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Akolade's 3rd Annual Australian Environmental Assessments & Approvals

Assessing impacts, mitigating risks and gaining approval

28 - 30 MAY 2014
Sir Stamford Circular Quay
SYDNEY

EXPERT SPEAKERS:

- **Mark Sabolch**, National Environment Manager – Compliance and Reporting, [Lend Lease](#)
- **Karen Durand**, Corporate Environment and Sustainability Manager, [Incitec Pivot](#)
- **Peter Bourke**, Manager Planning Approvals, [North West Rail Link](#)
- **Cameron Reid**, Manager – Carbon & Renewable Energy Policy, [AGL Energy](#)
- **Nigel Buchanan**, Manager of Environmental Approvals and Compliance, [Transgrid](#)
- **Mitchell Isaacs**, Manager of Strategic Stakeholder Liaison - NSW Office of Water, [Department of Primary Industries](#)
- **Brendon Baker**, Principal Manager Planning Approvals, [North West Rail Link](#)
- **Ram Dalal**, Leader - National Soil Carbon Program, [Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and The Arts](#)
- **Michael Priest**, Senior Rehabilitation Manager, [Cristal Mining Australia](#)
- **Julian Long**, Water Solutions Development Manager, [Origin Energy](#)
- **Jo Powells**, Agricultural Impacts Officer, [Department of Primary Industries](#)
- **Gordon Hopkins**, Environmental Health Officer, [Isaac Regional Council](#)
- **Leeora Black**, Managing Director, [Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility](#)
- **Renee Grogan**, Principal Environmental Planner, [Palaris Mining](#)
- **Jon Womersley**, FEIANZ President, [Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand](#)
- **Peter Briggs**, Partner, [Herbert Smith Freehills](#)
- **Peter Serov**, Director, [Stygoecologia](#)

7 EXCLUSIVE CASE STUDIES

KEY BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Ensure your processes comply with new regulations
- Speed up your environmental approval processes by improving your applications
- Understand how the new government policies are likely to develop and how it will affect your projects
- Streamline your environmental assessments and approval processes
- Build strong relationships with government officials to guarantee project sustainability

What our past delegates have to say

Very good range of topics and high quality presenters – useful to have these issues all discussed and shared
Environment Manager, [City North Infrastructure \(CNI\)](#)

Enjoyable presentations and the opportunity to meet and network with a mix of other participants
Community Planning & Environmental Services Manager, [Port Stephens](#)

Endorsed by



Environment
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Australia and
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DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, 28th MAY 2014

8:00 Registration opens

9:00 Opening remarks from the Chair

Jon Womersley, *FEIANZ President, Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand*

EMISSIONS REDUCTION SCHEME

9:10 Understanding how the Direct Action Plan will impact other energy policies

- Understanding what is the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF)
- How will the ERF assist in environmental compliance
- When is the ERF expected to commence

Cameron Reid, *Manager – Carbon & Renewable Energy Policy, AGL Energy*

9:50 CASE STUDY

Biodiversity Offsetting – update:

- Understanding the frameworks for the assessment of biodiversity impacts and offsets
- Implementation – turning an approved strategy into a real package
- Managing biodiversity offsets through the biobanking scheme

Peter Bourke, *Manager Planning Approvals, North West Rail Link*

10:30 Morning Tea

11:00 CASE STUDY

Assessing the scope of greenhouse gas emissions

- Monitoring and emissions reduction management
- Benchmarking against industries standards
- Assurance, risk and audit

Karen Durand, *Corporate Environment and Sustainability Manager, Incitec Pivot*

11:40 Assessments of environmental applications from a local government's perspective

- Outlining how the environmental assessment legislation will impact on local government's power
- Standard impact, requests and evidence
- Understanding the potential for environmental incidents through the removal of environmentally relevant activities licensing in Queensland
- Advocating for environmental management best practices

Gordon Hopkins, *Environmental Health Officer, Isaac Regional Council*

12:20 Luncheon

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

1:20 New directions in environmental assessments and approvals – the role of environmental practitioners as professionals

- Emergent issues in environmental assessments and approvals
- Efficient, timely and effective processes
- Differentiating causes and good practice environmental management
- Underpinning proficiencies for environmental practitioners
- Recognising the value of professional environmental practitioners

Jon Womersley, *FEIANZ President, Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand*

2:00 Legal Update: Assessing key issues for environmental assessments under the EPBC Act reform

- Outlining the recent developments, legislation and case law
- Understanding how the water trigger will assist in streamlining approvals
- Practical implications for your projects

Peter Briggs, *Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills*

2:40 Afternoon Tea

3:10 OPEN FLOOR DISCUSSION: Making the 'one stop shop' environmental legislation approach work

- Streamlining of assessments, including updating existing assessment bilateral agreements with states and territories
- The negotiation of bilateral agreements for environmental approvals

Moderated by: Jon Womersley, *FEIANZ President, Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand*

3:50 CASE STUDY

Filling the research gap through the National Soil Carbon Program (NSCP)

- Coordinating and managing the soil carbon projects as a national program
- Using standardised sampling and measurement methods increase in carbon and carbon pools in soil and biomass under native forest regrowth
- The highlights of the National Soil carbon Program

Ram Dalal, *Leader - National Soil Carbon Program, Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and The Arts*

4:30 Closing remarks from the Chair and conference adjourns

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, 29th MAY 2014

8:00 Registration opens

9:00 Opening remarks from the Chair

Jon Womersley, *FEIANZ President, Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand*

MANAGING APPROVALS

9:10 CASE STUDY

Obtaining and managing complex infrastructure approvals in NSW

- Applying conditions of approval across multiple contracts
- Retained obligations of infrastructure approvals
- Tips and tools for managing your approvals

Brendon Baker, *Principal Manager Planning Approvals, North West Rail Link*

9:50 Managing your Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) to meet the new EIS requirements

- Outlining how the AIS fits in with the NSW governments' latest development approvals process
- Understanding what is required in an AIS
- Development outcomes resulting from the AIS process

Jo Powells, *Agricultural Impact Statement Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries*

10:30 Morning Tea

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11:00 Managing social impact assessment and social outcomes by using an effective social licence framework

- Developing more creative engagement programs
- Ensuring that community engagement is sustainable
- Anticipating community needs during market changes
- Measuring cumulative social impacts and benefits

Leeora Black, *Managing Director, Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility*

11:40 Exploring the different approval processes that best suit your projects

- Comparing the environmental approvals process to international standards
- Understanding how state-owned projects apply
- Drawing upon key lessons and overcoming challenges

Nigel Buchanan, *Manager of Environmental Approvals and Compliance, Transgrid*

12:20 Luncheon

1:20 CASE STUDY**Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) planning**

- Compiling a detailed EIS schedule
- Creating stakeholder consultation programs to meet stakeholder, community and governments' needs
- Ensuring environmental constraints are identified and minimising environmental impacts
- Addressing the regulatory authorities expectations for the EIS scope

Renee Grogan, *Principal Environmental Planner, Palaris Mining*

2:00 CASE STUDY**Approaches to environmental approvals in different jurisdictions**

- A standardised yet flexible approach to seeking approvals
- Support Systems
- Resourcing
- Internal checks and auditing
- Implementation challenges

Mark Sabolch, *National Environment Manager – Compliance and Reporting, Lend Lease*

2:40 Afternoon Tea**WATER MANAGEMENT****3:10 Examining assessments and regulation of aquifer interference activities in NSW, particularly for mining and CSG**

- Understanding the NSW regulatory framework
- NSW Aquifer Interference Policy: What does it do?
- Accounting for water

Mitchell Isaacs, *Manager of Strategic Stakeholder Liaison - NSW Office of Water, Department of Primary Industries*

3:50 CASE STUDY**Managing groundwater and surface water interactions**

- Ground water and surface water interaction processes and their implications for efficient water resources management
- Key considerations with regard to environmental issues associated with ground water-surface water interaction
- Integrating water balance models for management and decision and forecasting
- Minimising cumulative impacts on groundwater and surface water interaction processes, and supporting aquatic and land base systems

Julian Long, *Water Solutions Development Manager, Origin Energy*

4:30 CASE STUDY**Leading practice waste dump rehabilitation**

- Developing adequate slope profiles to minimise seepage and erosion
- Arid land rehabilitation
- Constructing a stable sand and clay based landform that will resist high rainfall events
- Managing concentration of run-offs
- Revegetating waste dumps using topsoil resources
- Recolonisation by flora and fauna of the rehabilitated site

Michael Priest, *Senior Rehabilitation Manager, Cristal Mining Australia*

5:10 Closing remarks from the Chair and conference adjourns**POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS:
DAY THREE: FRIDAY, 30th MAY 2014****Masterclass: A guide for strategic biodiversity planning and environmental approval processes**

There are many challenges and difficulties in gaining regulatory environmental approval for your projects. Negotiating this process can be expensive, not guaranteed and can often cause significant delays. At this practical Masterclass, delegates will be provided with a guide to strategic environmental assessment and approvals planning and licence to operate. Delegates will gain a greater understanding of existing and changing environmental approval processes and ensure best practice environmental outcomes are achieved in a timely manner.

This Masterclass is divided into two parts as outlined below:

PART A: 9:00- 12:00**Ecosystem and biodiversity management**

- Baseline studies and monitoring to support effective environmental management
- Monitoring ecosystem health using agency comparable, statistically rigorous methods
- Demonstrable ecological outcomes
- Aquatic Invertebrate and crustacean surveys
- Groundwater fauna
- Comprehensive catchment, wetlands and waterways studies

LUNCH 12:00 – 1:00**PART B: 1:00- 4:00****Planning for EIS**

- Review of Environmental Factors and understanding environmental values,
- EIS and EIA studies and reporting – rigour, experience and understanding
- Environmental Management Plans – practical and cost-effective
- EPBC Act self-referral – providing legal certainty
- Issues with planning and permitting – An open discussion

Peter Serov, *Director, Stygoecologia*

About your facilitator

Peter is an aquatic and groundwater ecologist, and invertebrate taxonomist who has worked in a range of environments including surface aquatic, marine, terrestrial, and groundwater ecosystems. Peter has been a major contributor in the recognition of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE's) in NSW and has also been intrinsically involved in the development and implementation of NSW legislation involving Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems and High Conservation Value Rivers (HCV). He has worked in all states of Australia on stygofauna and aquatic invertebrate taxonomy and ecology.

