



# The Environmental Practitioner

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Photo by Phil Cameron, OZOZArk Environmental & Heritage Management Pty Ltd

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## Editorial

Environmental impact assessment and biodiversity offsets feature in this edition of *The Environmental Practitioner*, reflecting increasing debate in these areas. While there are many themes to these debates, one aspect that concerns me is the assumptions being made in decision making processes regarding the effectiveness of offsets in preventing biodiversity loss, and of mitigation measures generally in avoiding significant impacts. For example, EISs for several significant mining and infrastructure projects have been approved on the basis that a combination of rehabilitation and offsets would result in no net loss of biodiversity, and in fact, there could be a net gain once disturbed areas were fully reinstated.

The use of direct offsets is a recent phenomenon so perhaps it is too soon to judge whether offsets can really replace biodiversity values lost at development sites. However, the challenges of restoring degraded native habitat and rehabilitating mine sites and other disturbed areas should certainly not be underestimated, and the high risk of failure must be considered. Adding to this concern is the finding of *Australia's Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Draft Report* that biodiversity is decreasing on all fronts.

This brings me to consider more broadly the role of EISs in decision making. A core purpose of the EIS process is to set out the consequences, both negative and positive, of taking a particular action. A rationalist approach to decision-making then leads our decision makers to make trade-offs, considering both losses and gains before determining if an action should proceed, on the basis of net benefit to society.

However, I can't remember when I last read an EIS that acknowledged any significant level of residual negative impact. While the EIS process is often effective in promoting avoidance of impacts, particularly through route and site selection, I am concerned that where impacts cannot be

avoided, a great deal of faith is placed in the effectiveness of the various mitigation and compensation measures proposed to prevent significant impacts on biodiversity and other values. Lack of follow up monitoring and evaluation leaves me wondering if we are really only guessing at how effective these measures might be.

Of course, our decision-makers, generally elected representatives, take a great deal of comfort in being able to assert that the EIS has demonstrated that all of the benefits of major projects in terms of employment and economic growth can be had with no negative impacts on environmental and social values. In this way, the tantalising ideal of sustainable development can be realised!

But have we been so taken in by the convenience of sustainable development that we are ignoring the fact that the Emperor actually has no clothes on? Can development and associated economic growth really continue without significant losses of biodiversity and other values?

As environmental practitioners, we are not usually required to determine the priorities for trade-offs between environmental, social and economic costs and benefits. But decision makers and the community are relying on us to use our skills to clearly set out the positive and negative effects of development, to propose realistic mitigation measures and to carefully evaluate the likely effectiveness of these. Now more than ever, environmental practitioners need to stand up and be counted so that decision makers and the community in general know the consequences of each decision.



Claire Gronow FEIANZ, CEnvP

## From the President

### Representation of Good Practice Environmental Management

The role of a professional association includes representing the interests of its members to various decision makers in the community and in particular to governments. The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand has been active in this space since its formation, but has more recently stepped up its level of activity. The work of the Environment Institute in this space depends on the enthusiasm of members who are prepared to make their time available to contribute in this way. The Environment Institute acknowledges that voluntary effort and thanks members individually and collectively. I am also keen to encourage more members to take up this opportunity. The Environment Institute is, after all, what we collectively make it, and personal satisfaction comes through opportunities to lead and shape the direction of environmental policy and practice.

Several matters have been the focus of the Environment Institute's interest over the last few months. It has made representations about the 'One Stop Shop' arrangements, which are the formal delegation to State and Territory governments and other organisations by the Commonwealth Government of assessment and approval decision making authorities under bi-lateral agreements. These new arrangements are ones that environmental practitioners will need to work within in the future, so it is important that the voice of practitioners is heard in the making of such arrangements. There have been personal meetings with Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt MP and senior departmental officers to put the case for the involvement of environmental practitioners in the assurance of the quality of the documentation on which decisions are based, and an offer for the Environment Institute to conduct training for

environmental practitioners in relation to the process and high standards that Minister Hunt has stated will continue to apply under these new *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) arrangements.

The Environment Institute supports the streamlining of administrative processes associated with the 'One Stop Shop' approach to the administration of the EPBC Act and other national environmental legislative measures where this leads to better quality EIA and associated decision making. The Environment Institute considers that there are significant opportunities for the harmonisation of legislative frameworks across Australia in the environmental management arena, by taking the best practices within each jurisdiction and developing a common administrative process that generates outcomes that are appropriate for a particular geographic area and its associated physical, biodiversity and social environmental values.



(photo: Commonwealth of Australia)

The Environment Institute recognises the importance of the position put by environmental practitioners that the EPBC Act requirements in relation to



the assessment and approval of projects have encouraged more robust evaluation and decision making about the environmental consequences of projects in relation to matters of national environmental significance. The Environment Institute's representations argue that any reform that streamlines the legislative framework ought not to lose that robustness of evaluation and decision making. Certification of documentation and work by 'suitably qualified and experienced' persons is one way of ensuring that it is not lost, and may in fact enhance this aspect of EIA.

In appearing before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment to respond to its inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation, the Environment Institute put the point that it considers that the following changes to the administration of the EPBC Act can leverage improvements that would result in reduced decision making times, reduced costs to project proponents; improved quality of applications and approvals; and environmental impact and assessment processes that



better serve the needs and aspirations of communities.

A key change being sought by the Environment Institute is the certification by 'suitably qualified and experienced' persons that documentation relating to the administration of the EPBC Act is scientifically and technically accurate; is in accordance with regulatory requirements and government policies; and that proposed measures for avoidance, mitigation, remediation and offsetting will, if implemented, achieve the objective of minimising environmental harm. This should not to be confused with the certification of environmental practitioners.

Any good regulatory system, in assuring performance, engages not simply governments, but the professional practitioners with skills and knowledge relevant to the professional activity, in this case, environmental management. In many other fields such as accounting, architecture and engineering for example this is standard practice. If Australia and New Zealand are to have robust and high performing approaches to good practice environmental management, environmental practitioners must be a core part of the arrangements that assure that performance. Through its membership arrangements and the Certified Environmental Practitioner scheme, the Environment Institute requires practitioners to practice in accordance with its *Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct*, and holds members and certified practitioners accountable to that Code. Having membership of an organisation that holds its members accountable in this way is a key to the recognition of 'suitably qualified and experienced' persons.

Other matters taken up with the House of Representative Standing Committee include the use of strategic environmental assessment methods as a basis for identifying and valuing the environmental constraints associated with development at a policy, regional and sub-regional scale, an environmental scoping step that informs early project designs and results in targeted terms of reference for environmental impact assessments, and executive summaries of environmental impact assessments written in plain language for community understanding.

To ensure that there is ongoing value associated with the initial investment in data collection and analysis, the Environment Institute has argued for data assembled for the purposes of environmental impact assessments to be warehoused electronically with a creative commons licence so that it can inform future EIA and decision making. The same needs to be done for the vast quantity of data that is regularly collected as part of the monitoring and reporting conditions of approvals granted for projects. This is important information that can reduce the cost of assessment, improve



knowledge of the state of the environment, and provide a basis for better targeted policy and practice responses.



The other plank in the arguments put to the House of Representative Standing Committee by the Environment Institute is the urgent need for the harmonisation of legislative / policy approaches to good practice environmental management across jurisdictions. The fact that there are widely varying standards of environmental management and different regulatory frameworks for achieving the same kinds of environmental outcomes across jurisdictions, points to the value of the Commonwealth and the States and Territories working effectively to harmonise legislative / policy approaches to good practice environmental

management. The EIANZ supports Minister Hunt's initiative to appoint a Threatened Species Commissioner as it believes that this is an area where there needs to be urgent action to harmonise arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

The Environment Institute has taken the view that the introduction of a requirement by governments and industry for certification of environmental assessment and approvals documentation by 'suitably qualified and experienced' persons, and the harmonisation of legislative / policy approaches to good practice environmental management, would be the most effective in improving environmental performance and outcomes.

These are just some of the policy issues on which the Environment Institute is active. The various submissions and responses to government

enquiries are progressively being gathered on the Environment Institute's website. If you would like to be more involved in these aspects of the work of the Environment Institute, or you have a particular passion about a particular policy area or aspect of good practice environmental management, then just let us know at [office@eianz.org](mailto:office@eianz.org).

*Jon Womersley*, FEIANZ

President

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand

June 2014



*Calytrix exstipulata* photo by: Lara Coutts



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## News, Views, Articles and Updates

### Wanted: High Flying Climate Doctors

EIANZ flight CC1 from Perth to Auckland was packed. We had experienced turbulence before nightfall and several babies were crying from the pressure of descent. The fasten seatbelts sign went on and might have read 'be anxious' judging by the passenger's mood.

Then I heard the friendly crackle of the speakers. Good, an announcement to tell us we were about to land safely. "This is your senior flight attendant speaking. If there is a doctor aboard please come to the front of the plane". The cabin went quiet, except for one baby's cry and the embarrassed 'shhh' of the reassuring mother. A very long minute passed, then a repeat call for medical expertise and a second quiet but fidgety minute. Then the real question came: "Are there any passengers with experience as a pilot"?

It is interesting how we frame the "climate debate" in Australia and New Zealand. Who said the discussion is a debate? Who has the right to participate? Most agree we all share the same climate journey on our global spaceship. What role do you play: An annoyed or anxious passenger, a reassuring parent providing false hope to children in distress, the organiser or the expert?

A good outcome in the flight scenario does not involve a discussion. A doctor is bound by ethical code to come forward. Currently, we have no such assurance for a world confronting the challenges of climate change. Who can we trust to help find a way to live sustainably? Professionals with expertise in climate change mitigation and adaptation must identify themselves and lead with integrity by applying their particular skills in a professional manner.

Fortunately the EIANZ 'airline' has a 'fleet of aircraft' for both its members and general practitioners. The Certified Environmental Practitioner scheme (CEnvP) identifies and recognises experienced general practitioners and those who work as either Impact Assessment or Ecology specialists. Now, for the first time, the September 2014 CEnvP intake will take applications from Climate Change specialists (CEnvP (CC Specialist)).

CEnvP (CC Specialist) is the world's first comprehensive, national or international certification scheme for climate change practitioners. Regional events will launch the scheme in Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland, New Zealand and Iceland between June and September. You are invited to participate in an event to learn more and to help the climate change specialty 'take off'.

Despite recent anxiety and uncertainty in public discussion around climate action, EIANZ through CEnvP is demonstrating global leadership and marking the maturity of the climate industry in establishing the CEnvP (CC Specialist). If you have good climate change skills and experience in any professional discipline, it is now time to stand up and be recognised for the contribution you can make.

Apply for certification or register for a launch event via: [www.cenvp.org](http://www.cenvp.org).  
Apply for Climate Specialty Training: (Learn To Adapt National Program <http://www.eianz.org/>). Join EIANZ's Climate Change Special Interest Group: contact [alastair.buchan@nqdrytropics.com.au](mailto:alastair.buchan@nqdrytropics.com.au)

*Article by: Alastair Buchan, MEIANZ, CEnvP and Simon Cavendish, FEIANZ*



## *EIA in Australia: theory and practice*



What is environmental impact assessment (EIA) and when is it required? Put simply, EIA is a systematic and orderly evaluation of a public or private development proposal, and its impact on the environment (including biodiversity, social, economic, cultural heritage).

EIA is a process. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a product of the EIA process – the document that records the technical assessments and tells the story of the proposed development, assessed alternatives, potential impacts and proposed management and mitigation of these potential impacts.

A revised edition of *Environmental Impact Assessment in Australia: Theory and Practice* was released in February 2014. The purpose of this important text is fivefold:

1. To bring together the many and varied aspects of EIA;
2. To establish the context for EIA as undertaken within Australia;
3. To illustrate the practice of EIA so that newcomers to the field will have a handbook to assist them;
4. To provide a resource that will give a starting point for anyone wanting more detail on particular aspects of EIA; and
5. To remind the reader that EIA is a “social construct” in that we have manufactured it — as a result it relies on value judgments, and it has become part of our political process.

This edition, similar to previous editions, has been revised in the context of evolving EIA practice around Australia and includes a number of case studies throughout the text to complement the theory. The case studies should not be viewed as the only way of undertaking EIA (or a component of EIA), but rather as examples to demonstrate key points within the text.

The latest edition introduces more context to the evolving theory and practice regarding impact assessment, specifically strategic environmental assessment, the role of EIA in developing countries, the current discussion regarding the Approval Bilaterals and the proposed ‘one stop shop’ under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act 1999) and the issues surrounding post-EIA monitoring.

Chapter 6 of the sixth edition, which summarises the Commonwealth, State and Territories’ EIA procedures, has largely been revised, as many of these jurisdictions have been through some type of reform to their EIA procedures, including amendments to their EIA legislation, or to existing EIA Guidelines / administrative procedures. Notwithstanding these changes, the way in which EIA is undertaken still remains. That is, screening, scoping, EIS production, public review and assessment.

What else has changed since the fifth edition? In some respects not a lot – the broad approach of EIA has not been challenged and its highly political nature remains. A most noticeable difference is the evolving relationship between the Commonwealth’s procedures (under the EPBC Act) and the equivalent State and Territory legislation. At the time of publication of the sixth edition, all States and Territories had signed Assessment Bilateral Agreements with the Commonwealth government to help in reducing duplication, among other matters, of EIA procedures. Negotiations have commenced between the Commonwealth and the States/Territories to agree to Approval Bilateral Agreements, with the intention of having these in place by the end of 2014.

In recognition of the developing interest in Strategic Environment Assessment, the discussion in Chapter 3 has been expanded to recognise the growing emphasis that it is attracting both internationally and in Australia. A case study on the strategic assessment of Melbourne’s urban growth boundary is included.

In considering the future of EIA, in Chapter 10, I have particularly commented on the connections of EIA with environmental management.





Recent developments and their future directions in SEA are also reviewed. This edition continues the discussion on the issue of post-EIA monitoring, which has been a focus for practitioners and academics for a number of years, and the little evidence of much post-EIA assessment occurring. Post-EIA monitoring remains a critical issue to be addressed to ensure outcomes of EIA are implemented and issues managed as they were proposed to be.

This edition of *Environmental Impact in Australia: Theory and Practice* responds to both the evolution in EIA thinking and to the maintenance of the basic approach. In terms of the general application of EIA concepts and principles nothing has really changed, but additional experience may have been gained of specific aspects of EIA.

The emphasis in *Environmental Impact Assessment in Australia: Theory and Practice* is on developing understanding of the EIA processes. This is intended to place the reader in the position of being able to apply these processes to any situation – while being aware of the strengths and limitations of the approaches being used and the assumptions being made.

More information about the sixth edition can be found at <https://www.federationpress.com.au/bookstore/book.asp?isbn=9781862879454>.

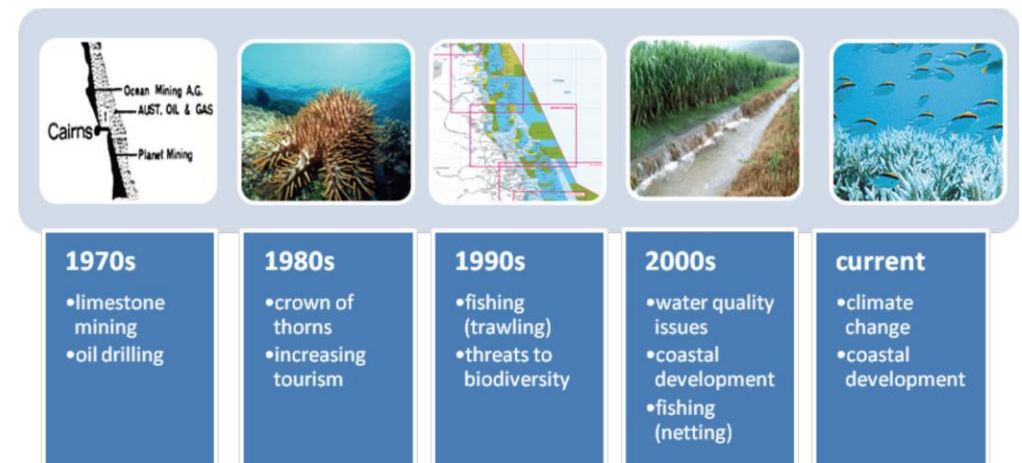
Mandy Elliott MEIANZ, CEnvP (IA Specialist)  
Director, EnviroME Pty Ltd  
Author, *EIA in Australia: Theory and Practice*

## *Reef-lections on evolution of environmental impact assessment in the Great Barrier Reef*

As a young marine biologist, it was my dream to land a job with the highly regarded Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. In 1999 that dream came true when I made the move from Sydney to manage the agency's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) team.

However, I soon learned that EIA is not rocket science — indeed it is much harder than that.

It is a field that involves complex developments and multi-billion dollar industries, environmental damage, politics, community issues, social outrage, science and uncertainty. My team and I have been privileged to provide EIA advice on a wide variety of marine and island projects, including potentially high risk marinas, sewage, aquaculture, tourism pontoons, dredging and disposal, defence activities and ocean drilling research. It has also made thousands of decisions on sustainable tourism and scientific research permits.



*History of issues impacting on the Great Barrier Reef (Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment)*

In the past 15 years, I have strived for and witnessed positive changes in strategic environmental management and outcomes for the tourism and defence sectors. And in the past five years I have seen growing community concerns at a global level over the growth of the mining sector, its associated ports and the impacts of proposed dredge material disposal in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

My role has entailed working with some fantastic, interesting and challenging people. Firstly the team at GBRMPA has been outstanding in EIA, teamwork, communication, science and strategic planning. These skills have been recognised not only by our key stakeholders but also with national and international awards from EIANZ, United Nations and the International Association for Impact Assessment.



*Dr Smith accepting the International Association for Impact Assessment Award on behalf of GBRMPA in 2011*

Our ability to listen and engage with diverse people in the office or field has been a huge highlight of my EIA and Reef journey. The Environmental Assessment and Management (EAM) team at GBRMPA is made up of true professionals who work to a vision of 'protection of the Great Barrier Reef through world class environmental assessment and management'.

This vision builds on the agency's foundational management tools of Marine Park zoning and its permit system. It also further develops a comprehensive approach to EIA by integrating regulatory assessment with partnership, memorandums of understandings, research, communication, risk assessment and management, policy, guidelines and training. We have incorporated these tools with some success to sustainably manage a \$6 billion tourism industry. Our collaborative environmental management of defence training activities is also seen as best practice EIA.

However, it has not all been smooth sailing and there have been some challenging situations including global economic issues, business foreclosures, a reduction in resources at a time of increasingly complex permit applications, growing community concerns and debates over the future of the Great Barrier Reef, policy gaps, shifting political interests, maritime incidents and legal challenges. Some of our greatest learnings and improvements to process and outcomes have come from proactively responding to these issues and challenges.

The International Association for Impact Assessment defines an environmental impact assessment as "the process of identifying the future consequences of a current or proposed action". The vast majority of EIAs in Australia focus on significant biophysical impacts and result in an approval with conditions that recognise acceptable levels of environmental impact and allow economic benefits. GBRMPA assesses biophysical impacts, and increasingly focuses on social, cultural and heritage impacts. Generally, EIAs do not require adherence to a predetermined environmental outcome. Rather, they require decision-makers to account for environmental values in their decisions and to justify those decisions in light of detailed environmental studies and public comments on potential impacts. In recent years, there has



been growing dissent about the complexity, independence, transparency and outcomes of the EIA process from communities, government and industry.

Reflecting on my experiences, I have listed key principles and suggestions to further improve EIA:

1. Focus on avoiding impacts and having a transparent assessment process.
2. A 12-month independent baseline ensures good science for decision makers.
3. Contribute to the common good, not just the process of communication or consultation.
4. Not all developments lead to decisions for approval. If it is not best practice, avoid or refuse permission.
5. EIA is complex and must protect the environment, be ethical, efficient and excellent. My favourite quote on Excellence is "Excellence can be obtained if you:
  - care more than others think is wise
  - risk more than others think is safe
  - dream more than others think is practical
  - expect more than others think is possible."

I strongly encourage EIA practitioners to be an active member of EIANZ and a certified environmental practitioner (CEnvP). The professionalism, knowledge, friendships and support I have received and been able to give back to EIANZ have helped me and my team to achieve best practice.

6. I believe EIA needs to be focused on key issues, rather than trying to address every issue. EIA predictions and management also need to be followed up, preferably by independent scientists and stakeholders.
7. A focus on short-term economic growth by governments can sometimes be detrimental to the long-term benefits of environment values.
8. History and heritage are important and need to be assessed and protected through EIA processes.

9. 'I' is the big issue because EIA involves impacts, incidents, interdisciplinary, integrity, impartiality and industry. The core value is integrity by proponents, consultants and decision makers. I believe we also have to improve the rigour and independence of impact assessments, and make greater efforts to follow up on predictions of impacts that may have been uncertain at the time.
10. Judgement is the evaluation of EIA information to make a decision. Good decisions and judgements are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) and accepted by proponents and the community.
11. Knowledge and its transfer to environmental practitioners and the broader community is essential. Organise a 'lessons learned' workshop after key projects, present at conferences and write up for a journal so others can also learn and improve.
12. Leadership, legislation, litigation and love. These are four very different concepts, yet all are vital for effective environmental management for the future. Legislation is often complicated but a vital process for ensuring there is a standard approach. Litigation occurs when the EIA process has not been successful in exploring options and seeking the best negotiated outcome. Leadership is the key to excellence and continuous improvement for the future. Finally love is the key to working in a vocation and for an issue that you enjoy as opposed to a day-to-day job that pays the bills.

### Final Reef-lections

I am very concerned about the historical and projected declines in the state of the Great Barrier Reef. When I first dived the reef in the 1970s there were pristine areas close to major populations. In the last decade we have recognised that climate change, water quality, coastal development and fishing are having cumulative impacts. In this time, the health of the Reef has moved from being 'at a crossroad' to 'poor', with industrial developments sparking debate over the future of its world heritage listing.





*The beautiful and vulnerable Great Barrier Reef (credit: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)*

I am an optimist and would like to think the days of EIA or EAM are limited and that the new paradigm will be something called EBA — Environmental Benefits Assessment. How would EBA work? Perhaps every new EBA project will be assessed against how much it benefits the environment and society, rather than how much of an impact it might make. There are some early signs of this desired trend with outcome-based permits and net benefit policies.

The art and science of EIA has evolved, but it is still not enough to protect the environment and ensure sustainable industries and communities. We need some transformational policies now such as 'environmental benefits assessment' and 'carbon-neutral Great Barrier Reef' to transform the process and the outcome.

*Dr Adam Smith FEIANZ, CENvP, President (FNQ)*

## Update on Strategic Assessment of the GBR Region

EIANZ received a letter in response to its submission on the Great Barrier Reef strategic assessments, noting that *"Comments received during the consultation period are being used to inform the preparation of final reports for the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment. The final reports will be provided to the Australian Minister for the Environment for consideration in mid 2014."*

EIANZ was also informed that all comments would be available to the public, subject to agreement by the submitter. These submissions are available <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/assessments/strategic/great-barrier-reef/submissions>



*Balancing growth and political, environmental and social impacts of ports in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area is a global issue (photo: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)*

## EIANZ Submission to Senate Inquiry into Environmental Offsets

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EIANZ members collaborated to prepare a submission to the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee, which has been charged with investigating *the history, appropriateness and effectiveness of the use of environmental offsets in federal environmental approvals in Australia*.

The EIANZ considers that the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity values is important to achieving a resilient and sustainable landscape that meets the environmental, social and economic needs of Australian communities. A decline in biodiversity values has been reported in recent years, in spite of political commitments and legislative frameworks to protect this essential characteristic of the Australian landscape.

The EIANZ suggests that much of the language used in relation to offsets is designed to turn the discrete and special biodiversity values of the Australian landscape into fungible commodities. The risk is that all biodiversity values become exchangeable, and that a largely uncritical community will believe that a worthwhile outcome is being achieved, while all the while, there is a continuing erosion of biodiversity values.

While the EIANZ broadly supports the continued application of the Environmental Offsets Policy to compensate for residual significant impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), it does so only on the proviso that all reasonable efforts to avoid and mitigate such impacts have first been pursued. Without rigorous attention to the need to protect existing biodiversity values and areas set aside as offsets, any offset policy is simply delaying an inevitable decline.

The implementation, monitoring and evaluation of approved offsets must be improved if this policy approach is to be of lasting value in protecting and managing biodiversity values. The EIANZ considers it critical that decision-making processes do not over-emphasise the ability of offsets to replace lost

vegetation / habitat. It is likely that in many situations, areas set aside as offsets will be at best only partially successful in replacing losses of biodiversity values, and this needs to be frankly and honestly acknowledged in environmental assessments and decision-making processes.

The Senate Environment and Communications Committee is mandated to complete the inquiry and report by 16 June 2014. More information is available here:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/Environmental\\_Offsets](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Environmental_Offsets). EIANZ's Submission is available here: <http://www.eianz.org/news/id/158>



*This Eastern brown snake will appreciate the efforts of practitioners to provide offsets (Photo Greg Morgan)*





## Guidance to Preparing Comments on Behalf of EIANZ

One of the key areas in which members of EIANZ become involved is in preparing comments on draft plans, policies, regulations and other matters on behalf of EIANZ. This volunteer input is critical to EIANZ engaging on matters of good environmental practice, and is greatly appreciated. Members often ask for guidance in preparing such submissions and this article aims at demystifying some aspects of preparing submissions.

Firstly, there is a need to make a decision on whether to prepare a submission. This decision might involve consideration of the following:

- Is the document of direct relevance to environmental practice? EIANZ does not comment on policy matters or individual projects, but seeks to influence the standards of environmental practice.
- Is it an area that EIANZ is interested in (check the website for more ideas on this)
- Are sufficient people available and do these people have appropriate experience in the subject area? If you are seeking assistance from members, you can approach your division/branch committee and an email can be sent out to the membership in the relevant jurisdiction.

If the document is of interest across Australia and New Zealand, contact the General Manager or executive to (a) check whether anyone else is making a submission and (b) let them know that you are preparing a submission. If the document is of State or regional interest, contact the relevant Division Committee (Australia) or Branch Committee (New Zealand). Contact details are on the EIANZ website.

Once a decision has been made to proceed and a group assembled, the following points might assist in drafting a suitable submission:

- Comments must be in line with EIANZ's overall vision of excellence in environmental practice and the Code of Ethics
- EIANZ represents environmental practitioners and promotes excellence in environmental practice. It is a non-political organisation.

- Comments are made on the basis of professional interest, not personal interests or views.
- Our members come from all areas and spectra of practice and we must ensure that comments made will generally be acceptable from all of the various professional viewpoints of our members.
- EIANZ does not take a position on the merits of individual projects or actions, and generally avoids commenting on, for example, Terms of Reference or Environmental Impact Statements for particular projects. If comment was to be made, such comment would need to focus on the integrity and transparency of the assessment process and possibly on the quality and veracity of the assessment as a basis for making an informed decision, not whether or not the project should proceed
- EIANZ does not align with any particular political party or viewpoint
- EIANZ is not a "green" group or conservation group, and is neutral on development. Our concern is with sound policy making and decision making.
- Comments should focus on whether the particular document reflects sound environmental practice and supports achievement of sustainable outcomes.
- Consider the evidentiary basis on which conclusions are based and recommendations made. Is this sound? Are arguments logical? Is data used and analysed appropriately? Are there information sources that have been missed?

Once the submission is drafted:

- Obtain EIANZ letterhead from the Central Office.
- Provide contact details if further information is required (this could be the EIANZ General Manager or a Division/Branch President).
- Forward to the committee most relevant to the jurisdiction for review and signature. Submissions on Australia/New Zealand wide issues should be signed by the President or Vice President (Australia or New Zealand). Submissions on a State or regional issue can also be signed by the relevant Division/Branch president. Members may not make submissions



on behalf of EIANZ without endorsement from the Executive or relevant division/branch committee.

Members may also wish to make submissions in their own name, rather than on behalf of EIANZ. Members are reminded that membership requires adherence to the EIANZ code of ethics in all professional dealings. In individual submissions there should also be a clear statement that the views of the individual member do not necessarily reflect those of EIANZ.

Some examples of recent submissions are available on the website. Send copies of your submissions to the Central Office for uploading so others can benefit from your insights.

Thanks again to all those members who volunteer their time to prepare submissions, and thanks in advance to those who would like to help in this area in future.



Photo: May-Le Ng

## New Certification Categories for CEnvP



Following the release of specialist programs for Impact Assessment and Ecology Specialists, the CEnvP Board is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of the Climate Change Specialist category.

The **Climate Change (CC) Specialist Category** has been developed by the EIANZ Climate Change Special Interest Section, headed up by Tom Davies (MEIANZ). It is aimed at CC practitioners with ten years professional experience (five must be CC specific) and a related degree. By recognising ethical and professionally competent CC practitioners, this should lead to improved confidence and outputs in professional CC practice.

More details will be available at [www.CEnvP.org](http://www.CEnvP.org) shortly.

## Development of Contaminated Land Certification

The EIANZ and CEnvP Board have been evaluating the benefits of establishing a specialist scheme for contaminated land professionals. Over the last 12 months we have consulted with various groups and found there is a strong drive from a number of parts of Government and industry for such an initiative.

We are interested in the thoughts of the profession and EIANZ membership base regarding the development of the scheme.

Please email [info@cenvp.org](mailto:info@cenvp.org) if you have any thoughts or queries, or wish to assist in the establishment of a land contamination category.



## Recently Released

There's a lot going on with EPBC Act bilateral agreements and the move towards streamlining environmental approvals through creation of a "one stop shop". Stay up to date here:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999/one-stop>

The design of the Emissions Reduction Fund has been finalised in the Emissions Reduction Fund White Paper, released on 24 April 2014. <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-reduction-fund>

For those involved in the regulatory side of things in New Zealand, the NZ productivity commission has released a draft report on Regulatory Institutions and Practices. More information here: <http://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiry-content/1788?stage=3>

<https://aelert.net/news/nz-regulatory-system-productivity-commission-draft-report/>

A review of the Australian *Water Act 2007* is underway. More information is available here: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/legislation/water-act-review>

A review of the Australian *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* and related Acts is underway: <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone/legislation>

An update on the Australian Government's proposal to abolish the carbon tax is available here: <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/pealing-carbon-tax>

The New Zealand government is seeking comments on management of priority waste streams, being electronic and electrical equipment; tyres; agrichemicals and farm plastics; and refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gases. More information is available here:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/priority-waste-streams-may14/index.html>

New Zealand has released new guidelines on best practice for hydraulic fracturing and other aspects of petroleum development: *Managing Environmental Effects of Onshore Petroleum Development Activities (Including Hydraulic Fracturing): Guidelines for Local Government*. Background information and copies are available here: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/managing-environmental-effects-onshore-petroleum-development-activities/index.html>

The Australian National Audit Office has released a review of the effectiveness of the Department of the Environment's regulation of proponents' compliance with Part 9 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The report is available here: <http://www.anao.gov.au/Publications/Audit-Reports/2013-2014/Managing-Compliance-with-EPBC-Act-1999-Conditions-of-Approval>

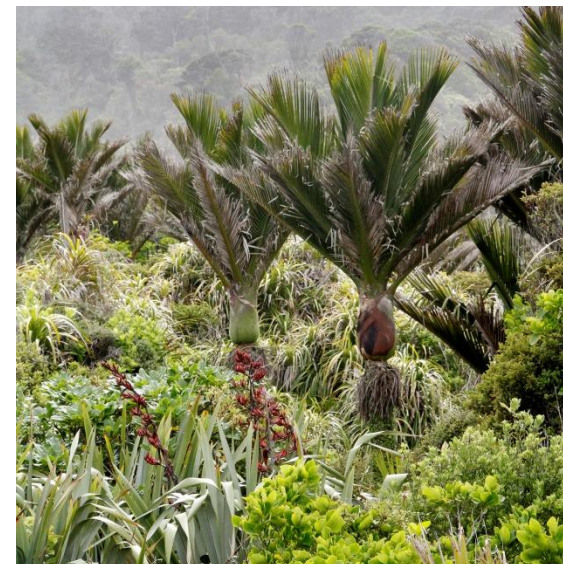


Photo: May-Le Ng



## Celebrating 20 years of the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management

### Adapted from editorial by R.W. (Bill) Carter and Helen Ross

(excerpt from *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management*, in press, volume 21, no. 2 2014, available soon at <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tjem20/current>)



To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management*, the EIANZ journal, the editors Helen Ross and Bill Carter have compiled a special issue which will be released in July or August, on the exact anniversary. The special issue includes an editorial summarising the journal's achievements as a now-internationally recognised journal; a historical account of developing environmental management as a profession in Australia and New Zealand, by the past presidents, past editor and a colleague; two commissioned review articles and an analysis of the papers published in the journal over the 20 years and how these reflect the changes in the field of environmental management. The first review article considers environmental management progress in Australia and New Zealand in the areas of climate change, biodiversity, freshwater and marine management, and how Indigenous and business perspectives have been influential in these areas. The second reviews the innovative community based natural resource management arrangements in both countries. Both should provide useful explanations of policy in Australia and New Zealand, and their histories.

The following excerpt from the editorial demonstrates the standing the journal has achieved in its 20 years under the care of Eric Anderson, Helen Ross, Bill Carter and the journal Board.

As the peer-reviewed journal of EIANZ, the publication has sought to provide robust scientific evidence and strong policy analysis articles on issues relevant to EIANZ members and to serve as a platform for publication of scholarly articles to guide policy and practice. AJEM has earned the distinction of recognition among world journals. For example, in 2013, the Thomsen Reuters (ISI Web of Knowledge, 2012) Impact Factor for the *AJEM* is 0.6, up from its first measure in 2011 of 0.45. The impact factor, the key measure of a journal's influence, is calculated as the average annual (or five-year) number of citations per paper published over the previous two year period.

Based on the Scopus (Elsevier 2012) data base for articles published in the *AJEM* since 2007, SCImago (2007) ranked the *AJEM* in 2012:

- 33<sup>rd</sup> of 101 journals categorised as Environmental Science – Geography, Planning and Development, and 2<sup>nd</sup> of 7 for the category for Australian produced journals,
- 125<sup>th</sup> of 491 journals categorised as Social Sciences – Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law, and 2<sup>nd</sup> of 5 for the category for Australian produced journals,
- 6<sup>th</sup> of 19 Australian based journals in the overall Environmental Science category, and
- 5<sup>th</sup> of 51 Australian based journals in the overall Social Sciences category.



From 2007 to 2012, 155 authors published in the *AJEM*. Of these, 29 (19%) published more than one article, and 10 (6%) more than two. Australians dominate authorship, with New Zealanders significantly under represented (Figure 1) (Elsevier 2012).

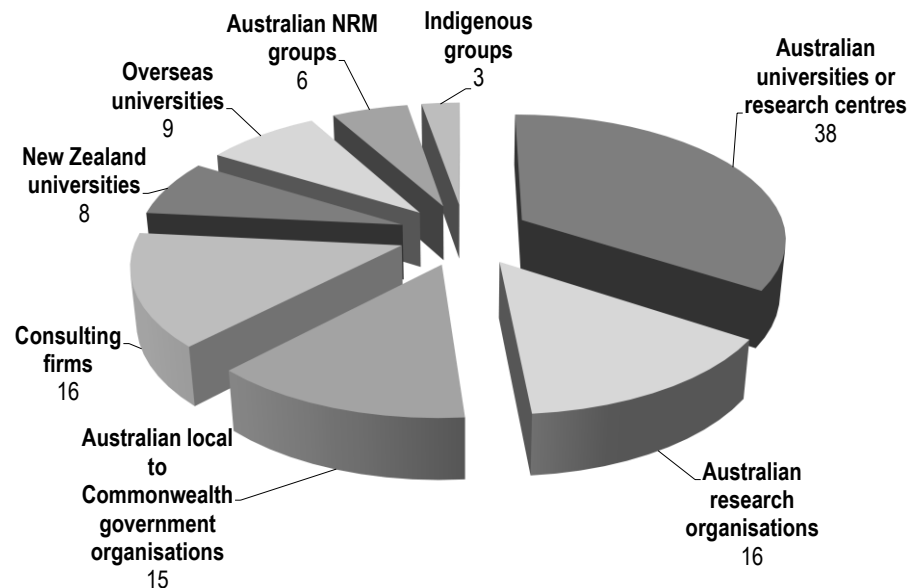


Figure 1 Institutional representation in authorship of the *AJEM* articles, 2007-2012

### Most read and cited articles

Full article downloads from the *AJEM* page on the Taylor & Francis Online website have doubled from 6083 in 2012 to 12,737 in 2013. While Australasia dominates the regional location of those who have downloaded articles, there is also an international readership (Figure 2). As Co-editors, we are pleased to see that the top two most read or downloaded articles (;), since 2007, are editorials. These editorials provide commentary on natural disaster community resilience, and stewardship.

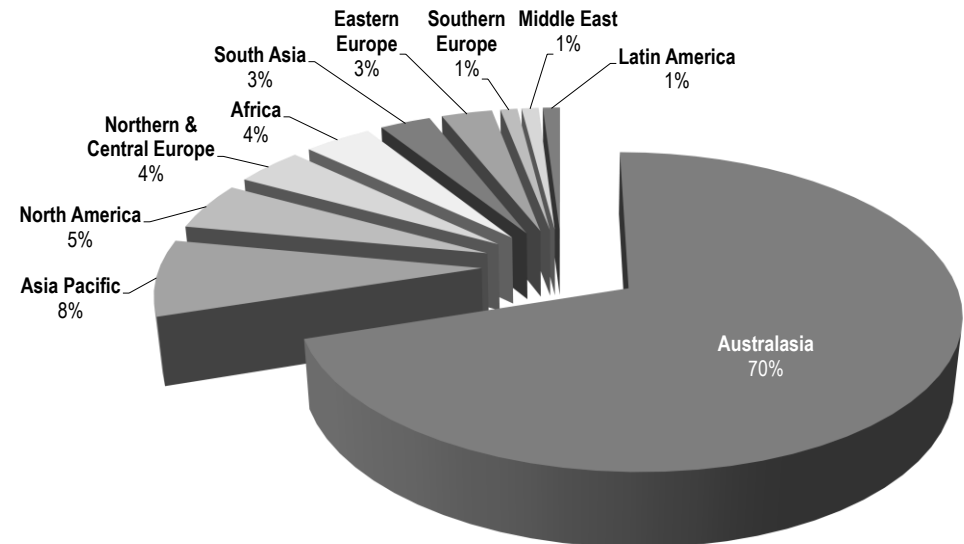


Figure 2 Regional location of those who have downloaded *AJEM* articles

One feature of *AJEM* is cited editorials which guide the reader as to the content of the journal and set this content in the context of current themes and issues. The editorials are in fact amongst the most read or downloaded articles. The top ten most read or downloaded articles since 2007 are:

- Ross & Carter 2011, *Natural disasters and community resilience* (851 views)
- Carter & Ross 2012, *Are we ready to embrace stewardship* (746 views)
- Robins & Kanowski 2011, *Crying for our Country: eight ways in which 'Caring for our Country' has undermined Australia's regional model for natural resource management* (680 views)
- Bennett 2011, *Estimating the value of Australian environmental assets* (627 views)



- Gilbertson, M, Hurlimann, A & Dolnicar, S. 2011, *Does water context influence behaviour and attitudes to water conservation?* (601 views)
- Phelan 2011, *Managing climate risk: extreme weather events and the future of insurance in a climate-changed world* (483 views)
- Ross, H, Grant, C, Robinson, CJ, Izurieta, A, Smyth D. & Rist P. 2009, *Co-management and Indigenous protected areas in Australia: achievements and ways forward* (455 views)
- Cotton & Trück, *Interaction between Australian carbon prices and energy prices* (434 views)
- Wheeler & Crisp 2011, *Going organic in viticulture: a case-study comparison in Clare Valley, South Australia* (423 views)
- Roiko, A, Mangoyana, RB, McFallan, S, Carter, RW, Oliver J & Smith, TF 2012, *Socio-economic trends and climate change adaptation: the case of South East Queensland*, 403 views.

Those who have cited *AJEM* articles come from a diversity of countries, although Australia and New Zealand predominate (Figure 3). Citation of *AJEM* articles by authors from other countries (e.g., USA) is noteworthy because they are not major contributors to the *AJEM* and articles are Australasia biased. That these overseas authors, publishing in journals other than *AJEM*, choose to cite from the *AJEM* suggests that the journal is having an international impact, which is likely to grow with the reputation of the journal. The reputation of the *AJEM* depends on the quality of articles published. High standards are necessary, and acceptance is competitive especially given fixed page budgets. Our current rejection rate is 53 percent.

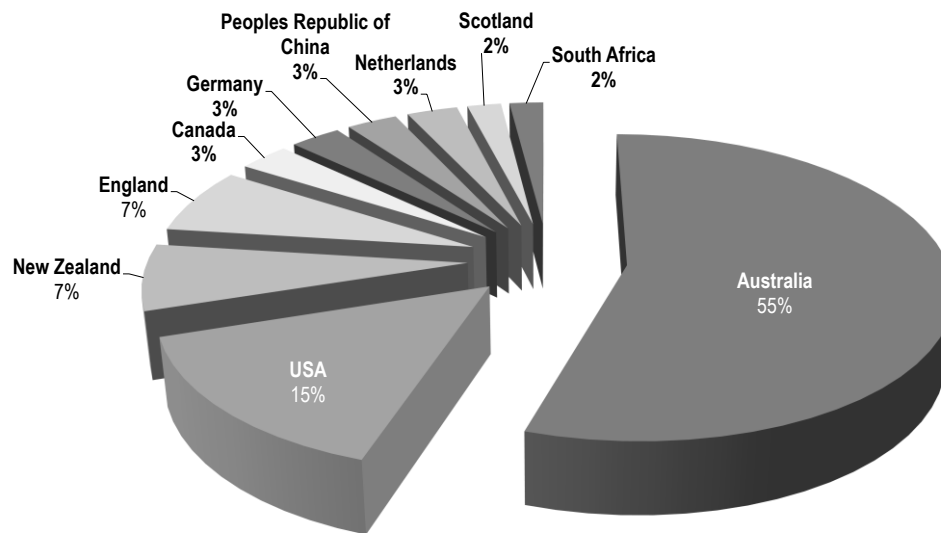


Figure 3. Country of origin of those who have cited *AJEM* articles

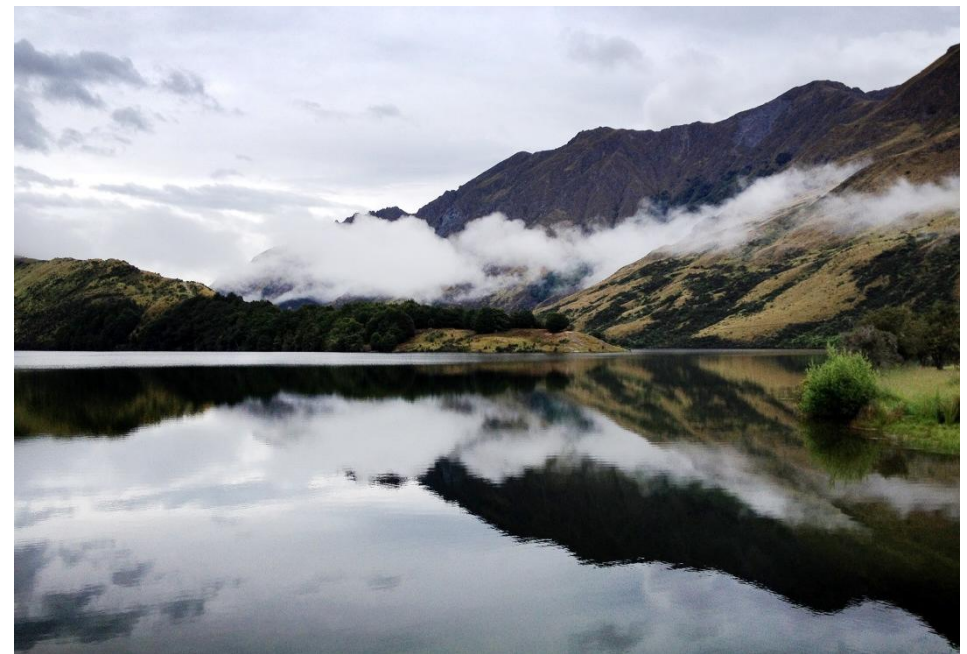


Photo: May-Le Ng

## Event Reports

Professional development activities are a cornerstone of EIANZ's contribution to achieving the highest standards of environmental practice. Reports of some recent events are provided below.

For information on upcoming events, please see <http://www.eianz.org/eventsplus>

You can also contact the professional development coordinator in your Chapter or Division if you are seeking information on professional development activities, or interested in assisting in organising an event.

### Biodiversity offsets: Progress and Challenges for Practitioners

On April 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand chapter hosted an event on the topic of biodiversity offsets with support from the law firm Buddle Finlay. Biodiversity offsets are becoming an increasingly popular yet controversial tool for protecting and enhancing New Zealand's biodiversity while enabling economic growth. Biodiversity offsets link conservation with industry, and are aimed at ensuring that development projects are implemented in a manner that results in no net loss of biodiversity. A key question of the night was "what are the essential elements that ensure that any biodiversity offsetting initiatives are effective and meaningful?"

Three speakers were selected to cover a range of perspectives relating to this question - policy, law and implementation. Firstly, Spencer Clubb a Policy Analyst from the Department of Conservation (DOC) was to present on the topic of how can we ensure no net loss for the environment? Second, Bernie Napp a Policy Manager from STRATERRA spoke on making it work for developers and the environment. Lastly, David Allen an Environmental Lawyer from Buddle Findlay was to speak on guidelines from case law.



Photo: Christopher Gibbons





Unfortunately on the night Spencer Clubb had to pull out due to sickness. However, Abbie Bull from the DOC policy team spoke briefly on behalf of Spencer to inform the audience about DOC's biodiversity offsetting guidance principals. These principals have been developed in consultation with MFE, MPI, MBIE, LINZ and Local Government New Zealand. They are non-statutory (so can't be enforced) but instead are aimed at providing guidance to developers and decision-makers on best practice that is NZ specific. The best practice guide closely aligns with the business and biodiversity offsets programme (BBOP) that is an international collaboration between companies, financial institutions and government agencies to achieve no net loss in biodiversity. DOC was intending that the best practice guide would be launched within a matter of weeks.



Spencer's presentation looked at the process by which the guidance document was formed. Since the other two speakers had been involved in that process they were able to include this in their presentations. A key question was would DOC support a resource consent application if the developer applied the DOC guidance principals? As the principals will not be enshrined in legislation DOC considers it will not have a role in defending the principals – it will be up to the decision-makers – local and regional councils, the Environment Courts and the EPA. The guidance principals are in the form of a tool-kit aimed at helping communities, environmental NGOs, land owners, Iwi and local councils work out the

best way to protect biodiversity. Consequently, the practice guide does not attempt to solve the many issues around biodiversity offsetting.

Bernie Napp considered that DOC has done great work to date. However, he thought that the industry sector was looking for outcomes in policy and regulation that is more flexible and therefore more efficient than current provisions. In his view, the current legislative framework is not workable as there are five pieces of legislation that affect biodiversity offsetting: the RMA, the Conservation Act, the Crown Minerals Act, the Wildlife Act and the Historic Places Act. For the industry sector, this is perceived as a mess that makes it difficult to do business in New Zealand.

Once mined, land can never go back to where or how it was previously. However, Bernie showed several examples of the rehabilitation of lands that had been mined. One of these was the Golden Cross mine site which is one of few examples in NZ of a mine proceeding through development, operation and closure since 1990. Rehabilitation has resulted in the site being turned into working farmland with a wetland ringed with native vegetation.

The DOC guidance is difficult for industry to accept as (except in the case of farmland) it is not easy to replace like for like. Farmland after mining is often more fertile than before due to the reconstitution of the soils and mitigation inputs. Additionally, there is concern that NGO's who oppose mining for whatever reason might use the DOC guidance as a measuring stick. This has already happened when Forest and Bird referred to the DOC draft guidance in the Environment Court in the case of the Escarpment Mine on the Dennison Plateau.

Bernie summed up that we only talk about biodiversity offsets because we are talking about development and he feels that because we need the income generated by industrial development there needs to be a more collaborative process in deciding how the environment is protected and to what level. He wondered if biodiversity offsets will ever be achieved to the standard that DOC would like.

David Allen began by defining the terminology within law on biodiversity offsetting. The High Court has resolved an argument relating to what biodiversity offsets are under the RMA – whether they are mitigation or compensation. The Court ruled that biodiversity offsets do not mitigate the effects of the activity because they are not direct and are not on the development site. They are therefore to be considered as compensation. David provided an example where Forest and Bird argued in Court that if offsetting is not mitigation it should not be given much weight in reaching a decision under the RMA. However, the High Court responded by saying you need to consider each application on a case-by-case basis. Decision makers should give offsetting as much weight as they consider appropriate taking into consideration the nature of the particular development and the requirements of the RMA.

David also provided an example of a consent application that included a biodiversity offset area of 0.45 hectares of bush in return for removing 3 patches of bush which was classified as having District Significance. The bush with District Significance was largely not fenced nor protected in any way but the district plan did have rules that meant you would need a resource consent if you wanted to chop it down. An environmental expert engaged by objectors rejected the initial proposed offset so the applicant proposed a 1.4 hectares (3:1) offset, fenced and covenanted and with 5 years of pest and weed control. Once again the objector's expert declined this application mainly because part of the bush was already properly fenced and protected by the Plan and therefore it was not a gain for the environment, in fact the loss of the 3 patches of bush would result in a net loss compared to the current situation.

Instead the objectors sought a 6:1 offset (2.7 hectares) and legal protection in perpetuity, perpetuity in pest and weed control, offset for the loss of individual trees as well as the area of bush around it, 7.8 hectares of buffer planting for edge effects and the enhancement of ecological corridors in addition to the 15 hectares of native landscape planting that was proposed by the applicant.

In the end the decision-makers ruled that the applicant had to provide 1.5 hectares of indigenous forest, legal protection in perpetuity and 5 years of pest and management control for that area. This was similar to what was initially proposed. This agreement was a result of a hearing that included evidence from 5 experts, rebuttal evidence and three days of expert conferencing on that topic as well as direct discussions amongst the parties and significant planning and legal input. The point made was that environmental experts need to be realistic in their expectations of what applicants under the RMA should be expected to provide in terms of biodiversity offsets. Environmental experts should also be prepared to work collaboratively to find win/win solutions instead of engaging in confrontational processes that impose costs on all parties.

All speakers put forward well balanced and thought provoking presentations. This provided plenty of discussion and questions during the evening as many members of the audience had a strong interest in the topic. Consequently, the evening went well over the allocated time. We hope all those who attended, enjoyed the evening and we look forward to seeing you at the next Wellington branch event.

*Christopher Gibbons on behalf of  
the Wellington Branch Committee*

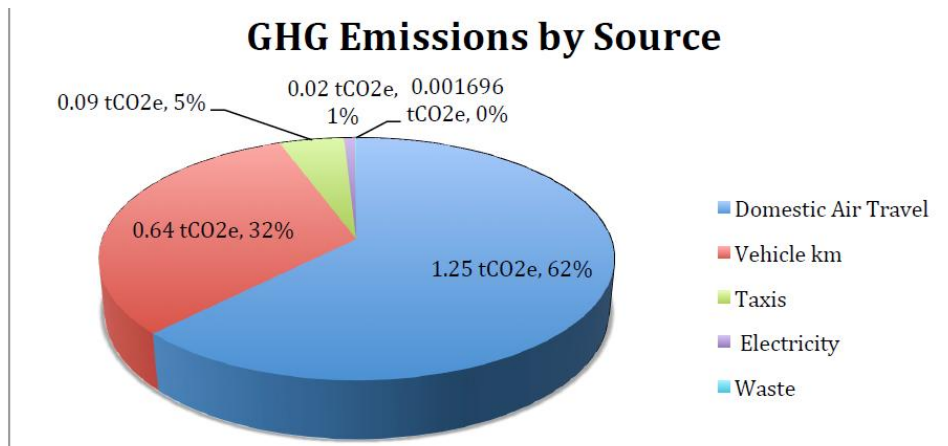


*Christopher Gibbons at the event*



## Update on Life on the Edge Forum

The Christchurch Branch calculated the greenhouse gas emissions arising from its forum “Life on the Edge” (see full event report in last issue). Overall, the event generated 2.01 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO<sub>2</sub>e). This equates to 0.03 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per attendee.



Thanks to Pene Ferguson and Jeska McHugh for laying down the challenge to other branches and divisions.

## SEQ Division - Meet the Executive

CDM Smith hosted us in their Fortitude Valley offices on May 20<sup>th</sup> and gave over 20 members the opportunity to meet with the SEQ Executive, which was attended by the President, Treasurer, Secretariat, Chair – Professional Development, Chair – Policy and Practice and Chair – SECP! Similarly, it was an opportunity for members to find out more about the various committees, what they do, how they do it and how much time they should expect to be offering. Several of our committees gained new members on the night. If you couldn't make it and are interested in taking a more active role on the Executive, or one of our committees, please send us your interest to [seq@eianz.org](mailto:seq@eianz.org). The Division currently has three

openings available for places on the Executive, which will be available for nomination at the AGM on August 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in taking on the role of Volunteer Coordinator, Member Engagement Chair or Students and Early Career Practitioner Chair, we'd love to hear from you.

*Vicki Low, MEIANZ, CEnvP, President – SEQ Division*

## Threatened Species – the law, the science and practical measures for management

May 1<sup>st</sup> saw over 70 environmental practitioners gather in Brisbane to take part in the first full day forum of 2014 for SEQ Division. The day kicked off early with Dr David Dique, from sponsors ERM, giving a key note speech on the history of nature conservation in Queensland and how the legislation is changing. Before lunch, we had enjoyed presentations on the Mary River Turtle (Dr Natalie Clark, GHD), the snub-nosed dolphin (Nikki O'Donnell, AMEC) and stygofauna (Dr Ben Cook, frc environmental).

Attendees were also treated to a ground breaking presentation by John Young, who in 2013, rediscovered the night parrot, which was presumed extinct. When John played the video of the night parrot scurrying around the Spinifex, a pin dropping would have been heard in the room.

Rather than a standard panel discussion, convener Dave Francis (Cardno) arranged a debate to finish the day on whether the time has now come to triage our threatened species. We were joined by Senator Larissa Waters, Michael Boyle, Paul Donatui and Geoff Lundie-Jenkins for this engaging discussion, which was triumphed by the opposing team – Senator Waters and Paul Donatui.

Rather than speaker gifts attendees were invited to vote for a species that would receive a donation and \$200 has now been donated to the conservation of eastern barred bandicoot, bush-tail rock wallaby and eastern quoll via [www.fame.org.au](http://www.fame.org.au).

*Vicki Low, MEIANZ, CEnvP, President – SEQ Division*





## Speed Networking – Bringing together new and established environmental professionals in South East Queensland

'Never say no to networking' as the saying goes and it's now more important than ever. Walking into a room full of strangers can be daunting, but we recently discovered that a bit of enviro bingo, some food and drinks and a room full of smiling enviros can fix that!



On 15 May, the Students and Early Careers Group in SEQ hosted a Speed Networking function, to bring together environmental professionals from all areas, and to introduce new faces to the EIANZ.

Over 50 people attended the event, jumping right into the 'enviro bingo' (possibly the greatest ice breaker ever invented!) and rapid fire 5 min networking rotations. The event attracted a wide range of environmental professionals, from students keen to find out about 'life after graduation', early career professionals keen to build their networks and experienced practitioners who offered advice as valued mentors.

Many attendees expressed interest in more informal networking opportunities through the EIANZ and were keen to meet like minded professionals in the environmental field. The SEQ Students and Early Careers Group holds monthly drinks sessions, open to anyone interested in joining in. Keep an eye out for [upcoming events and other news here](#).

Support from AMEC, Andrew Isles Natural History Books and Emily Bishop Graphic Design was very much appreciated and helped ensure the night was a huge success!

*Emma McIntosh, MEIANZ*



*Photos: Rebekah Utting and Adam Stone*



## Out and about among the membership

### EIANZ Member Snapshot – Olivia Williamson

**Qualifications:** *JP (Qual), BA, LLB (Hons)*

**What do you do?** I advise clients on the full spectrum of environmental issues that arise throughout a development or project, from approval requirements for environmentally relevant activities and environmental constraints advice, through to defending environmental prosecutions. With my talented colleagues, I regularly undertake environmental due diligence and provide advice with respect to duties under the various pieces of environmental legislation, mine rehabilitation, contaminated land and environmental compliance and enforcement issues.

**How did you get there?** After completing a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in geographical science and town planning) and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Queensland, I had the privilege to be appointed as the Associate to Her Honour Chief Judge Wolfe of the District Court of Queensland. During my time with the Courts I had the good fortune to experience a number of areas of law. It confirmed my interest in the Planning and Environment Court (and the good folk that make up the planning and environment practitioner family). On completing my Judge's Associate-ship, I joined HopgoodGanim's Planning and Environment team. During my years with HG I have worked with a diverse range of clients on a number of interesting and varied projects.

**What are the best aspects of your work?** The opportunity to be part of a dynamic "team". The practice of environmental law sees lawyers and environmental consultants working hand in hand to achieve successful outcomes. I am often exposed to a number of fields of expertise and to be immersed (and even sometimes understand!) problem solving exchanges between experts is extremely satisfying. In one recent case I was involved in there were 12 different fields of expert witness evidence- visual amenity,

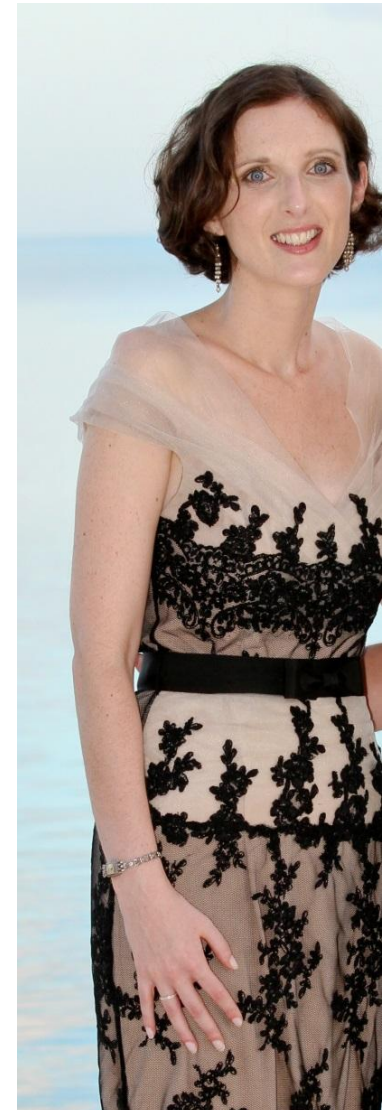
hydrogeology, acoustics, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, soils...the list goes on. All of these aspects needed to come together and be managed to achieve mutually acceptable outcomes.

**What inspired you to become an environmental practitioner?** The aim to make a difference at a community level. Through neighbourhood we contribute to something bigger than ourselves and environmental practitioners play an important part in that ethic of care and participation.

**What is your biggest environmental concern?** Ourselves. We need to overcome the disposal/replaceable consumer culture, to support local farmers and merchants and adopt public transportation and cleaner methods of commuting.

**How and why did you get involved in EIANZ?** To share and to be inspired by the collective knowledge, experience and opportunities. *[Olivia is an enthusiastic member of the SEQ Division Professional Development subcommittee]*

*Olivia shows that environmental practitioners do get opportunities to look elegant*





## EIANZ Member Snapshot - Chris McEvoy

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**Qualifications:** BEnvSc, Grad Dip (Ed), MEIANZ

Currently completing a Masters in Environmental Science at University of Wollongong

**What do you do:** Team Leader – Environmental Approvals for Niche Environment and Heritage.

Currently I manage the preparation of Environmental Assessments and reviews of environmental factors, environmental management plans, and other strategic environmental documentation.

I am involved in assessing environmental constraints early in a project, organising any required ecological and/or cultural heritage fieldwork and conducting the environmental assessment. As part of the management team at Niche, I am also involved in refining business management systems and mentoring colleagues.

**How did you get there:** I worked as a science teacher for a year which was a real challenge. Then I acted as an environmental officer in two inner city Sydney Councils where I was involved in Environmental education and management of stormwater, waste, air, contaminated soil, Legionella in cooling towers and various other issues. I spent a couple of years under the umbrella of the NSW EPA as a Stormwater extension officer liaising with Councils on ways to improve stormwater and water management which was really rewarding at times.



Then, I was lucky enough to work with a medium sized engineering consultancy called Forbes Rigby (now Cardno) where I picked up many project specific environmental assessment and project management skills and was exposed to some very interesting projects and experienced mentors.

I spent a couple of years with BlueScope Water managing rainwater harvesting, solar hot water and solar panel (PV) business primarily with school clients in VIC, NSW and QLD. The volatility of those markets and variation in funding arrangements by different levels of Government made for a very dynamic environment and it was really interesting being involved in the renewables industry.

Post GFC I undertook some private consulting work and then joined Niche around 2011.

**What are the best aspects of your work?** I love being able to assist clients achieve a win-win outcome by identifying environmental constraints early in a project so we can avoid or mitigate impacts and streamline approvals processes.

I really like being involved in multidisciplinary teams and being exposed to various fields of expertise.

**What inspired you to become an environmental practitioner?** I think I always had a natural affinity with the environmental sciences even way back at school. I was always interested in work that involved a mix of fieldwork and office work and the opportunity to add value to projects is rewarding.





## Vale Dr Mark Carden



ElANZ was greatly saddened by the death of Dr Mark Carden, a longstanding member of the SEQ Division. An economist by trade, Mark bridged the gap between economics and environmental practice and was a strong advocate for ensuring that environmental considerations were incorporated into decision making processes and economic evaluations. This ability gave Mark unique insights into development of policies that carefully balanced economic, social and environmental

considerations. In this regard, Mark was particularly known for his contribution to water planning at a time when South-East Queensland water supplies were under unprecedented pressure from drought.

Those who worked with Mark knew him to be a highly intelligent and analytical practitioner who brought considerable rigour and pragmatism to the decision facilitation process, particularly in the natural resource management sector. In work situations, Mark was never happier than when engaging in debate and had the ability to draw out everyone's points of view so that any interaction with Mark was stimulating and educational. Mark also balanced his formidable skills with a cheeky, wry sense of humour.

Mark contributed generously and enthusiastically to the ElANZ, as a committee member in the SEQ Division, through assisting with submissions on draft policies and plans and as an expert speaker at professional development activities. Members in the SEQ Division will greatly miss his intelligence, humour and friendship.

## New and returning members April-June 2014:

### ACT

HENDERSON, Clare  
HOWLAND, Brett  
CROOK, Natasha  
KLOPPENBURG, Adam

### Far North Queensland

BAKER, Nicholas  
GOUDKAMP, Katrina  
COSTELLO, Martin  
KANKKUNEN, Jamie  
LUNDGREN, Petra  
TIDSWELL, Greg  
DANIELL, Ben  
BOETTCHER, Vanessa

### South East Queensland

WINTER, Yvonne  
DUNLOP, Chloe  
GREENUP, Richard  
MATTHEWS, Kelly  
McALEER, Ciaran  
ANNANDALE, Chloe  
DILLON, Ryan  
KUMAN, Paul  
HOUGH, Kate  
TAYLOR, Debra  
OLIVER, Michelle  
DELANEY, John  
FEENSTRA, Christina

### Victoria

SIMMENAUER, Matthew  
O'RIORDAN, Catherine  
MERRIEL, Steven  
BARBER, Charles  
SUMMERVILLE, Rory  
TORRA GRISO, Marc  
SCOTT, Helen

### Northern Territory

BALDERSTONE, Elana

### New Zealand

ELTHAM, Kylie  
COGHLAN, Shannon  
JOHN, Steffan

### New South Wales

MYLCHREEST, Iveta  
KOLKERT, Heidi  
MURPHY, Rowan  
DONNELLY, Carolyn  
CRANK, Manuela  
JOHNSON, David  
FRASER, Sara-Jane  
RADFORD, Josh  
SHARKEY, Megan

**New and returning members April-June 2014:**

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South Australia

POOLE, Evelyn

TasmaniaMURDOCH, Catherine  
WRATTEN, KerryWestern AustraliaBELL, Todd  
EDGEELL, Joseph  
HOOD, Peter  
TAYLOR, John  
WHITTOCK, Paul  
CLARKE, Vanessa  
EVERSON, Paul  
LEGGETT, Amie  
MILLER, Alexis  
MORAN, Tim**Congratulations to the latest group of CEnvPs**

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New ZealandBAILEY Christopher, MEIANZ  
GREIG David  
JAMES Jane, MEIANZ  
FREY Michele, MEIANZ  
HARWOOD Prudence  
MILLAR Jennifer  
HAMILTON BrentNew South WalesMASON-JONES Sofie, MEIANZ  
MCCLYMONT Kim, MEIANZ  
SMITH Aaron  
WEISS Ariane  
WALSH Jennifer, MEIANZ  
MORRIS ShaunQueenslandHATTENDORFF Leah, MEIANZ  
PHILLIPS Grant, MEIANZ  
DELANEY Kennedy  
BIRD Mitchell, MEIANZ  
HOLMES Kylie, MEIANZ  
TETT Paul, MEIANZ  
BRAZIER Rachel, MEIANZVictoriaDAY Christopher  
INKSTER KristofferSouth AustraliaLIGHTFOOT Ian  
MOLLER Michael  
NAGLE Katrina, MEIANZ





**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR CENVP STATUS AND BE RECOGNISED!**

## **NEXT CEnvP APPLICATION CLOSING DATE FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Certified through a process of peer and Board assessment, Certification can provide a greater level of assurance to the community, employers, clients and professional associates of the credentials and peer recognition of an environmental professional.

Maintaining high quality professional outputs of practitioners not only has positive environmental and social results, but may offer economic gains by enhancing sector competitiveness.

The CEnvP Scheme was established in 2004 as an initiative of EIANZ. It is Australasia's first certification scheme for general environmental practice, and one of the first in the world.

There are currently over 540 CEnvPs across Australia and New Zealand (as at June 2014).

We encourage suitably qualified practitioners to participate in this important initiative for the environment profession.

**For more information about certification criteria and the application process, please visit [www.CEnvP.org/apply](http://www.CEnvP.org/apply).**

**Australia: 03 9001 6948**

**New Zealand: 03 741 3102**

**[info@cenvp.org](mailto:info@cenvp.org)**

*CEnvP – an initiative of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand  
Building the Environment Profession in Australia & New Zealand*

The Board of the Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme (CEnvP) encourage suitably qualified practitioners to participate in this important initiative for the environment profession. To qualify for CEnvP, you will need:

- An environment-related degree;
- 5 years of relevant environmental experience over the past 10 years;
- 3 referees prepared to vouch for your skills, performance and professional conduct;
- A signed statement of ethical conduct;
- Commitment to continued professional development through a minimum of 100 points every two years;
- Additional supporting evidence of claim including at least 2 Referee reports.

An assessment interview conducted by a certification panel completes the process.

EIANZ Members and Fellows receive significant discounts on application and annual certification fees.

### **SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION**

**CEnvP is expanding its specialist categories to include Climate Change. More details will be available at [www.CEnvP.org](http://www.CEnvP.org) shortly.**

CEnvPs Specialist Certification Programs give recognition to professionals who have high levels of expertise and ethical standards in specialist areas of practice such as Ecology, Environmental Impact Assessment (IA) and Climate Change (CC).

*Current CEnvPs should visit the 'Current CEnvP' section of the website for details on how to apply for Specialist Certification as the requirements are slightly different.*

For further details on how to apply for CEnvP or the Specialist Certification programs, please visit [www.CEnvP.org/apply](http://www.CEnvP.org/apply).

*Photo by Ian Wiseman, CEnvP. Mt Hutt, NZ.*

[www.CEnvP.org/apply](http://www.CEnvP.org/apply)



# Wildlife Schools 2014

*Practical ecology training courses, delivered by experts*



Wildlife Schools are specialist training courses for environmental practitioners who need to develop their skills in the survey, identification and management of our flora and fauna.

At our courses there is an emphasis on time spent in the field, offering a rare opportunity to visit habitats and gain practical experience.

Course conveners Dr Frank Lemckert and Dr Rod Kavanagh have a wealth of knowledge to share, with additional presentations and demonstrations from other recognised experts with decades of experience.

- Learn from and be guided by recognised experts in Australian wildlife
- Experience habitats and a wide range of species first hand
- Build your confidence in practical ecology
- Gain a better understanding of biodiversity and environmental assessment
- See how environmental compliance is practically applied in the field

## COURSE DATES 2014

### Nocturnal Bird and Terrestrial Mammal Identification and Management

26-29 August, ANU Field Station, Kioloa NSW, near Batemans Bay - 99.5 CPD points

### General Survey and Identification Training Course

27-29 October, Crommelin Field Station, Pearl Beach NSW - 67.5 CPD points

#### Registration enquiries:

Deretta Brown  
0488 774 107  
dbrown@niche-eh.com

#### General course enquiries:

Dr Frank Lemckert  
0425 249 026  
flemckert@niche-eh.com

Endorsed by



CPD points



Organised by

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Environment and Heritage

[www.wildliveschools.com.au](http://www.wildliveschools.com.au)

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# 2014 GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY Conference

Embedding sustainability in government organisations



Sydney | August 12 & 13 | 2014

- Australia's national conference for government and public sector sustainability practitioners
- Register at [www.enviroinfo.com.au/govsus](http://www.enviroinfo.com.au/govsus)

The 2014 Government Sustainability Conference will again provide delegates from local, state and federal government and the wider public sector with comprehensive analysis and advice on how to address crucial environment issues and embed sustainability within their organisations.

Case studies of successful and inspirational sustainability initiatives, expert advice from sustainability experts and interactive panel discussions and workshops will be featured at the 2014 event.

A core theme of this year's event will be how to pursue effective sustainability and resource efficiency strategies on tighter budgets. Presentations and discussion will include analysis of how to develop a business case for sustainability projects, and analysis of the implications of national environment reforms and funding cuts.

By focusing on the sustainability issues that need to be addressed by governments and authorities, this conference has become the peak annual environment conference for the public sector.

## DATES & LOCATION:

The 2014 edition of this national conference will be staged on August 12 and 13 at Doltone House in Pyrmont, Sydney - a short walk from the city's Darling Harbour precinct.

## HOW TO ATTEND:

Register online at [www.enviroinfo.com.au/govsus](http://www.enviroinfo.com.au/govsus)

Early Bird Registration closes July 4

For further information call the Registration Manager on (03) 8534 5050 or email [registration@commstrat.com.au](mailto:registration@commstrat.com.au)

## LOCATION:

The 2014 Government Sustainability Conference will be held on Tuesday, August 12 and Wednesday, August 13 at Doltone House in Pyrmont, Sydney - a short walk from the city's Darling Harbour precinct.

A detailed list of presentations is available to view on the conference website [www.enviroinfo.com.au/govsus](http://www.enviroinfo.com.au/govsus)

## CONFERENCE TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- How to design an effective sustainability strategy for your organisation.
- How to build a successful business case for a sustainability project.
- The impact of the Federal Government's environment reforms and maintaining the pursuit of sustainability.
- Climate change adaptation strategies.
- Embedding energy efficiency and resource efficiency measures in your organisation.

The **Government & Public Sector Energy Efficiency Forum**, to be held on Day One, will examine how councils and other public sector bodies can take advantage of energy efficient technologies and practices to reduce the carbon footprint and energy consumption of their facilities and operations.

## WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

- Gain knowledge on how to address crucial environmental issues impacting government, and public sector organisations.
- Benchmark your organisation's environmental performance against leading government organisations.
- Network and discuss environmental initiatives with leading sustainability professionals.
- Be inspired and gain the knowledge on how to be an agent of change within your own organisation.



## EIANZ Directory

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<b>Program Manager</b>	Nicole Brown
<b>Program Officer</b>	Sarah Levy

Contact details are on the EIANZ website