Certifying Environmental Practitioners in WA
An Introduction to the Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme

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What does it mean to you to be an environmental professional?
What do you think your employer, clients, or the general public, expect of you as an environmental professional?
There are range of expectations, sometimes conflicting, of us as environmental professionals.

Demonstrate – visible sign of the often invisible…evidence

Commit – a public statement of your commitment as a professional

Ongoing – you are adaptive and responsive
What is the Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme (CEnvP)?

- CEnvP is an initiative of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ). CEnvP certifies environmental professionals as both ethical and competent.
- Rigorously vets applications against stringent, industry-recognised criteria.
Where has CEnvP come from?

- The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) developed the certification scheme in 2004 specifically for environmental professionals (not just EIANZ members)
- EIANZ established the CEnvP Board under By-law 16 at the 2004 Annual General Meeting
Why was the certification scheme created?

• Faced with increasing environmental challenges, disasters and threats, community demanded greater environmental accountability from industry and government.

• Some incompetent and unethical behaviour undermined the credibility of the environment profession so a way to identify ethical and highly competent practitioners needed to be developed.
Certification vs Accreditation

There is an important difference between certification and accreditation.

- **Certification** is the formal way by which the education, training and experience of practitioners is recognised through the granting of a certificate. Candidates are generally approved for certification when they meet the standards of a profession.

- **Accreditation** is the process applied by accrediting bodies to determine and recognize whether an educational course, program or institution has met pre-determined training criteria.
ENVIROMENTAL PROFICIENCIES

• Environmental awareness
• Environmental ethics
• Policy and planning
• Analysis and risk assessment
• Decision making
• Professional practice
• Communication
Where are we today?

- Formally recognised by the Australian Government and New Zealand Governments
- Heads of EPAs encourage certification and defined certification principles
  - improve confidence in quality, reliability and accountability of environmental reports provided to government
  - conform to ANZ Standard for certification
  - competencies for specialist areas
  - recertification
  - ethical and professional conduct
Where are we today?

Five types of certification:

- General
- Site Contamination (formerly Contaminated Land)
- Impact Assessment
- Ecology
- Climate Change

- Application time averages four months
Certification Requirements I

- A relevant environment-related degree
- Five years of full time experience in environmental practice
- Statement of Ethical Conduct
- Nomination by three respected environmental professionals who are willing to act as referees for the candidate
- Evidence in the form of referee statements (at least two), publications, citations, curriculum vitae, reports etc that the candidate is a respected, competent, ethical and active member of the profession
Certification Requirements II

- Ongoing commitment to training and professional improvement (in the order of 100 points of training, professional improvement, service to professional practice over a two year period)
- A signed (and witnessed) statement of claim covering qualifications, experience, ethics, commitment and the accuracy of materials provided to the Certification Board
- Successful recommendation from Assessment Panel following an interview
- Successful approval from the CEnvP Board
EIANZ Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct

• Compliance with this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is central to sound environmental practice and the credibility of the profession, and is required for persons who are members of the EIANZ and also for Certified Environmental Practitioners.

http://www.eianz.org/aboutus/eianz-code-of-ethics
Certification renewal

• There are three compulsory components of continued certification:
  
  1. **Continued Professional Development**: Certified practitioners must complete 100 points of CPD every two years.
  
  2. **EIANZ Code of Ethics**: Certified practitioners must be in compliance with the Code.
  
  3. **Renewal Fees**: Practitioners must be up-to-date with their renewal fees.
Benefits of certification

- For the Environmental practitioner, CEnvP certification can:
  - Provide formal recognition of one’s competence to perform environmental work throughout Australia and New Zealand
  - Facilitate easier access to interesting and challenging career opportunities
  - Encourage ongoing upgrading of skills
  - Provide career opportunities which may lead to promotions and higher wages
  - Provide easier access to professional indemnity insurance
  - Provide credibility and accountability in the profession
Benefits - Employers

- For Employers, CEnvP certification can:
  - Provide an easier means of evaluating the competence of an employee or prospective employee.
  - Decrease costs associated with the employee selection process.
  - Provide greater assurance that competent employees are hired.
  - Demonstrate a commitment to responsible environmental management.
  - Improve access to capital and insurance.
  - Reduce incidents that result in environmental liability.
  - Assist in providing a due diligence defense.
Benefits - Environment Industry

• For the Environment Industry, CEnvP certification can:
  • Assist in improving the image of the industry.
  • Increase public awareness of and trust in the environmental profession.
  • Assist in ensuring that Australia and New Zealand maintains a competent environmental workforce.
  • Assist in the harmonisation of State and national standards
  • Assist in promoting the export of professional practice in the environmental sector
More information

www.cenvp.org

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