

EIANZ 2023 IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYMPOSIUM



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand

EPBC REFORMS: HOW CAN IMPACT ASSESSMENT DELIVER NATURE POSITIVE OUTCOMES?

MONDAY 26 JUNE - TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023 | HOTEL REALM, CANBERRA

'When we reform our environmental laws, we will take them from being nature negative, where we oversee an overall decline in our environment, to nature positive, where we protect our land and leave it in a better state than we found it'.

Tanya Plibersek MP, Australian Minister for the Environment and Water

In October 2020, Professor Graeme Samuel AC submitted his **independent review** into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). His review concluded the EPBC Act is outdated, ineffective, and requires fundamental reform.

In December 2022, the Australian Government released its response in a **Nature Positive Plan**, committing to a series of reforms guided by three principles:

- delivering better environmental protection and laws that are nature positive
- speeding up decisions and making it easier for companies to do the right thing
- restoring integrity and trust to systems and environmental laws.

This two day symposium, presented by the EIANZ Impact Assessment Special Interest Section, will explore what is needed in the way of reforms to implement nature positive impact assessment. Registrations for the event are now open and we are calling for abstracts from EIANZ members and external stakeholders who are involved in impact assessment.

Call for abstracts | Symposium sub-themes and concurrent sessions

Abstracts for Day 1 are invited on the following sub-themes:

- Can the proposed national standards deliver nature positive outcomes? If not, what other changes are needed to the impact assessment regime?
- How will 'nature positive' be assessed as part a project assessment? How would we measure this? Is strategic environmental assessment the only way to deliver this?
- How can human wellbeing and social dimensions be incorporated into nature positive impact assessment?
- Can the impact assessment process be made more efficient without compromising outcomes?
- How do we increase the integrity and trust in the Australian Government's impact assessment system?

While the focus is on the EPBC reforms, we also welcome abstracts that present state/territory perspectives on 'nature positive' impact assessment.

Day 2 of the symposium will have three concurrent sessions. Abstracts are also invited on the following topics:

Social impact assessment

The SIA session in Day 2 will explore how SIA is being utilised as an approach to enhance community resilience and adaptive capacity and deliver more effective and beneficial social outcomes for communities. Abstracts are invited to address some of the following key questions:

- How does SIA practice differ across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, and has the development of SIA guidance resulted in better practice on the ground?
- How effectively is SIA being applied in planning for the renewable energy transition? What are the key challenges and opportunities?

- What are the prospects for community-led SIA and community based monitoring of social impacts?
- Participatory SIA – fact or fiction?

Where are we going with strategic assessments and bioregional plans – is it a choice or do we need both?

The Australian Government's response to the EPBC review has sparked a flurry of interest and activity about bioregional planning, with standard setting and pilot plans underway. Simultaneously, a number of statutory strategic assessments are being undertaken under both Part 10 of the EPBC Act and state-based legislation.

Abstracts are invited on the current state of play – who's doing what and why? – evaluating the effectiveness and utility of both planning and assessment pathways. The session aims to explore the question of whether we need to pick one pathway, or whether there is a place for both.

Presenting impact assessments

A key part of impact assessment is communicating the findings to the public, stakeholders and regulators in a way that is concise, understandable, credible and objective. Abstracts are invited on good practice methodologies, case studies and lessons learnt in presenting impact assessments, including:

- Case studies in using some or all of Dr Glenn Brown's organised reasoning tools in impact assessment
- The use of digital tools in presenting impact assessment
- Adaptive communication – using different communication methods for different audiences
- Any other tools or methods for more effectively and efficiently presenting impact assessment reports.

Abstracts must be no more than 300 words and be accompanied by a presenter biography of no more than 200 words. The closing date for abstract submissions is Friday 5 May 2023.

Submit an abstract [here](#).

We plan to notify presenters by Friday 19 May 2023 whether their abstract has been accepted.

REGISTRATION FEES

EIANZ/NZAIA/IAIA members	\$650
EIANZ student members	\$100
Non-members	\$975

DATES	Monday 26 June – Tuesday 27 June 2023
VENUE	Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit Canberra ACT, 2600
TIME	9.00am - 5.00pm both days
FUNCTION	Networking event from 5:30pm to 8:00pm Monday 26 June