



# The National Biodiversity Offsets Conference

## Statement from the 2019 EIANZ National Biodiversity Offsets Conference held in Canberra

Biodiversity offsetting has evolved considerably over time, and will continue to do so. Conference delegates strongly support the continual improvement of biodiversity offsetting policy and practice by addressing the following seven matters:

- Proponents of all development proposals likely to have impacts on biodiversity should continue to demonstrate that every effort has been made to both avoid and minimise environmental impacts
- Offsets exist to maintain or improve the conservation, protection and ecological health of the affected biodiversity. Implementation models and mechanisms must never deprioritise or compromise this.
- Offsets should apply to all sectors where residual environmental impacts on biodiversity occur
- Strategic biodiversity offsets are preferred over *ad hoc* offsetting as they are more likely to deliver better biodiversity outcomes;
- All stakeholders, including financial institutions and landowners, need to be better informed about the costs, benefits and obligations of developing and maintaining biodiversity offsets throughout their lifecycle;
- A nationally consistent and agreed set of principles that guide biodiversity offsetting, including those for monitoring and measuring effectiveness, is required
- Public accessibility, transparency and accountability of offsetting processes must be lifted to a higher standard.