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Certified Environmental Practitioner

## From the Editor

Well 2015 is coming to a close, however, in the environmental sphere it is charging like bull towards 2016 rather than a stroll along the beach. With the most important climate change summit in a generation about to get underway in Paris and last week's announcement of another round of changes to the Resource Management Act here in New Zealand, there is no shortage of headlines and topics for discussion.

As this is the last edition of a Step Closer for 2015, we encourage you as members and readers to put pen to paper, fingers to keys, and eyes to your camera and send us your contributions no matter how big or small to be included in 2016. I look forward to hearing from you over the summer.

Craig Redmond, November 2015

E: [nznewsletter.eianz@gmail.com](mailto:nznewsletter.eianz@gmail.com)

## EIANZ Submission on the Environment Canterbury (Transitional Governance Arrangements) Bill

The New Zealand Chapter submitted on the Environment Canterbury (Transitional Governance Arrangements) Bill on 19 November 2015 – [check out our submission here](#) and what others are saying in the news;

[Full Environment Canterbury democracy 'a step backwards' - Ngai Tahu](#)

[Editorial: City council offers compelling submission on democracy at ECan](#)

[Council labels Government's Environment Canterbury plan 'arrogant'](#)

## International WaterCentre partial scholarships for self-funded students

The International WaterCentre is offering a partial scholarship (\$7,000 for the [Master of Integrated Water Management](#) at The University of Queensland; and \$2,000 for the [Graduate Certificate in Water Planning](#) at Griffith University) to every self-funded student commencing in Semester 1, 2016.

Both programs are designed to equip participants with transdisciplinary skills in integrated water management, fast-track their career development and build their capacity to create innovative and sustainable solutions to complex water management issues.

To receive a partial scholarship: simply apply for admission through the relevant partner university by 31 January.

**More information:** [www.watercentre.org/iwc-scholarships](http://www.watercentre.org/iwc-scholarships)

**Contact:** [admin@watercentre.org](mailto:admin@watercentre.org) | phone 07 3014 0200

## Call for Volunteers!

The 2016 annual EIANZ NZ Chapter Symposium will be held in Auckland in May 2016. An Auckland based committee is currently being formed to organise the symposium. To volunteer to be part of the committee organising this exciting event, please get in touch with Justine Quinn, Auckland Branch Coordinator, [justinquinn@gmail.com](mailto:justinquinn@gmail.com).

The EIANZ NZ Chapter are also the proud hosts of the EIANZ Annual Conference in Auckland in October 2017. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the committee to organise the conference with support from EIANZ Central Office, please get in touch with Taryn Pearce, NZ Chapter Secretary, [tazzaa@gmail.com](mailto:tazzaa@gmail.com).

Providing assistance on these committees can contribute towards CPD if you are a Certified Environmental Practitioner, or if you are planning to apply for certification.

## On the BOX

### [What will the weather be like in 2050?](#)

Well, watch this weather report for 14 August 2050 and tell us what you think!!!!!!



December is SHARK WEEK on Discovery Channel!!!! So if you love Shark week as much as me, keep an eye out for this year premiers and get your fill of shark facts just in time for the summer season swimming at the beach.

<http://www.discoverychannel.com.au/>



See Sam Hayes report from Antarctica – as science learns from the past to predict the future.

<http://www.3news.co.nz/tvshows/3d/antarcticas-past-key-to-our-future-2015112316#axzz3sUe1zyf1>



See DOC saving the WORLDS rarest plant! <http://www.3news.co.nz/tvshows/story/saving-the-worlds-rarest-plant-2015112419#.VIV85mrODTw.mailto>



Are we letting our native birds disappear??? Tell us what you think!

<http://www.3news.co.nz/tvshows/story/nz-lets-native-birds-disappear-2015111120#axzz3saH8iS1W>



Why do we waste so many plastic bags? <http://www.3news.co.nz/tvshows/story/nz-wastes-40k-plastic-bags-a-year-why-2015102920#axzz3pwifNPDC>

## In the News

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

### Legislation

[Palmer warns of Resource Mgmt Act fiddling](#)

[Urban planning review may include RMA](#)

[Full Environment Canterbury democracy 'a step backwards' - Ngai Tahu](#)

[Editorial: City council offers compelling submission on democracy at ECan](#)

[Council labels Government's Environment Canterbury plan 'arrogant'](#)

[Some scientific support for GMO law review](#)

## Conservation/Ecology

[Whitebaiters pour cooking oil into river in new 'fad' – Avon River, Christchurch](#)

[Fiordland National Park conservation initiative](#)

[Pests push native birds to brink](#)

[Brian Rudman: Takahe blunder a symptom of ecological neglect](#)

[Stoat den uncovered in Dunedin ecosanctuary during royal tour](#)

[DoC says 1080 drop was effective against rats](#)

['Plague of rats' could descend on NZ next year](#)

[Yellow-eyed penguin nest numbers hit rock bottom](#)

[NZ wasp bait wins award](#)

[Death of NZ marine conservation pioneer](#)

[Historic agreement to protect Mackenzie Basin falters](#)

## Water

[Hundreds of Canterbury dairy farmers breaking effluent rules](#)

[Health warning about toxic algae in South Canterbury Rivers](#)

[Fisherman battles multi-million dollar companies over stream](#)

[Government blamed as Fish and Game pulls out of crucial nationwide water forum](#)

[Lake Rotorua draft nutrient rules discussed by regional council](#)

[Billions needed to get Wellington's rivers clean](#)

[Farmers not convinced about water quality decline, survey shows](#)

## Consent Hearings/Developments

[Wellington runway extension or runaway costs?](#)

[Rolleston running out of residential land](#)

[Progress made on fast-tracked houses near Queenstown](#)

[Westfield St Lukes expansion to go ahead without public notification](#)

[New Brighton the focus for Development Christchurch](#)

[Gondola to link Queenstown to The Remarkables skifield](#)

[Christchurch City Council bungled district plan review - report](#)

[Cycleway proposed from Petone to Ngauranga](#)

[Consent for supermarket in Palmerston North declined](#)

[High Court grants urgent fixture for review of Ruataniwha Dam decision](#)

## Climate Change

[UN: Climate plans must go further to prevent dangerous warming](#)

[Council reaches greenhouse gas goal](#) - New Plymouth District Council

[Rising sea levels: 9000 homes at risk](#)

[Editorial: Mayor's trip to Paris out of order](#) – Climate Change Summit

[Student sues Government over climate targets](#)

[\\$31M climate grant from the UN to Fiji](#)

[Paris climate talks: NZ to rely on carbon credits to meet emissions pledge](#)



[How will NZ cope with rising sea levels?](#)

[Climate change could drive over 100 million into extreme poverty: World Bank](#)

[Expert calls on council to abandon climate hazard sea-rise report](#) – Christchurch

[Last chance to save the planet](#)

## Air Quality

[With winter coming, Chinese city of Shenyang hit by record 'doomsday' smog](#)

[Environment Canterbury says Woolston air quality improving](#)

## Cultural Heritage

[Auckland Council plans to cull 1373 protected Mana Whenua sites](#)

[Auckland Council to reduce iwi approval requirements](#)

## Contamination

[OECD report on NZ's environment record on waste landfill](#)

[Asbestos fill being moved from Christchurch to Dunedin landfill](#)

[The \\$10 million tank farm fight](#) – Wynyard Quarter, Auckland

[Majority of hazardous sites in Waikato never tested for contaminants](#)

## General

[The biggest risks to our cities](#)

[Cyclists and pedestrians battle for control of the footpath](#)

[Sustainability leading businesses revealed](#)

## 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/>

# Impact Assessment in New Zealand *Charting a course for the future*

A seminar held in memory of James Newell

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015  
University of Otago Wellington, Newtown

“Impact assessment” is widely used in New Zealand and overseas. It is also used in a variety of forms beyond the Resource Management Act requirement for assessments of effects and in a variety of other forms including statutory (recreation concessions in the conservation estate, and resource development in the EEZ) or non-statutory (health impact assessments of urban growth strategies or sustainable development under the Post-2015 agenda).

The anticipation and management of impacts on the environment, society and the economy is growing in demand. However, impact assessment faces multiple financial, capacity and quality assurance pressures. New thinking and action is required to provide the safeguards impact assessment and related processes can deliver.

This one day seminar at the University of Otago Wellington campus, will bring together invited speakers to address a variety of issues, reflecting on the journey so far, recognising innovative practices and considering emerging challenges from issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and social-cultural diversity.

This year the NZAIA annual meeting will reflect on how New Zealand impact assessment is faring in these choppy seas.

NZAIA welcomes the challenges facing the impact assessment community, and asks:

- What has been achieved in New Zealand?
- How do we as New Zealanders develop a shared vision about the future practice of impact assessment?
- What practical steps can NZAIA take to support that vision?

**For 2015 seminar information visit: [www.nzaia.org.nz](http://www.nzaia.org.nz)**



***NZAIA are dedicating this seminar to James Newell.***

*In February this year, NZAIA lost its long serving member and Treasurer, James Newell, who died suddenly while walking in the hills above Wellington. James was a key part of the Association and his colleagues in the core group were keen to find a fitting way to mark his contribution to the spirit and purpose of NZAIA.*





# FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

22 & 23 February 2016, Rydges Hotel, Wellington

FORUM

Special rate available  
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**FACILITATING TRANSFORMATION ACROSS THE NEW ZEALAND WATER SECTOR**

## Featuring presentations from:

- Land and Water Forum
- NZIER
- Irrigation New Zealand
- Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Otago Regional Council
- Wairarapa Water Project
- NIWA
- Massey University
- Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management
- Buddle Findlay
- Russell McVeagh
- New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society

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Supporting Organisation



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# FRESHWATER

## MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

### FORUM

#### DAY 1: 22 February 2016

8.30 Registration and coffee

9.00 **Opening remarks from the Chair**  
David Allen, *Special Counsel*, Buddle Findlay

#### Freshwater management | The current scenario

9.10 **Land Water Forum update - Assisting the Government in the delivery of water policy reform**  

- Maximising the economic benefit of freshwater while managing quality and quantity limits consistent with NPS-FM provisions
- Implementing measures to improve freshwater availability
- Assisting regional councils in implementing the new water management regime, particularly with collaborative processes

**Alastair Bisley, Chair, Land and Water Forum**

9.50 **Trading and charging – Are we going towards freshwater as a commodity?**  

- Can we quantify the dollar value of water?
- Delving into ownership and profits – who would benefit?
- Considering sustainable options around water as a commodity

**Peter Clough, Senior Economist, NZIER**

10.30 MORNING BREAK & REFRESHMENTS

#### Water productivity | Implementing effective approaches

11.00 **The way towards efficient infrastructure management**  

- What resources do we need to enable a better infrastructure planning and management?
- Storing water on a regional basis to increase water security for users while optimising irrigation practice
- Improving our water productivity through SMART Irrigation

**Andrew Curtis, CEO, Irrigation New Zealand**

11.40 **Case study: Enabling regional prosperity - Successful water collection and storage**  

- Distributing water for a variety of economic and community uses
- Collecting and using water in a way that preserves the environmental integrity of natural water bodies
- Allowing participation by a wide range of interest groups

**Michael Bassett-Foss, Project Director, Wairarapa Water Project**

12.20 **Facilitating a sustainable freshwater management - What's the impact of infrastructure on water quality and ecology?**

- Preserving New Zealand's unique ecosystem - understanding primary effects of water infrastructure
- Considering the role of intense farming and irrigation
- What does the future look like?

**Mike Joy, Senior Lecturer, Massey University**

1.00 LUNCH BREAK

#### Better governance models and water usage

2.00 **Incorporating traditional knowledge into water management**

- Exploring best practices to include Iwi into the overall decision process
- Reflecting on Māori participation in freshwater management – a focus on the Whaitua Model from Greater Wellington
- Looking at the status of water infrastructure - a Māori perspective

**Morrie Love, Chairman, Wellington Tenth Trust**

2.40 **Exploring the path towards effective collaboration**

- How can we use water more efficiently - Facilitating effective discussions among central government, councils, communities and Iwi
  - Building a stronger NZ information base through better monitoring and targeted research
  - Revising regional plans to include communities feedback
- Graham Sevicke-Jones, Manager Environmental Science, Greater Wellington Regional Council**

3.20 AFTERNOON BREAK & REFRESHMENTS

3.40 **RMA in the evolving environmental landscape – Time for review?**

- Does the current RMA provide the basis for sustainable management?
- Environment and changes - implementing a resilient system
- Looking at communities and stakeholders engagement - What else can be done?

**James Gardner-Hopkins, Partner, Russell McVeagh**

4.20 **Quick fire: The users' perspective on freshwater**

- Looking at the way freshwater is being managed in New Zealand
- Identifying the biggest challenges for different groups of water users
- Delving into the role of users in facilitating a different planning and management scheme

5.00 Summary remarks from the Chair and Networking Drinks

# FACILITATING TRANSFORMATION ACROSS THE NEW ZEALAND WATER SECTOR

22 & 23 February 2016, Rydges Hotel, Wellington

## DAY 2: 23 February 2016

9.00 **Welcome back from the Chair**

### Improve interaction between local government and communities

9.05 **Implementing the NPS 2014 – Challenges and opportunities**

- Incorporating NPS prescriptions into the wider RMA regulation
- Reflecting on what has been done so far – key benefits and impact on local plans
- Succeeding with the new standards – acknowledging successful stories

**David Allen, Special Counsel, Buddle Findlay**

9.45 **Exploring the business impact of communities' choices**

- Engaging communities on local planning projects
- Understanding long term impact of community inputs and feedback
- Setting freshwater limits - Looking at the consequences for existing businesses and future opportunities

10.25 MORNING BREAK & REFRESHMENTS

10.55 **Case study: A regional perspective on freshwater - The Greater Wellington Region's experience**

- What's the role of local authorities in matching sustainable freshwater management and business interests
- Collaborating with local communities and Iwi

**Fran Wilde, Economic Development Portfolio Leader, Greater Wellington Regional Council**

11.40 **Optimising the role of freshwater science and scientists in the development of freshwater resources**

- Are we asking the right questions and collecting the right data?
- Scientific facts and opinions in evidence-based decision making
- Making decisions within the context of scientific uncertainty

**Dr Marc Shallenberg, President, New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society**

12:20 LUNCH BREAK

### Understanding the changing environment

1.10 **What's the impact of climate change on water management?**

- What are the foreseeable land use changes likely to occur?
- What does it mean for irrigation, infrastructure and the overall economy?
- What actions can we take now to avoid future disruptions?

**Professor Bryan Jenkins, Professor Strategic Water Management, Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management, University of Canterbury and Lincoln University**

1.50 **Environmental forecasting - Getting the best out of freshwater data**

- Collecting and managing freshwater data
- Designing effective monitoring programmes
- Bringing data together in a federated environment – the importance of standards
- Looking at data management and reporting

**Jochen Schmidt, Chief Scientist for Environmental Information, NIWA**

2.30 AFTERNOON BREAK & REFRESHMENTS

### Future directions

2.50 **Facing the change - Enabling transformation across the water sector**

- How do we allow and measure a sustainable development?
- Getting the most out of stakeholders engagement
- Planning for growth - setting actionable long term plans

**Fraser Mcrae, Director Policy Planning & Resource Management, Otago Regional Council**

3.30 **Extended debate**

- A Tale of Two Dams: Is water storage really the economic panacea for zombie towns and depressed regions?
- While the economic success of the Opuha Dam is unquestioned, can it be replicated elsewhere?
- A comparison with two schemes currently under consideration suggests the Opuha's benefits cannot be replicated - with further analysis both proposals are prospective 'white elephants'
- Where to from here?

**Peter Fraser, Economist & Director, Ropere Consulting**

4.20 Closing remarks from the Chair and end of conference

**\*\* In recognition of NFP organisations, special pricing is available to local government, regional councils and Iwi trusts**



## Post Conference Workshop:

# Managing cultural differences for successful stakeholder relationships

24th February 2016 | 9:00am - 4:30pm

Cultural awareness and sensitivity is crucial when collaborating with Māori. This workshop is addressed to professionals who want to engage successfully with Iwi and Māori authorities by understanding how Māori worldviews influence engagements.

We will look at cultural considerations in various business contexts and play with basic Te Reo Māori to achieve a level of understanding that can be immediately put into practice.

### The workshop will cover:

- Cultural considerations in business contexts
- Māori underpinning values and culture - acknowledging differences
- How perspective informs behaviours
- Strengthening relationships through meaningful awareness
- Māori values and their influence on environmental issues
- Te reo Māori—the basics of Māori language and why it's important
- Who to talk to and what to ask

### Facilitator:

**Shelly Davies, Director, ShellyDavies.com**



Shelly is of Ngātiwai, Ngāpuhi, and Ngāti Porou descent. Shelly has a long history of working in Māori and indigenous education through Te Wānanga o Aotearoa,

and as a consultant she has worked with hapū and iwi throughout the country as a facilitator and writer of documentation.

That work has included strategic planning, evaluation, resource management plans, and governance.

# www.conferenz.co.nz/freshwater

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Conference	<b>\$2095</b> + GST (save \$400)	<b>\$2295</b> + GST (save \$200)	<b>\$2495</b> + GST
Local Government & Charitable Trusts Price**	<b>\$1495</b> + GST (save \$700)	<b>\$1995</b> + GST (save \$200)	<b>\$2195</b> + GST
Workshop	<b>\$995</b> + GST (save \$300)	<b>\$1195</b> + GST (save \$100)	<b>\$1295</b> + GST

**Agenda Updates:** Conferenz Ltd reserves the right to make any amendments deemed to be in the best interest of the conference. Agenda is correct at time of printing, please check online for any updates.

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#### WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE TO CANCEL?

YOU HAVE SEVERAL OPTIONS:

- Send a substitute delegate in your place
- Confirm your cancellation in writing (letter or email) at least ten working days prior to the event and receive a refund less a \$300+GST service charge per registrant. Regrettably, no refunds can be made for cancellations received after this date.

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## GROUP DISCOUNTS

Would you like to bring your team? Competitive group booking options available.

**Contact our team on 09 912 3616 for more information.**

## Publications: Resource legislation introduced to Parliament

The Government introduced to Parliament on 26 November 2015 its substantive Bill overhauling the Resource Management Act (RMA) to support business growth and housing development while also ensuring more effective environmental management, Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith has announced.

“This Bill is about reducing the bureaucracy that gets in the way of creating jobs, building houses, and good environmental management. It provides for greater national consistency, more responsive planning, simplified consenting and better alignment with other laws,” Dr Smith says.

The 180-page Resource Legislation Amendment Bill comprises 40 changes contained in 235 clauses and eight schedules. It makes changes to the Resource Management Act 1991, the Reserves Act 1977, the Public Works Act 1981, the Conservation Act 1987, the Environmental Protection Authority Act 2011, and the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012.

“The Bill addresses the significant problems with the cumbersome planning processes of the Resource Management Act highlighted in recent reports by the OECD, Local Government New Zealand, the Rules Reduction Taskforce and the Productivity Commission. Standard planning templates will be introduced so we don't have every council reinventing the wheel and having dozens of different ways of measuring the height of a building. Plan-making, which currently take six years, will be sped up and made more flexible. A new collaborative planning process will encourage different interests to work with councils on finding solutions to local resource problems,” Dr Smith says.

“The Bill simplifies the consenting process. It narrows the parties that must be consulted to those directly affected – meaning a homeowner extending a deck only has to consult the affected neighbour. Councils will have discretion to not require resource consent for minor issues. A new 10-day fast-track consent will be available for simple issues. Councils will be required to have fixed fees for standard consents so that homeowners have certainty over costs. Consents will no longer be required for activities that are already properly regulated by other Acts. These measures will reduce the number of consents required each year by thousands.

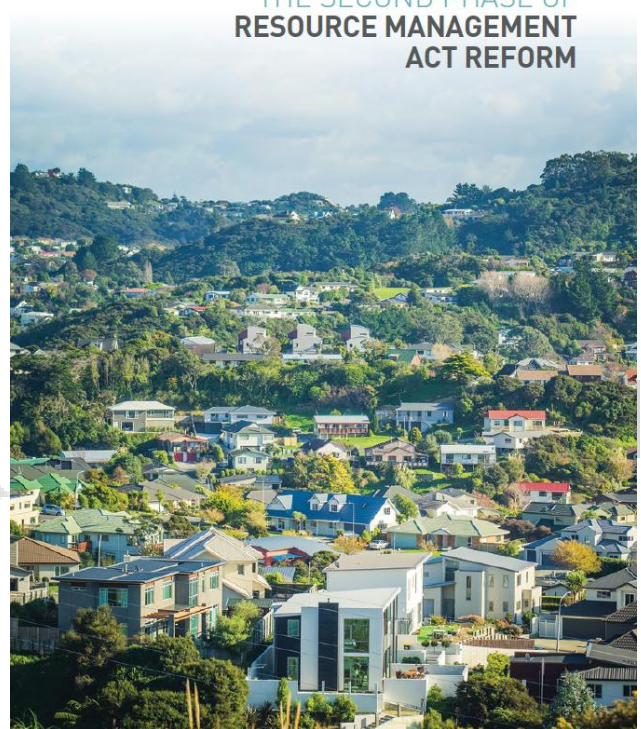
“This Bill will deliver improved environmental management. It will enable national regulations that require stock like dairy cows to be fenced out of rivers and lakes, with instant fines for breaches. It strengthens the requirements for managing natural hazards like earthquakes and sea level rise from climate change. It requires decommissioning plans for offshore oil and gas rigs. It will improve the transparency of New Zealand's clean, green brand by ensuring consistency in council environmental reporting on issues like air and water quality.

“The Bill contains dozens of provisions that will improve the process of resource management decisions. There will be millions of dollars in savings from simpler, plain language public notices that enable the detailed information on plans and consents to be accessed on the web. The Bill recognises email communications and online filing. It also encourages early dispute resolution on cases appealed to the Environment Court.”

The introduction of this Bill has the support of the Māori Party after intensive discussions over several months. Some reform proposals, including changes to sections six and seven, are not in the Bill. The proposals consulted on publicly in 2013 on improved Māori participation in resource management have been included in response to the Māori Party's

New Zealand Government

### THE SECOND PHASE OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT REFORM





strong advocacy. Discussions between the National and Māori Parties will continue in response to public submissions and debate as the Bill progresses through Parliament. National will also be seeking the support of other parties in Parliament, noting that all but the Greens have publicly stated that they recognise the need for reform.

“This is a moderate reform Bill that will reduce the cost and delays for homeowners and businesses, as well as improve New Zealand’s planning and environmental controls. I thank the Māori Party for their support that will enable this large and complex Bill to pass its first reading and be referred to select committee. We look forward to hearing public submissions on the detail so we can deliver on our shared objective of reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, while ensuring we have good systems to protect the environment,” Dr Smith concluded.

#### Related Documents

- [1. Q&A](#) (pdf 361.54 KB)
- [2. Information booklet: The Second Phase of Resource Management Act Reform](#) (pdf 992.13 KB)
- [3. Resource Legislation Amendment Bill](#) (pdf 949.2 KB)

## Publications: Consultation for the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme review 2015/16

The Government is reviewing the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) to assess how it should evolve to support New Zealand in meeting future emissions reduction targets and its ongoing transition to a low emissions economy. This follows the announcement by the Government in July this year that New Zealand’s post 2020 target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The Ministry for the Environment is leading the consultation and welcomes your feedback on how the NZ ETS is working and how it might work better in the future.

The review will focus on:

- some transitional measures introduced to moderate the impacts of the NZ ETS
- what is required for the NZ ETS to evolve with changing circumstances including future targets
- operational and technical improvements
- a report on an evaluation of the NZ ETS to date.

For more information about the consultation, read our [discussion document](#). It sets out the issues on which the Government is consulting, the objective and drivers for the review. It also contains the terms of reference for the review.

Some transition measures are being given priority and have the first deadline for submissions as they may be candidates for legislative change in 2016 (see closing dates for submissions below). Refer to the discussion document for detail on the priority and other matters under review.

Technical notes on the following specific issues will be available in December or early 2016 to support submissions:

- modelling of the impacts of the priority issues outlined in the discussion document
- forestry sector matters, including accounting methodologies for post-1989 foresters
- operational and other technical matters.

To be notified of when these technical notes are available, please email [nzetsreview@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:nzetsreview@mfe.govt.nz).

Closing dates for submissions

Submissions on priority issues close at 5pm on 19 February 2016

Submissions on other review matters close at 5pm on 30 April 2016.

You may make submissions on both priority issues and on the other matters. If you provide feedback on both you can do so in a single submission or separate submissions. Please note submissions on priority issues must be received by 19 February 2016.

Click here for more information <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/new-zealand-ets-review-201516-consultation>

## Publications: Public views sought on future environmental reporting topics

New Zealanders are being invited to have their say about proposed topics under the new national environmental reporting system, Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith and Statistics Minister Craig Foss have announced.

“The Environmental Reporting Act passed by Parliament in September requires fair and accurate reports on the state of our environment. It means our country’s clean, green brand will now be assessed against authoritative and independent data across five domains. Today we are calling for submissions on what New Zealanders think are the priorities for reporting across these domains,” Dr Smith says.

This is your chance to help shape how we establish a reporting system that is useful to New Zealanders.

For more information about this consultation read our Topics for environmental reporting: Consultation document. It includes a background to what we considered when developing the list of proposed topics, and explanations to help you understand what the topics could cover.

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 23 December 2015.**

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/topics-for-environmental-reporting>

## Publications: PCE Preparing New Zealand for rising seas: Certainty and Uncertainty

Like other countries, New Zealand needs to prepare for rising seas.

Over many millennia, the Earth’s climate has cycled between ice ages and warm ‘interglacial’ periods. Over the last seven thousand years the climate has been relatively stable, but this is now changing. Increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are trapping heat and the climate has begun to respond. One of the major and certain consequences is rising sea level.

Nowhere in our island nation is far from the sea, and most of us live within a few kilometres of the coast. Houses, roads, wastewater systems, and other infrastructure have been built in coastal areas with an

understanding of the reach of the tides and the recognition that storms will occasionally combine with high tides to cause flooding.

However, with rising seas, tides, waves and storm surges will reach further inland than before, resulting in more frequent and extensive flooding. Along some coasts, erosion will increase and shorelines will recede. In some areas, the water table will rise.

The task of planning for sea level rise is challenging on many levels. For a start, it is technically complex, and the size and timing of impacts are uncertain. Perhaps the most difficult aspect is the impact on people's homes, which for many are not just their homes, but also their financial security.

**The full report is available for download [here](#)**, along with a set of frequently asked questions. Also available for download are four consultant reports related to the investigation.

**A set of Regional Land Elevation Maps has been published in conjunction with this report, available [here](#).**

Preparing New Zealand for rising seas:  
**Certainty and Uncertainty**  
November 2015



Parliamentary Commissioner  
for the **Environment**  
Te Kaitiaki Takekōwhiri a Te Whare Pāremata

## Publications: Draft State Highway Stormwater Specification

The Transport Agency has released the draft *State Highway Stormwater Specification* for internal and external consultation.

This work was initiated on the back of updating the Technical Appendices in SM031 'State Highway Construction Contract Proforma Manual' back in January 2015. The Transport Agency's Environment and Urban Design team has drafted this specification, together with input from a group of internal and external people with expertise in stormwater management on state highways.

Feedback on the draft is being sought before this specification is finalised and rolled out to staff and suppliers. Information about the specification and a quick survey is available at the below link. You are also welcome to send feedback to [environment@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:environment@nzta.govt.nz).

<http://nzta.govt.nz/about-us/consultations/new-zealand-transport-agency-state-highway-stormwater-specification>

The feedback period will close on **December 18<sup>th</sup> 2015**, after which the final document will be prepared and released.

## Publication: Guide to assessing social impacts for state highway projects

The Transport Agency has released a draft [guide to assessing the social impacts of state highway projects](#) for consultation. This guide seeks to achieve a nationally consistent approach to carrying out social impact assessment for state highway projects at all stages of a project's life cycle. This approach is intended to provide certainty and clarity of expectations and to appropriately deliver on the Transport Agency's commitments to social responsibility. The Transport Agency acknowledges the technical input of Robert Quigley and Gerard Fitzgerald into earlier drafts of this guide, and the input of the Transport Agency personnel who have contributed to date.

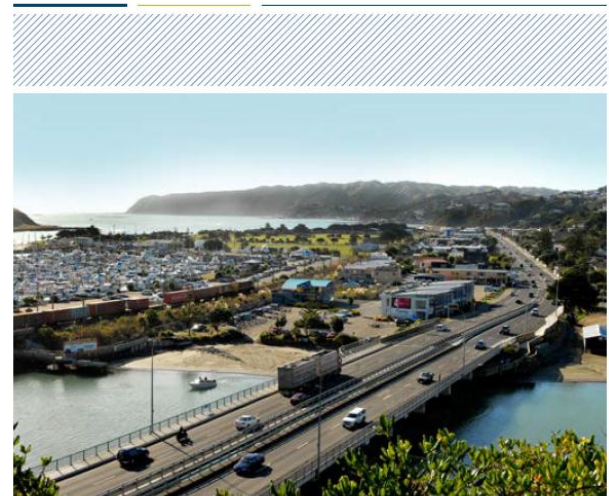
The Transport Agency invites feedback on the guide, its ease of use, the appropriateness of the process outlined and any further information on methods that can be used to deliver on the processes requested by the guide.

Feedback is invited prior to **Monday 29 January 2016**; please send all comments to [environment@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:environment@nzta.govt.nz).

### Guide to assessing social impacts for state highway projects

This guide describes the processes to be used on Transport Agency state highway improvement projects for assessing and, when required, determining the appropriate mitigations for social impacts.  
October 2015, Version 1

**DRAFT**



New Zealand Government

## Certified Environmental Practitioner

### For those thinking of applying

The CEnvP website provides some useful application tips and advice – these are the things that will help with the processing of your application. See <http://www.cenvp.org/apply/applications.php>

One of the bits of advice is to take the requirement for continuing professional development seriously. This is probably one of the areas where the more information you can provide as part of your application the better. The CEnvP website says it is worthwhile to submit a CPD log for the past year. I'd go a step further to say submit the log, along with an outline of your proposed CPD activities for the forthcoming 12 months. If you don't submit it as part of your application, you are likely to be asked to bring it along to your interview.

Another important tip is to submit a complete application. Missing information slows down the processing of your application and in the worst case; you will be deferred to the following round of interviews.



If your workplace or local EIANZ branch would like to learn more about the application process or the Scheme, please get in touch. There are a number of CEnvPs around the country who are more than happy to come and talk to you about the benefits of Certification and the process of applying.

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)

New Zealand: 03 741 3102 Email: [info@cenvp.org](mailto: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](#). The next newsletter will be out at the end of September, so please send any **submissions through by 23 January 2016.**

## 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](mailto:newzealand@eianz.org) to ensure that your details are up to date.

## Key Institute and Chapter Information

### NZ Chapter Executive Committee

NZ Chapter President: [Ian Boothroyd](#)

NZ Chapter Vice President: [Keith Calder](#)

Secretary: [Taryn Pearce](#)

Treasurer: [Chris Bailey](#)

### Committee Members:

[Chris Gibbons](#) (Students and Early Careers Portfolio)

[Steph Brown](#) (CEnvP) Coordinator

[Rod Murray](#)

[Justine Quinn](#)

### EIANZ Board

President: Jon Womersley

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### Other Key Roles

Membership Secretary: [Eric Scott](#)

Newsletter Editor: [Craig Redmond](#)

### Regional Branch Coordinators

Auckland: [Justine Quinn](#)

Bay of Plenty: [Sharon De Luca](#)

Wellington / Central: [Kirsty Austin](#)

Canterbury: [Pene Ferguson](#)

Contact for general enquiries: [newzealand@eianz.org](mailto:newzealand@eianz.org)

Newsletter enquiries: [nznewsletter.eianz@gmail.com](mailto:nznewsletter.eianz@gmail.com)

EIANZ Website: [www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org)

Find out about events at: <http://www.eianz.org/events/category/new-zealand>

Join us at: <http://www.eianz.org/membership-information/membership>

Watch us at: [www.youtube.com/nzeianz](http://www.youtube.com/nzeianz)

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