



# EIANZ 2024 IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYMPOSIUM

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## ABSTRACT

### Opportunities and challenges of strategic environmental impact assessments: The Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct case study

Strategic environmental impact assessments involving landscape-scale assessments of development programs are generally a more effective way to consider cumulative impacts and therefore improve outcomes for the environment compared with project-based assessments. Such assessments can better consider the relationships between the environment, society and economy, particularly if the values and constraints of the region are well understood and have been accounted for in mature regional land-use plans. Assessment practitioners are often required to work in conditions of high uncertainty and where integration of the built and natural environments is under constant tension. Here, we will use the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct in the Northern Territory as a case study to discuss the opportunities and challenges of assessing a large, multi-industry precinct within Darwin Harbour. We will also explore potential solutions that regulators and proponents could consider in overcoming those challenges in the transition to a cleaner economy. Check out the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority's website to find the latest information on the strategic assessment of the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.

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Presentation materials  
[| accessible here](#)

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

#### Roderick Johnson

Rod Johnson has been working as an environmental practitioner for 27 years commencing with consulting and research roles in the marine and estuarine environment in Queensland and transitioning to environmental assessment in the Northern Territory where he has assessed a range of development proposals over the past 20 years. He is currently managing the strategic assessments team in the Environment Division of the Department of Environment Parks and Water Security, focusing on the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct strategic assessment.

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

#### Jyoti Maggu

Jyoti Maggu has been working as an environmental practitioner for 12 years in the Northern Territory. She commenced her career in consulting, dealing with a range of development proposals and associated environmental matters. Midway through her career, she moved to the Northern Territory Government, where she was involved in research and advisory roles related to groundwater management and mining proposals. Currently, she works with the Environment Division of the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, focusing on the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct strategic assessment.

#### Andrew Scott

Andrew Scott has over 19 years' experience in the NT Government having spent 17 years assessing and regulating environmental impacts from the NT's mining industry. For the past 18 months Andrew has been a Senior Assessment Officer with the inaugural Strategic Environmental Assessment Team within the Northern Territory Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, providing advice on the MASDP proposal to the NT EPA. In this role, Andrew has also worked on environmental assessments for the Ammaroo Ammonium Phosphate Fertilizer proposal and the proposed Phase 2 Expansion of the Arnhem Space Centre. Andrew is a born and bred Darwin local who enjoys camping and fishing in the NT's pristine environment.