Module: Environmental Risk and Impact Assessment

The following overview has been developed by EIANZ as a guide to the possible learning outcomes and content structure of the module. Training providers are requested to review and make appropriate recommendations regarding final learning outcomes, module content and delivery format.

EIANZ Proficiency: Analysis and Risk Assessment *(refer to EIANZ Proficiency Map)*

Module description: This module provides participants with the practical knowledge and skills to undertake environmental impact assessments, including methods of assessing environmental impacts, evaluating alternatives and understanding limitations of the process. It covers the primary areas of planning and conducting a risk assessment (i.e. hazard identification, exposure assessment and risk characterisation) and outlines basic risk communication and public outreach.

Proposed learning outcomes: Participants will:

- Understand the purpose, process and limitations of EIA in the decision-making process.
- Understand how to plan and apply commonly used environmental impact assessment tools, techniques and methods for simple projects.
- Be able to format an EIA Report (Environmental Impact Statement, or Environmental Statement).
- Understand the fundamental concepts and terminology used in risk assessment.
- Understand risk assessment methodology.
- Develop knowledge of regulatory bodies and standards.
- Be able to develop a simple risk assessment report.

Draft content:

1. Background - purpose and aims; nature and scope of issues and impacts; administration and practice; overview of process; and costs and benefits.
2. Law, Policy and Institutional Arrangements - about EIA systems; EIA policy and legislation; international and Australian requirements; and principles for a functional EIA system
3. Public Involvement – principles; scope of involvement; developing a plan; and tools and techniques
4. Screening – procedure; project lists; preliminary EIA; screening methods; and criteria for determining need and level.
5. Scoping – purpose; scoping methods; alternatives and tiering; practice; and EIA terms of reference.
6. Impact Analysis – current context; impact identification; impact analysis/prediction; impact analysis; impact characterisation; social impact assessment; and evaluation of impact significance.
7. Mitigation and Impact Management - link between EIA process and mitigation; elements of mitigation; approaches to mitigation; and environmental management plan and mitigation measures.
8. EIA Reporting – EIA reporting basics; guidelines for effective EIA report preparation and production; the non-technical summary/executive summary; and EIA reporting practice.
9. Review of EIA Quality - role and purpose of the EIA review process; main steps in the EIA review; EIA quality basics; and procedures for evaluating EIA reports.
1. Decision Making - EIA as part of the decision making process; procedural considerations; and responsibility of the decision makers.

Delivery: Training providers are requested to make a recommendation in relation to the most effective learning environment for this audience. The following information should be considered when advising on presentation format:

- Minimum session length is two to three hours
- Session could be held as an interactive webinar or seminar
- Include online Q&A and panel discussion in relation to the module
- Access to industry professionals across Australia and New Zealand with specialist expertise relating to the module