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Opinion: Climate Change – Incremental or Transformation

By Craig Redmond

This month in Auckland, Andy Reisinger spoke on climate risk management. Andy was a coordinating lead author for the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), focusing on climate change impacts and adaptation options for Australia and New Zealand.

I have previously been critical of how climate change science is explained and provided to policy makers. Andy within an hour was able to not just express the key messages of the [Australasian chapter of the IPCC fifth assessment report](#) but also challenged the room to take the findings and consider how society will address the issues. The rest of this opinion piece is based on my observations of his enlightening presentation.

It is commonly accepted that the climate will change – always has, always will. The degree of change is important, but not necessarily the changes to mean averages for rainfall, sunshine etc. Hollywood has dramatised how increased storm intensities will impact society – very much at the extreme end of events – what hasn't been discussed is the changes in seasonal climatic patterns at the regional level. The seasonal changes may see a crop fail in one region, but could now be grown in another. These kinds of changes is where policy makers, planners, economists and others within the social sciences will need to partner with the physical scientist to explain the implications of these seasonal changes to the community.

While the science says we need to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, the reality is the global response is slow. Here in New Zealand, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is certainly not a topic of mass public discussion or leading the political debate.

That is leaving New Zealand and the world two ways in addressing the impacts of climate change. One is incremental change, the other transformational change. New Zealand's track record in taking incremental steps to addressing long range environmental issues is not strong due to the kiwi "she'll be right" attitude.

When I think transformational change, I think Christchurch. Christchurch is currently experiencing a transformational change like we have never seen before in New Zealand. The socio-economic changes in Christchurch as a result of the current transformational change will not be fully understood for years to come. However, imagine if the transformational change in Christchurch was occurring throughout New Zealand. How could our communities cope? How would our governance arrangements need to change? Could we even afford it?

Now imagine if the transformational change needed to occur throughout the world?

When considering these difficult questions regarding transformational change, I quickly jump into the "we need incremental change camp" and now!

Incremental change will have its own challenges. It will require collaborative working and trust to be established between professions like ours, the community and their decision making representatives. The beauty of incremental change provides the ability to pilot solutions, learn, and even make mistakes without the consequences being catastrophic. If we as a society don't start talking and considering incremental changes, we will be forced towards transformations, and if Christchurch is teaching us anything, transformation doesn't come easy.

Email with your thoughts to nznewsletter.eianz@gmail.com and we will share them with members in our next Newsletter.

In the News

So in case you missed it, here are some snippets of environmental news since the last newsletter.

Legislation/Politics

[Mixed reaction to Labour's environment commitments](#)

[Gate-crashing polar bear locked out of conference](#)

[Firm fined \\$30k for dumping quake waste](#)

[\\$240 million Fiordland monorail rejected](#)

Natural Environment

[A bleak future for New Zealand's waterways?](#)
[video]

[Stream will see light of day](#)

[Christchurch gets annual rain in four months](#)

[Submitters question science in ECan water plan](#)

[Shift in Southern Ocean winds to lead to more droughts – study](#)

[Canterbury oil leakage leader](#)

[New 'rock snot' theory rejected by NZ scientists](#)

[Anne Salmond: Muddying the waters on pollution](#)

[Scientists discover pre-historic NZ sea lion](#)

[Maui's dolphin danger: 'We're running out of time'](#)

[Farm stream rich in fish - Abundance of salmon credited to farmers' efforts](#)

[Citizens fouling waterways](#)

Human Health

[Chch has second-worst air in NZ](#)

[Concrete dust big threat to rebuild workers](#)

Social

[Conference to tackle Asian growth](#)

[Cuts to bus network worries council](#)

[Fatalities forecast if planned dams fail](#)

Professional Development Opportunities

The following Professional Development Opportunities are available and as always, all EIANZ events are available on the calendar of our home page <http://www.eianz.org/>

EIANZ Conference 2014 – Living on the Edge



Living on the edge- environmental management has many edges; borders of ecological communities, divisions in the landscape created by development, and sharpness of thought, language and argument about environmental outcomes and good practice.

See Tasmania in the spring time, come and explore 21st century challenges in environmental policy and practice. The conference will showcase new knowledge and skills that will ensure that you can practice at the leading

edge of shaping a resilient and sustainable environment. Reserve the date now – plan to present a paper or poster about your research or practice. Let's ensure as a chapter, New Zealand is well represented.

Where: **Hobart, Australia**

When: **30 and 31 October 2014**

Venue: **Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania**

Social Impact Assessment Training 23-25 July 2014



Overview: Social impact assessments (SIAs) are required to inform decision-making. SIAs should also be included in the process of developing new local and central government policies and programmes. SIAs help to ensure that any adverse impacts/effects from a development project, proposed policy or programme are identified at an early stage and minimised and that any potential benefits of projects or programmes are maximised. This two-day course is designed to teach participants the SIA process, tools and techniques, how to apply social impact assessments in decision-making, and how to assess the adequacy of SIAs to ensure they are fit for purpose and reflect good practice principles.

Who should attend: This practical course is for those in the public and private sectors who are responsible for commissioning or undertaking assessments of impacts or who are responsible for managing the development of public sector policies or programmes.

Course content:

- What is social impact assessment (SIA) and how is it used?
- Consultation methods for SIA
- How to scope an SIA
- Getting the most out of statistics and other information sources
- Profiling a proposal
- Integrating SIAs with other Impact Assessments
- Defining “affected communities”
- Social Impact Management Plans
- Legislative requirements for SIA and determinations on best practice
- Problems encountered and how to avoid them

Course format: This is a three-day course and is designed for a maximum of 25 participants to allow for plenty of class interaction and small group work. The sharing of experiences and lessons learned is encouraged.

The course will qualify for 32 CPD points. For those wishing to receive a certificate at the end of the course there will be a test to complete in your own time and submitted to the tutors for marking. To qualify for a certificate, participants will be required to gain a minimum 70% pass rate.

Fee: \$1,200 for EIANZ members, \$1,500 for non-members

Contact us: This course is proudly sponsored by the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ). To register your interest in attending, contact: db@corydon.co.nz

Tutors: Dianne Buchan and James Baines are both members of the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment (NZAIA). Dianne is also a Certified Environmental Practitioner with Impact Assessment specialisation (CEnvP IA Specialist) and is a member of the NZ Planning Institute. James has a Diploma in Teaching. Both Dianne and James have been social impact practitioners for more than twenty years both in New Zealand and overseas.

New Zealand Symposium 2015 – Save the Date - 27 March 2015

We are pleased to announce that the 2015 New Zealand EIANZ Symposium will be held in Wellington on Friday 27 March 2015. Topics at this stage are;

- Implementing the NPS on Freshwater Management - how to make it work
- Local Government Reform – strengthening councils' capacity for environmental management

The New Zealand Coastal Society Annual Conference



Join the New Zealand Coastal Society for their 22nd Annual Conference in Raglan.

Where: **Raglan, Waikato**

When: **November 18-21 2014**

Webpage for more information: <http://coastalsociety.org.nz/conference2014/>

New Publications

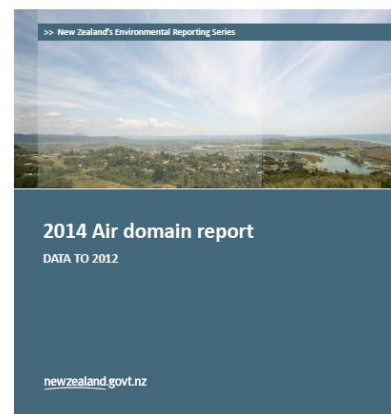
New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: 2014 Air domain report

New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: 2014 Air domain report presents information on New Zealand's air quality. It shows the changes in our air quality over time, and the associated pressures and impacts. It helps us identify and understand air quality issues at the national level.

The report includes data to 2012. Data for 2013 was not available for all national indicators and case studies, or could not be collected, validated, and analysed in time to meet the publication schedule.

This report covers one of five environmental domains that the Environmental Reporting Bill proposed the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand report on. The five domains are air, atmosphere and climate, fresh water, land, and the marine environment

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/air/2014-air-domain-report/index.html>



Have Your Say

Priority waste streams for product stewardship intervention: A discussion document

The Government is currently considering whether it should intervene to improve the management of four product waste streams: electronic and electrical equipment; tyres; agrichemicals and farm plastics; and refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gases.

This discussion document asks whether the four product waste streams identified are the right waste streams to be the focus of potential Government intervention. It also asks whether any of the four products should be declared priority products under the Waste Minimisation Act, requiring a product stewardship scheme to be developed and accredited.

Following this consultation the Government may choose to declare any of the products to be a priority product or to explore other forms of intervention to improve the management of these wastes. If any regulatory measures are proposed, standard regulatory development provisions would apply (including the requirement to consult with potentially affected parties).



Priority waste streams for
product stewardship intervention
A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT



A series of workshops will be held during the consultation period. Any interested party is welcome to attend. The dates and venues for these workshops will be listed on our product stewardship web page.

Further information, including how to have a say, is included in this discussion document and is available at - <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/priority-waste-streams-may14/index.html>

The closing time and date for submissions is **5.00pm Wednesday 2 July 2014**.

Certified Environmental Practitioner – closing 5th September 2014

The next CEnvP intake closes 5th September 2014 – now is the time to start preparing all your documentation and start talking to your referees.

For more information about the CEnvP scheme, check out the website here www.cenvp.org.

For those of you looking for a bit of extra advice about what's involved and the benefits of becoming certified, get in touch with us to find out [more](#). If there is enough interest, there may be locally run, branch workshops in the lead up to the next intake in September.

Call for Articles and Ideas

We will be putting out this newsletter quarterly and need interesting and informative articles every time!

Have you...

- Finished an interesting project?
- Attended a training course you found valuable?
- Have some photos that you just have to share?
- Got some ideas for other things you would like to see in this newsletter?

If so, we would love to add your two cents to the newsletter.

If you would like to share, please do send any suggestions, articles, photos to [Craig Redmond](#).

The next newsletter will be out at the end of June, so please send any submissions through by **23 June 2014**.

Have your details changed?

It is important for us to keep your details up to date. If you have recently moved house or job, changed your phone number or email address please let us know by sending an email to newzealand@eianz.org to ensure that your details are up to date.

Key Institute and Chapter Information

NZ Chapter Executive Committee

NZ Chapter Executive Committee

President: [Joh Taylor](#)
Vice President: [Ian Boothroyd](#)
Councillor: [Di Buchan](#)
Secretary: [Taryn Pearce](#)
Treasurer: [Chris Bailey](#)

Regional Branch Coordinators

Auckland: [Kathryn McDonald](#)
Bay of Plenty: [Sharon De Luca](#)
Wellington / Central: acting Leonie Waayer
Canterbury: [Pene Ferguson](#)

Committee Members:

[Stacey Swanson](#) (Students and Early Careers Portfolio)
[Steph Brown](#) (CEnvP) Coordinator
[Geoff Meadows](#)

Other Key Roles

Membership Secretary: [Eric Scott](#)
Newsletter Editor: [Craig Redmond](#)

Contact for general enquiries: newzealand@eianz.org

EIANZ Website: www.eianz.org and www.eianz.org.nz

Find out about events at: www.eianz.org/eventsplus/category/new-zealand

Join us at: www.eianz.org/membership/category/new-zealand

Watch us at: www.youtube.com/nzeianz

Follow us at: www.twitter.com/nzeianz