



DIANE DOWDELL MEIANZ  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER  
(GLOBAL) | ALCOA LTD

Joined the Institute in 1999

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Environment Institute  
of Australia and  
New Zealand Inc.

*What prompted you to join EIANZ?*

I had recently completed post-graduate studies and was exploring my first graduate employment role. It was recommended that as an environmental science graduate I should continue my learning and networking through joining a national association for professional environmental practitioners. This would enable me to continue to develop my knowledge and skills while providing networking events to keep abreast of new information and professional opportunities.

*What do you value most about being a member?*

The opportunity to stay informed across Australia and New Zealand regarding activities of the diverse environmental practitioners, their different regulatory and social environments and how they manage their programs.

*Has being a member helped you develop mentoring relationships and/or extend your professional networks? Can you tell us about the impact these relationships have had on your career development?*

Recently I have taken a more active role within the WA Division to assist EIANZ being more effective in this space. In the past, I have relied heavily on the journal and the newsletter to provide me with information, but I have recognised that I need to be more engaged and active in promoting the networking opportunities for the professional environment sector.

*What do you find most rewarding about a career in the environment sector?*

I have been fortunate to be able to apply my technical knowledge in a range of industry sectors, political frameworks and social environments. I can now bring that knowledge into a global role and work to raise environmental standards within my organisation globally. My career is constantly changing as a result of new knowledge, changing social and political pressures and therefore I am constantly learning something new or meeting someone new who brings a new insight to my career.

*What advice would you give to recent graduates just starting out in the environment sector?*

Stay flexible and open to new ideas and opportunities. The professional discipline of environmental science is still very young and continually evolving as new information in both science and social arenas becomes available. An effective environmental scientist is one who understands that we work within scientific, social and political environments and therefore we need to be adept at understanding these drivers and how we can adapt and advise best practice environmental science.

Celebrating  
**30**  
years

1987 - 2017