



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

Proposed Amendments to the EIANZ Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

EIANZ is committed to recognising indigenous values and practices in its Code of Ethics.

The following proposed changes to the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct and EIANZ website have been endorsed by the EIANZ Board. These were agreed by the Institute's Indigenous Engagement Working Group (IEWG) in March 2020. They were then reviewed by the Advisory Council, EIANZ's Ethics Committee and Prof Helen Ross (Editor, Australasian Journal of Environmental Management), as well as by Ghangulu elder and former Human Rights Commissioner Mick Gooda. The IEWG includes Korako Edwards, recipient of the 2017 Ngāi Tahu Beca scholarship, who advises on the Māori perspective.

The EIANZ Board supports these proposed amendments agreeing that they correct a long standing omission from the Code of Ethics and signals the recognition by the EIANZ of the standing of Indigenous peoples in the processes of environmental decision making and stewardship of the environment.

We are seeking comments and feedback from EIANZ members on these proposed changes. A special resolution on proposed amendments will be considered by members at this year's EIANZ Annual General Meeting on 10 November 2020. Can you please email your comments or feedback to office@eianz.org before the AGM.

PROPOSED CHANGES

A: Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

1. Add words (in red below) under

PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- a) Advocate the integrity of the natural environment and the health, safety, *values* and welfare of ~~the~~ human *community 'communities'* and future generations as being central to environmental practice
- b) Advocate the protection of environmental values and the mitigation of environmental harm, based on *objective* scientific *evidence* and technical *knowledge expertise, taking into account traditional knowledge and acknowledging Indigenous management*

- c) Advocate and undertake environmental practice in accordance with principles of environmental stewardship, resilience and sustainability, with a view to achieving no net loss of environmental values and preferably a net gain, and to an appropriate standard

2. Add words (in red below) under

PRACTICE COMPETENTLY

- a) Provide services at an appropriate standard as required to achieve or foster optimal environmental outcomes
- b) Only practice and offer services in functional areas and specialisations in which one is appropriately qualified, experienced and competent
- c) Comply with all applicable governing laws and statutory requirements, and actively discourage non-compliance by others
- d) Promote the involvement of **all Indigenous people**, stakeholders and the community in decisions and processes that may impact on environmental values
- e) Respect the contribution of other professionals and collaborate in multi-disciplinary approaches
- f) Be diligent in practice, providing accurate, up-to-date, objective, impartial and unbiased advice
- g) Acknowledge data and information sourced from others, and be accountable for data collected, analyses performed, and conclusions drawn or plans developed as part of an assignment
- h) Be prepared to explain work and conclusions drawn, and provide the evidence on which the work is based
- i) Continuously update and develop skills through relevant professional development as a basis for competent practice.

B: Preamble and website

- 3. Amendments to the opening paragraphs to the Code (on the EIANZ web page) to include, as a 3rd paragraph: *"We acknowledge and value the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples* in the protection and management of environmental values through their involvement in decisions and processes, and the application of traditional Indigenous knowledge."*

with an asterisked footnote to explain that ** the term 'Indigenous Peoples' includes First Nations, First Peoples, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and tangata whenua (Māori), all of whom have maintained country and place in an holistic manner over multiple generations.*

- 4. The EIANZ website 'About Us' page should include a statement clarifying that *the term 'environment' includes human societies and cultures*; and the statement *"EIANZ acknowledges and values the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples in the protection and management of environmental values through their involvement in decisions and processes, and the application of traditional Indigenous knowledge."*