



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand

IMPACT ASSESSMENT ONLINE WORKSHOP

MORE EFFECTIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR STRONGER ARGUMENT AND CLEARER WRITING

In the large documents involved in Impact Assessment (IA) (or Assessment of Environmental Effects in New Zealand), there is often much useful data, and the final conclusions are often sensible. However, it can be difficult for readers to see how the data actually leads to the conclusions or supports the recommendations offered.

This workshop shares two sets of tools collectively called 'Organised Reasoning'. The first provide a structured sequence of steps to help organize your thinking and your argument. ('Argument' in this context means 'a series of reasons leading to a conclusion, targeted for a specific audience'). The second show how to better present arguments in the written text of your documents. Assessments are complex documents. Using the tools of argument can make them easier for audiences to understand—and easier for authors to write!

Organised reasoning provides a way to make assessments faster, cheaper, more transparent and more effective while reducing risk. Those are particularly important benefits as governments look for ways to 'fast-track' development approvals as part of COVID-19 recovery.

The workshop will be held as four 3-hour online sessions. They are not webinars, but include a variety of presentations, interactive discussions, small group break out activities and breaks to ensure you remain fresh and attentive! Participation is limited to 16 participants per workshop to enhance interaction.

The workshop shows how IA documents contain common errors in their arguments and weaknesses in their writing. Participants will assemble evidence and reasoning for several different kinds of argument found in IAs. We practice steps, and introduce computer-based tools, that show how to bring improved arguments into technical report writing. We discuss how different organizations have already implemented these steps in their IA practice. Participants learn a revised approach to planning, preparing and writing that they can use immediately to write stronger cases in their IAs. You'll receive a handout documenting the main ideas, and access to an online refresher three months after the workshop.

WORKSHOP LEADER Dr Glenn Brown has over 25 years of experience as an ecologist and educator specializing in environmental management. He has worked on environmental projects for industry, government and non-governmental organizations in Canada and other countries. He teaches courses on Ecosystem Science and Management and on Analytical Thinking and Communications in the Master's program in Environment and Management at Royal Roads University in British Columbia and works as an independent consultant.

He has delivered courses on 'Organised Reasoning' at International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) conferences in Florence, Durban and Brisbane. He also provided the course through the IAIA affiliate in Western Canada, EIANZ in Australia and New Zealand, and in Iceland and China.

More information about Glenn is at www.glennbrown.ca

WORKSHOP DATES We set the times for convenience in different time zones, but anyone is welcome to register for any workshop.

WORKSHOP 1

Session Dates	Tues 9 June, Thurs 11 June, Tues 16 June & Thurs 18 June
Times	9:00am to 12:00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

WORKSHOP 2

Session Dates	Wed 17 June, Fri 19 June, Wed 24 June & Fri 26 June
Times	9:00am to 12:00pm Australian Western Standard Time

WORKSHOP 3

Session Dates	Tues 23 June, Thurs 25 June, Tues 30 June & Thurs 2 July
Times	9:00am to 12:00pm New Zealand Standard Time

COST

\$295	EIANZ, IAIA and NZAIA members:
\$395	Non-members

** Note Workshop 1 and 2 will be charged in AUD and Workshop 3 will be charged in NZD



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FEEDBACK FROM 2019 WORKSHOPS

During 2019, EIANZ ran these workshops in 11 cities across Australia and New Zealand, receiving very positive feedback. (That's why we're running them again!) Comments included:

- *Invaluable for any professional who has to present information to a variety of audiences.*
- *Being a professional is about thinking and communicating. This workshop helped me sharpen these essential tools in a way that I had not anticipated. This should be mandatory personal development for EIANZ members.*
- *Very useful and thought provoking. It makes so much sense now it has been explained. Can't believe it is not more common in Assessments of Environmental Effects.*
- *Highly recommend this approach to all environmental practitioners. I've felt that I now have a new way at presenting environmental information that will assist our business & the wider public.*

ADVANCED WORKSHOPS

Dates in July will be announced shortly for advanced workshops. These will be aimed at 'alumni' from the 2019 workshops and interested participants of these workshops.