SKM while undertaking this project by all of the stakeholders involved. Without their enthusiasm and important input at stakeholder meetings the project would not have been as successful as it was.

**SKM is a current benefactor of the  
Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand**



# AUSTRALIAN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL (AGIC) - BUILDING THE TOOL TO DELIVER SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

## Glen Hedges

AGIC was formed in mid-2007 by a collection of like-minded professionals from a range of industry, government, consultancies and related service providers to be the catalyst for the delivery and operation of more sustainable infrastructure in Australia.

To accomplish this, AGIC will benchmark, advance and promote the concepts and knowledge of sustainability throughout the design, construction and life cycle of infrastructure solutions, and recognise and reward organisations which deliver world leading sustainable solutions in the design, construction and operation of our national infrastructure via a rating and award scheme.

The Council is currently undertaking business planning with the goal of attracting Foundation Members and in-kind contributions in the short term and to finalising a Board by mid-2008. AGIC's Interim Steering Group would like to hear from organisations and individuals interested in:

- assisting with planning the implementation of AGIC through **in-kind contributions or direct sponsorship**;
- **joining one of the AGIC's Working Groups** to develop, administer and publicise the scheme, and later test and implement the scheme;
- being added to a mailing list and be **kept informed** of the AGIC's progress in developing the scheme;
- providing **information** to AGIC on similar schemes, tools and experiences;
- considering opportunities to **promote** the Council and its objectives to your colleagues, clients and other interested contacts; and
- showing interest in becoming a **Foundation Member**.

In particular, AGIC would like to invite organisations interested in becoming Foundation Members who would like to contribute in-kind assistance to the Council. Such in-kind assistance may be used to offset Foundation membership fees. Current opportunities include:

- nominating representatives to participate in a Working Group (Product Design, Client Needs and Marketing, and Admin/Governance/ Finance);
- facilitating the development of assessment questions, suggesting benchmarks, and

determining R&D requirements for one (or more) of fifteen (15) categories (including social, environmental and economic);

- building, hosting and maintaining an AGIC website;
- facilitating the completion of a two-year marketing strategy for AGIC;
- facilitating the development of a three-year financial plan and budget; and
- searching for and seeking grants, sponsorship and funds on behalf of AGIC.

Further information is available from the following EIANZ members:

- David Hood (Chair) – [davidahood@mac.com](mailto: davidahood@mac.com)
- Simon Cavendish (EIANZ representative) – [simon@enviropartners.com.au](mailto: simon@enviropartners.com.au)
- Rick Walters (NSW contact) – [Rick.Walters@WorleyParsons.com](mailto: Rick.Walters@WorleyParsons.com)
- Rob Tusk (Victorian contact) – [Rob.Turk@arup.com.au](mailto: Rob.Turk@arup.com.au)

or from the Secretariat, Glen Hedges – [ghedges@thiess.com.au](mailto: ghedges@thiess.com.au)

## 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.

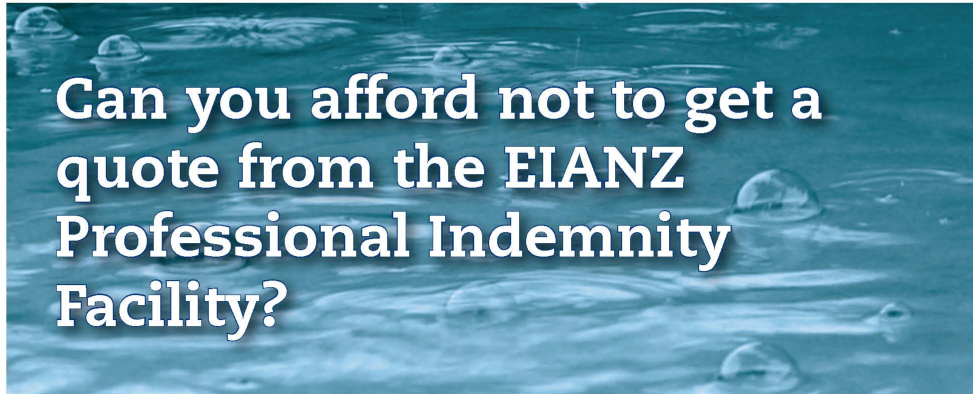
Material should be sent by e-mail as Word attachments. Please proofread carefully before sending. Photographs should be sent as a jpeg file or an alternative format suitable for editing.

**Deadline for next issue (March): 10 February 2008.**

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



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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.

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



**ENVIRONMENT  
INSTITUTE OF  
AUSTRALIA AND  
NEW ZEALAND**



## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members who were accepted for membership in September, October and November 2007.

### Australian Capital Territory

Rick Zentelis Member  
Dr Nicholas Schofield Member

### Far North Queensland

Karla Penn Member  
Manfred Thienenkamp Member  
Clive Cook Member

### New South Wales

Steven Crick Member  
Dr Mehreen Faruqi Member  
Anthony Weinberg Member  
Nigel Howard Member  
Viet Anh Thi Nguyen Member  
Anthony Gittany Associate  
Cameron Weller Associate  
Jenny Hicks Student  
Martyn Hazelwood Student  
Tanya Fiedler Student

### Northern Territory

Ray Hall Member  
Julie Crawford Member  
Kate Bauer Associate  
Tanya Carriere Associate

### South Australia

Simon Beed Student

### South East Queensland

Andrew Groenwoldt Member  
Andrew Stannard Member  
Emma Taylor Member  
Anne McCartin Member  
Jacob Cumpstay Member  
Matt McIntyre Member  
Darcelle Hegarty Member

Karlson Hargroves Member  
Nathan Kirby Member  
Matthew Leon Associate  
Simon Harrison Associate  
Christopher Ewing Student

### Victoria

Dr Patricia Fox Member  
Dr John Tilleard Member  
Nick Wimbush Member  
Carol Jadraque Member  
Roger Winders Member  
Richard Mason Member  
Angeline Courtenay Associate  
Sarah Cox Associate  
Scott White Associate

### Western Australia

Andrew Waters Member  
Gillian Goby Member  
Tamara Al-Hashimi Member  
Peter Hood Member  
Patrick Heagney Associate

### New Zealand

Sam Bridgman Member  
Sarah Tammik Member  
Peter Barnes Member  
Jenny Ritson Member  
Simon Beale Member  
Dr Deidre Stuart Member  
Kristina Healy Member  
Professor Ross Cullen Member  
Carl Reller Member  
Dianne Buchan Member  
Kristy Austin Member  
Sarah Laing Associate



*The people behind EP3.*

*L to R: Vanessa McKenzie (Central Office), Bill Haylock (EIANZ President) and Danielle Bolton (SEQ Office).*

*Bill, Danielle and Vanessa were at all of the EP3 events, ensuring that they ran smoothly in a consistent manner.*



## ElANZ DIRECTORY

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Vice President - Australia: Justin Sherrard  
Vice President - New Zealand: Prof. Ian Spellerberg  
Secretary: Leo Fietje  
Treasurer: Geoff Parr-Smith  
Communications Editor: Dr David Hogg

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Far North Queensland: Dr Adam Smith  
New South Wales: Desiree Lammerts  
New Zealand: Leo Fietje  
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Tasmania: Axel von Krusenstierna  
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Professional Development Committee: Tony Peterson  
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New South Wales: Anita Mitchell  
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Northern Territory: Vacant (Bill Low and Noel Preece acting)  
South Australia: Alex Duerden  
South East Queensland: Claire Gronow  
Tasmania: Philip Millin  
Victoria: Tiernan Humphrys  
Western Australia: Kerry Laszig

#### CENTRAL OFFICE

Office Manager: Anne Young  
Development Manager: Judith Cowden  
Research Officer: Vanessa McKenzie  
Membership Administrator: Debbie Howell

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO  
ALL OUR MEMBERS  
FROM THE STAFF OF  
THE CENTRAL OFFICE



Back: Anne, Debbie.  
Front: Judith, Vanessa.



Editor: David Hogg  
Email: [communications-editor@eianz.org](mailto:communications-editor@eianz.org)  
Phone: 02-6251 3885  
+ 612-6251 3885 (international)  
Fax: 02-6253 1574

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

