

In This Edition

Introducing the NZ Climate Change Centre

Professional Development Opportunities

Branch Events

In the News

New Publications

Certified Environmental Practitioner

July Edition

By Craig Redmond

In this month's edition we are introducing you to the NZ Climate Change Centre, bringing you what has been in the news, a great selection of professional development opportunities, what new publications have been released and an announcement on a new series of EIANZ events in Christchurch.

Introducing the NZ Climate Change Centre

The New Zealand Climate Change Centre (NZCCC) is a joint initiative between all New Zealand Crown Research Institutes, Canterbury, Victoria and Massey Universities. The Centre was established in 2008 in response to an identified need for collaboration across providers of science-related climate research and services, and for a mechanism to facilitate interactions between researchers and end users from central and local government, business and the general public. The vision of the NZCCC is to enhance the capacity of New Zealand, both domestically and in partnership with other countries, to anticipate, mitigate, and adapt to climate change.



**NEW ZEALAND
CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE**

Activities to date have included large conferences on a range of topics including 'Adaptation', 'Sea-level Rise,' and the 'Research Science of Climate Change'. Workshops have focused largely on cross-cutting issues such as 'Social Science' and particularly the process leading up to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and subsequently a range of workshops on the key findings from this Assessment. Outputs from these activities in the form of videos, presentations and reports can be found on the NZCCC website.

The NZCCC has produced shorter documents or 'briefs' on matters relevant to New Zealand including a recent summary of the key findings for New Zealand based on the Australasia chapter from the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. Both hard and electronic copies of which can be accessed by the NZCCC website.

In addition, the NZCCC has recently established a 'climate change researcher database' where the web user, through the help of dropdown search menus, can easily find a relevant researcher to help them with a given climate change query. This is useful when a web user has a query in mind (or potentially wishes to collaborate) but isn't sure 'who or where' the best person is within New Zealand to help them with their query. Depending on the level of search functionality employed, the user is presented with a range of researcher profiles which they can peruse before picking up the phone or drafting an email to that researcher. The NZCCC sees the search functionality as a way of acting as a conduit to respected researchers but also, an opportunity for climate change researchers to become more visible in the public domain.

<http://www.nzclimatechangecentre.org/>

Feedback:

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.

Politics

[Govt urged to enforce goals: Generation Zero wants 'carbon budgets', but minister opposes world-leading stance.](#)

[First UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi Heralds New Era in Global Efforts to Address Environmental Sustainability](#)

[Greens want you to go swimming](#)

Opinion

[John Oliver's viral video: the best climate debate you'll ever see](#) [video]

Conservation

[Ex-whalers help humpbacks replenish](#)

[NZ's largest pest eradication programme launched](#)

[Successful breeding season for kakapo](#)

[Great white shark chokes on sea lion](#)

Water

[New national standards for lakes and rivers](#)

[Govt introduces water quality standards](#)

Air quality

[Heat going on aged burners](#)

[UK admits that air quality targets will be missed by 20 years](#)

[Canterbury NZ's second smoggiest region](#)

Climate Change

[Long live the emperor? Penguins are running out of ice, say climate experts](#)

[Have a say on climate change](#)

[Carbon concerns over wood burning](#)

Business

[Wastewater from energy extraction 'triggers US quake surge'](#)

[Glasgow 2014: 'Green pledges broken'](#)

[Nicaragua canal route: Atlantic-Pacific link unveiled](#)

[Basin Reserve flyover bid turned down](#)

['Holiday Highway' approved](#)

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.

Registration opens on Friday 6 June 2014.

Where: **Hobart, Australia**

When: **30 and 31 October 2014**

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

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 Zealand Chapter AGM

The 2014 AGM for the NZ Chapter of the EIANZ is to be held on **Thursday 21 August**. At the AGM, elections will be held for the positions of New Zealand Councillor, and Officers and Executive Members of the New Zealand Chapter. Any financial member of the Institute can stand for any of these positions. Explanatory notes on the positions and the nomination and voting process are below.

If you would like a copy of the position descriptions or to nominate someone, or be nominated (self-nomination is accepted), please contact newzealand@eianz.org

The formal AGM Notice will be sent to members soon, along with an outline of the nominations received to date.

New Publications

NPS for Freshwater Management 2014

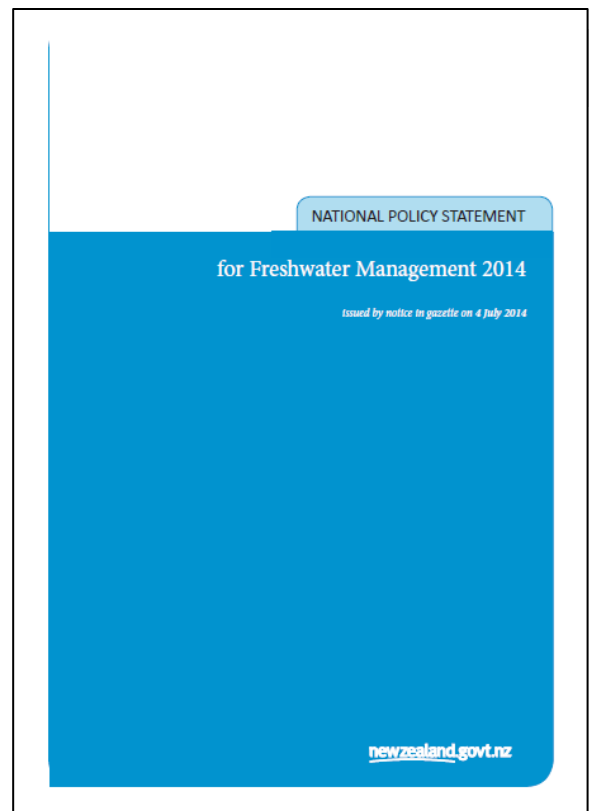
The Government has made changes to the existing National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM), which will apply from 1 August 2014. National policy statements are issued by central government under the Resource Management Act for matters of national significance. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPS-FM) directs regional councils to consider specific matters about fresh water when they are developing regional plans for fresh water.

The changes were informed by specialist reference groups, the Freshwater Iwi Leaders Group, freshwater science panels, and over 7,000 public submissions.

High level description of requirements

The NPS now provides a National Framework that directs how councils are to go about setting objectives, policies and rules about fresh water in their regional plans. They must do this by establishing freshwater areas (freshwater management units) across their regions and identifying the values (for example irrigation, mahinga kai, swimming etc) that communities hold for the water in those areas.

Next, councils are required to gather water quality and quantity information on the water bodies to assess their current state and decide the water quality objective or goal (grouped into A, B or C bands) for each value the community has chosen based on the economic, social, cultural and environmental impact to that community. The final step is for



the community to assess how, and over what timeframes, those goals are to be met.

In order for this process to work, the NPS-FM now requires councils to account for all water taken out of rivers, lakes and groundwater, and the sources and amounts of contaminants going into them. This will provide councils and their communities with the necessary information to understand the impacts of freshwater objectives before they are set in the regional plan.

“Ecosystem health” and “human health for recreation” are compulsory national values and must be provided for everywhere. The NPS now includes nationally-set minimum acceptable states for these two values which are called national bottom lines.

The human health value previously proposed has been merged with the recreation value into one compulsory value. Councils are required under this value to consider whether to manage water in rivers and lakes for swimming or any other level above the national bottom line, which is set at a level suitable for wading and boating.

Councils are required to maintain or improve water quality within their regions and cannot set an objective below a national bottom line. There are only two circumstances where an objective may be set below a national bottom line: where the water quality is naturally below the bottom line, for example a native bird colony nesting in a river bed causing high E. coli levels downstream; or where significant existing infrastructure such as the hydro-electric power stations on the Waitaki, Clutha or Waikato Rivers, means water quality is below the bottom line. For an exception to apply on the grounds of existing infrastructure, the infrastructure must be listed in Appendix 3 of the NPS-FM. The Government has begun a process to determine the range of infrastructure that could be listed in the NPS-FM starting with seeking the views of iwi, councils and infrastructure owners about existing infrastructure in rivers and lakes. This will be followed by public consultation later in the year.

If a community is of the view that the process to manage a water body to a level above the bottom line would place an unmanageable burden on their community they can apply to the government for that area to be specified in Appendix 4. This would effectively allow a longer time period, and staggered approach, for developing the process to move above the bottom lines. No such areas have yet been identified for inclusion in Appendix 4. As with Appendix 3, any addition of areas to Appendix 4 would require a Cabinet decision after public consultation.

Councils are also required to take a more integrated approach between fresh water and coastal water, to monitor progress towards achieving the objectives, and to fully implement the National Policy Statement by 2025 rather than the original date of 2030.

The NPS-FM now also includes a specific statement at the outset of the document about the national significance of fresh water and Te Mana o te Wai (the mana of the water). This recognises that there is a range of community and tāngata whenua values associated with fresh water.

Impacts

The Government has made these changes to ensure communities are involved from the outset in developing water plans that carefully consider and weigh all community interests in respect of each area to create plans that are enduring and ensure water quality and use is properly provided for over the long term.

One of the main benefits of the amendments is to settle the science required to support freshwater objectives for ecosystem health and human health. Specifying the contaminants or factors that must be managed to achieve national bottom lines, and the amount of each of them that corresponds to each of the A, B or C grading bands, reduces the scope of matters that can be challenged through the plan development process. This is more efficient than every council having to work through, and be challenged on, the science when they develop and review their regional plans.

Councils and communities are required to consider the costs involved when they make choices about how and over what timeframe they act to get the water quality they want. Where rivers and lakes are below a national bottom line, the council will need to put plans in place to improve the water quality. The methods and timeframes chosen to get water quality above a bottom line will affect the costs on the people using the water resource. These will be decisions for communities to make but it is important they have clear information informing these decisions.

Councils may also face costs to set up council systems to account for the water taken out and the contaminants getting into fresh water. The Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Primary Industries will be providing guidance for councils to help with this and all new requirements in the NPS-FM. In addition, the Government will provide \$12 million in extra funding over the next four years to help councils and communities improve the way they plan and make decisions about managing their local freshwater resources.

While there will be costs to councils in building expertise, these will be balanced by lower costs in producing their regional plans, and by the benefit in having better freshwater management over the longer term.

See the website for your copy and more information <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/freshwater-management.html>

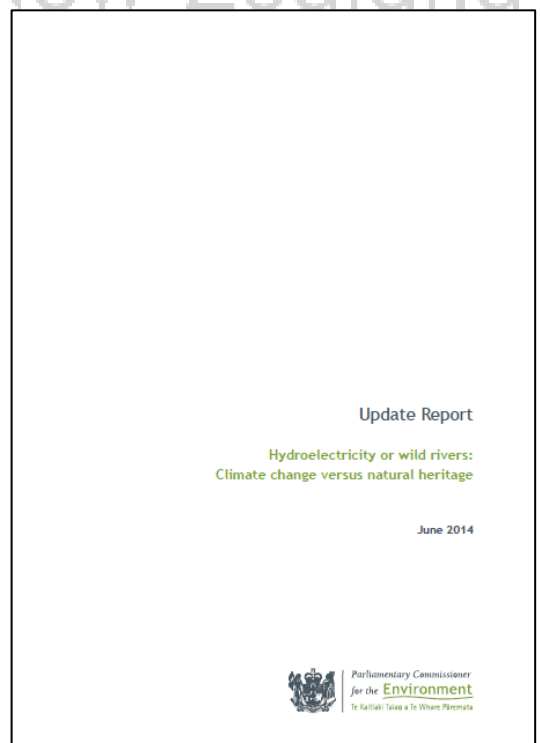
PCE Hydroelectricity or wild rivers: Climate change versus natural heritage June 2014

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Jan Wright says the Government has a mixed score card in responding to her 2012 report on the protection of wild and scenic rivers.

Dr Wright said that the protection of wild and scenic rivers that flow through conservation land is being improved. However, outside of the conservation estate, Government policy favours hydroelectric developments at the expense of protecting wild and scenic rivers.

Dr Wright released the report titled Hydroelectricity or wild rivers: Climate change versus natural heritage, in May 2012.

The investigation began after a number of members of the public contacted the Commissioner about the now-defunct proposal to build a dam on the Mokihinui River on the West Coast of the South Island.



The report evaluated the system of policies, laws, institutions, and processes under which choices are made between the two environmental ‘goods’ of hydroelectricity and the protection of wild and scenic rivers.

“I am certainly not against hydroelectricity – it is an enormously valuable way of generating electricity without emitting carbon dioxide”, said Dr Wright.

“But the system that decides whether or not a hydroelectric dam should be built on a wild and scenic river should weigh the environmental benefits of both carefully.”

The Commissioner made five recommendations to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Conservation.

“The proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management put greater barriers in the way of protecting wild and scenic rivers”, said Dr Wright.

“However, when it comes to wild and scenic rivers that flow through the conservation estate, the response is very encouraging. Action is being taken on two related problems – stewardship land and the administration of riverbeds by Land Information NZ.”

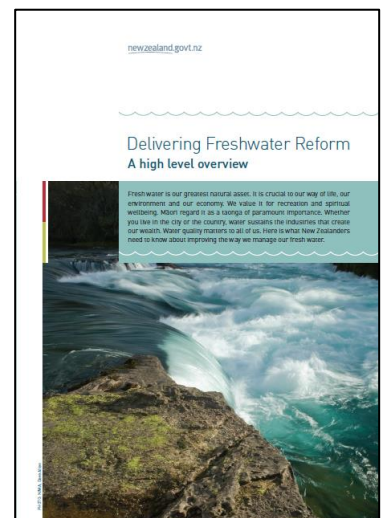
The update report can be found here. <http://www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/all-publications/update-report-hydroelectricity-or-wild-rivers-climate-change-versus-natural-heritage>

The original report from 2012 can be found here. <http://www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/all-publications/hydroelectricity-or-wild-rivers-climate-change-versus-natural-heritage>

Delivering Freshwater Reform: A high level overview

Fresh water is our greatest natural asset. It is crucial to our way of life, our environment and our economy. We value it for recreation and spiritual wellbeing. Māori regard it as a taonga of paramount importance. Whether you live in the city or the country, water sustains the industries that create our wealth. Water quality matters to all of us. Here is what New Zealanders need to know about improving the way we manage our fresh water.

Download your copy from <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/water/delivering-freshwater-reform/delivering-freshwater-reform.html>



Inequality in Asia and the Pacific

The Asia Development Bank has released a report on Inequality in Asia and the Pacific. Asia’s rapid economic growth has led to a significant reduction in extreme poverty, but accompanied by rising inequality. This report deals with three questions:

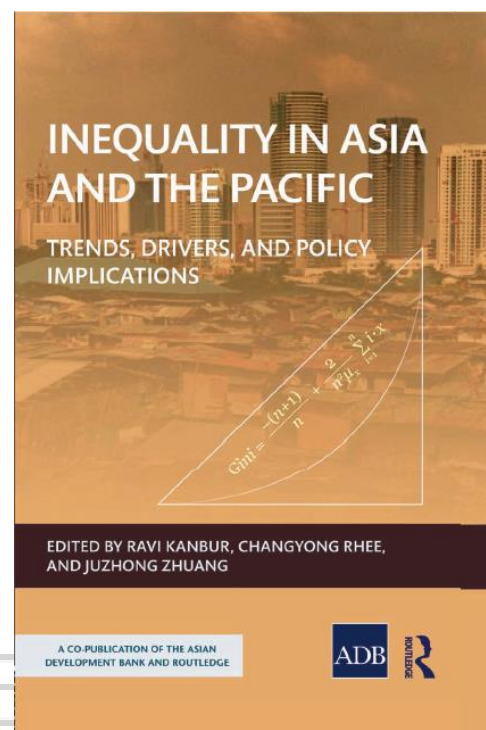
What have been the trends of inequality in Asia and the Pacific?

What are the key drivers of rising inequality in the region?

How should Asian countries respond to the rising inequality?

Technological change, globalization, and market-oriented reform have been the key drivers of Asia's remarkable growth and poverty reduction, but they have also had significant distribution consequences. These three drivers of growth cannot be hindered because they are the sources of productivity improvement and betterment of quality of life. This book will be useful to those interested in policy options that could be deployed by Asian countries in confronting rising inequality.

Download your copy at <http://www.adb.org/publications/inequality-asia-and-pacific>



Canterbury Branch Event

Canterbury Green Drinks

The Christchurch EIANZ branch is kicking off a monthly get together next month, on **Wednesday 6th August**.

The details are as follows:

Wednesday 6th August, from **530pm**, The Canterbury EIANZ branch will host Christchurch Green Drinks @ **Bean Scene Café and Cargo Bar, Lincoln Road, Addington From 5:30pm** at the Bean Scene Café (Cargo Bar will be open for drinks and food prior to this for early birds).

Jeska McNicol, Partner, McHugh Shaw, will be speaking about 'Environmental Sustainability for Small and Medium Sized Businesses'

All members welcome! And please bring friends and colleagues.

The first Wednesday of every month, the Canterbury EIANZ branch members (and guests) will meet for drinks and a speaker at Bean Scene Café, from 530pm.

Dates for 2014 are:

Wednesday 6th August - Jeska McNicol, Partner, McHugh Shaw, will be speaking about 'Environmental Sustainability for Small and Medium Sized Businesses'

Wednesday 3rd September - Ned Norton, Water Resource Management Consultant @ NN Consulting, "Changing times for freshwater: the NPS (National Policy Statement), NOF (National Objectives Framework) and collaboration"

Wednesday 1st October - TBC

Wednesday 5th November - Richard Howard, Soil and Groundwater Consultant @ Separate Phase Ltd, Topic TBC

Wednesday 3rd December - TBC

Certified Environmental Practitioner – closing 5th Sept 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

New Zealand: 03 741 3102

info@cenvp.org

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](mailto:Craig.Redmond).

The next newsletter will be out at the end of August, so please send any submissions through by 20 August 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: [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