



# EIANZ SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROFESSION

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

26 - 28 October 2022 | Townsville, QLD

### PRESENTATION | HOW CAN LAND USE PLANNING BEST CONTRIBUTE TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS?

#### ABSTRACT

Planning legislation across Australia contains holistic land use planning objectives that contemplate change of our urban fabric and seek (amongst other things) to provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use of land. Land use planning therefore seeks to assess projects against State, regional and local strategic plans, goals and objectives. By contrast, Land Use Impact Assessments (LUIAs) within environmental impact assessment processes typically focus on land use change and conflict.

This study investigates the relevance of LUIAs (in conjunction with or to planning provisions) when the whole purpose of land use legislation is to contemplate and assess land use change. The overarching objective of this study is to provide guidance to impact assessors on how to best integrate land use planning with environmental impact assessment process. It seeks to understand whether Australian planning legislation is adequately considered as part of the impact assessment process and whether the approach to LUIAs could be modified to enhance value to the environmental impact assessment process. It is informed by a review of State legislation and EIS guidance, as well as characterising current practice for land use assessment and LUIAs within environmental impact assessments.

The findings of the study provide an understanding of the current role that LUIAs play in environmental impact assessment process, confirm the extent to which LUIAs and impact assessments more broadly meet the requirements of land use legislation and provide insight into the process to determine if there is a better way to include land use which would support planning policy. The assessment provides a qualitative assessment of actual perceived shortfalls of the current environmental impact assessment process for land use and planning. Finally, the study will make recommendations on how environmental impact assessment process could change.

#### SPEAKERS | KAITY MUNRO & JARRED WINIK



Kaity is a principal environmental planner with more than nine years of experience across the development spectrum. She has a strong understanding of urban and environmental issues and a demonstrated ability to manage the delivery of project approvals for major, complex infrastructure. Kaity received a bachelor's degree in political science and sustainable development in 2009 and a Master of Urban Planning in 2012 from the University of Melbourne. Her knowledge of land use planning and planning legislation across Australia has enabled her to facilitate the development of projects across a range of sectors including energy, resource mining and transport infrastructure. Jarred is an environmental planner, with experience including town planning, sales and project management. He has over seven years' experience in planning and infrastructure projects.



Jarred received an honours in Urban and Regional Planning in 2010 from the University of the Witwatersrand and started his career in Johannesburg. Jarred has worked on telecommunications, energy and mining infrastructure across the country. More recently Jarred has been engaged on environmental impact approvals within Victoria. Kaity and Jarred's knowledge of planning, combined with their experience in environmental impact assessments has led them to question whether land use planning can be better integrated into the environmental impact assessment process.



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