

EIANZ 2025 IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYMPOSIUM

AERIAL FUNCTION CENTRE AT UTS, SYDNEY | 27 – 28 AUGUST 2025

DAY ONE | WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 2025

SESSION ONE	
8.45am - 9.00am	Welcome to Country and housekeeping
9.00am - 10.10am	Panel discussion Impact assessment - Do the outcomes justify the effort? The panel will be chaired by Jamie McMahon Dr Claire Gronow Dr Jane Munday Tim Kirby Dr Angus Morrison-Saunders
10.10am - 10.15am	EIANZ Board member address
10.15am - 10.45am	MORNING TEA
SESSION TWO	
	<div>ROOM ONE: IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITIES</div> <div>ROOM TWO: OUTCOMES-BASED APPROACHES</div>
10.45am - 11.00am	Emeritus Prof Will Rifkin Is addressing community wellbeing going to slow things down? Nathan Zeman and Laura Zafry Reflections on outcomes-based regulation in SA
11.00am - 11.15am	Amanda Lee Environmental Impact Statements (EIS): Lessons learnt from the end of the line and how to get the most out of the Human Health Impact Assessment (HHIA)
11.15am - 11.30am	Dr Rene Provis Does SIA work? An evaluation Geoff Ralphs & Tom Wiltshire Achieving more efficient, faster impact assessment in Victoria - focusing on what matters
11.30am - 11.45am	Fiona Gainsford A case for footy passing social issues to the technical specialists Emma Molloy Iterative Development of SMART Outcomes in Impact Assessment: Focusing Efforts on Required Inputs
11.45am - 12.15pm	Panel discussion and questions
12.15pm - 1.15pm	LUNCH
SESSION THREE	
	<div>ROOM ONE: IMPROVING POST APPROVAL OUTCOMES</div> <div>ROOM TWO: IMPROVING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</div>
1.15pm - 1.30pm	Richard Sharp Audits of IA outcomes Dr Claire Gronow The life and times of an EIA reviewer
1.30pm - 1.45pm	Dominic Crinnion and Douglas Walther Explaining the "Why" of environmental impact regulation to a Construction Superintendent Matthew Walker Seeing the Whole Picture: Visualisation as a Bridge for Integrated Impact Assessment
1.45pm - 2.00pm	Katie Watt and Erin Pears How outcomes-based approaches have been used successfully for major projects in Victoria Emma Hancock People, Place, and Purpose: Reclaiming Impact Assessment in the Energy Transition
2.00pm - 2.15pm	Beth Salt Environmental assessment and compliance of infrastructure - streamlining for a coordinated approach Astrid Ruban The Cost of Ignoring Social Risk: Why Outcomes-Based IA Makes Business Sense
2.15pm - 2.45pm	Panel discussion and questions
2.45pm - 3.15pm	AFTERNOON TEA
SESSION FOUR	
	<div>ROOM ONE: PROJECT DELIVERY AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT</div> <div>ROOM TWO: SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT</div>
3.15pm - 3.30pm	Alex McDonald Aligning EIA and Project Delivery
3.30pm - 3.45pm	Jamie McMahon Proportionate EIA in Australia
3.45pm - 4.00pm	Rachel Vazey Juggling robust environmental impact assessment (EIA) with environmental management (EM) responsibilities during major project development Eddie Smyth
4.00pm - 4.15pm	Paul Greenhalgh Making the connections between policy, the community and stakeholders, strategic planning and project EIA in a way that delivers effective environmental outcomes. Max Hardy and Natasha Shaw
4.15pm - 4.45pm	Panel discussion and questions Panel discussion with Tanya Burdett and Tim Kirby Facilitator - Jane Munday
5.00pm - 7.00pm	NETWORKING EVENT

DAY TWO | THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 2025

SESSION ONE			
	ROOM ONE: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT	ROOM TWO: BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	ROOM THREE: ASSESSING AND MANAGING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO DELIVER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES: LEGAL AND CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT
8.45am - 9.00am	Dr Mary-Jean Sutton Moving Beyond Compliance to Connection - De-constructing barriers in Aboriginal consultation requirements in NSW and meaningful strategies for engagement	Prof Helene Marsh Is taxonomic inconsistency a barrier to the effectiveness of EIA processes?	Steve Bonnell, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Regional assessments under the Canadian Impact Assessment Act: Their role in assessing and managing cumulative effects
9.00am - 9.15am	Dr MacLaren North Cumulative impacts and heritage conservation - challenges and aims for improvement	Michelle Patrick Habitat loss across borders. Applying the principles of avoid, minimise and offset.	Dawn Hoogeveen and Danielle Wilson, Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects, Canada Indigenous-led cumulative effects assessment in Canada
9.15am - 9.30am	Heritage panel Cultural Heritage Updates & Answers Updates on directions in cultural heritage impact assessment & your questions answered	Sean Sweeney Navigating from data collection to impact assessments for offshore wind for key receptors, specifically seabirds, in the Gippsland region	Questions for Steve Bonnell and Dawn Hoogeveen
9.30am - 9.45am	Facilitated by Vanessa Hardy Dr MacLaren North Dr Mary-Jean Sutton Alan Williams	Assoc Prof Rodney van der Ree and Tahlia Townsend Technological solutions to reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions: A framework to better inform impact assessments	Rebecca Nelson, University of Melbourne The legal basis for cumulative impact assessment
9.45am - 10.15am	Panel discussion and questions		Debbie Medaris, Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists Death by a Thousand Cuts Followed by questions and discussion
10.15am - 10.45am	MORNING TEA		
SESSION TWO			
	ROOM ONE: WORKSHOP	ROOM TWO: INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT	ROOM THREE: ASSESSING AND MANAGING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO DELIVER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES: THE PRACTICE OF CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
10.45am - 11.00am	Dr Garry Middle The Impact Assessment Special Interest Section has established a working group to develop training courses in EIA. The group has developed a broad framework for an introductory course. This session will update members on the framework and provide participants the opportunity to further develop the details of the course.	Tim Kirby Better use of experts in integrated assessments	Helen O'Neill Cumulative impact assessment in guidance-free environments
11.00am - 11.15am		Brooke Marshall Working within the Biodiversity Conservation Act to incentivise impact area reductions, post approval	Mitchell Ross & Heidi Birkby Cumulative impacts: Everyone's problem, no one's priority
11.15am - 11.30am		Michael Luger Has the Rapid Assessment Framework Reduced the Value and Purpose of a Scoping Report for Major Projects?	Chris Gentle & Piers Higgs Shared Environmental Analytics Facility - data curation and analytics for cumulative impact assessment
11.30am - 11.45am		Evelyn Gomez Juarez Delivering on Impact: A Case Study in ESIA Follow-Up for the First Sustainable Aviation Fuel Facility in Australia	Rio Tinto Ore Implementing a regional approach to understand cumulative impacts and deliver a strategic approval
11.45am - 12.15pm		Panel discussion and questions	
12.15pm - 1.15pm	LUNCH		
SESSION THREE			
	ROOM ONE: IMPROVING IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESSES	ROOM TWO: CHALLENGES IN IMPACT ASSESSMENT	ROOM THREE: ASSESSING AND MANAGING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO DELIVER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES
1.15pm - 1.30pm	Thea Kane Driving improved Impact Assessment outcomes through cross-stakeholder collaboration: Lessons from complex energy projects	Louisa Rebec Rethinking Impact Assessment for Australia's Renewable Energy Transition	Panel session chaired by Dr Ailsa Kerswell, Strategic Environmental Assessment Community of Practice Assessing and managing cumulative impacts to deliver environmental and social outcomes
1.30pm - 1.45pm	Helen D'Arcy Four Simple Questions	Andrew Martin Enhancing Air Quality Impact Assessment: Overcoming Barriers to Better Outcomes	
1.45pm - 2.00pm	Donald McCallum Assessing Roosting Habitat Suitability for Ghost Bat (Macroderma gigas) Using Spatial Analysis and Field Verification	Kate Sinclair An outcome-led approach to managing environmental risks such as climate change as part of the design and impact assessment process	Mel Cowlshaw Carolyn Cameron Peter Hemphill Jenny Pope Ceidwen Baxter Rebecca Nelson
2.00pm - 2.15pm	Dr Garry Middle Achieving better environmental outcomes through the land use planning system	Andrew Mack Offsets and Approvals – 99 Problems	
2.15pm - 2.45pm	Panel discussion and questions		
2.45pm - 3.15pm	AFTERNOON BREAK		
SESSION FOUR			
3.15pm - 4.00pm	CLOSING PANEL AND WORKSHOP Key takeaways from the symposium. Facilitated by Dr Garry Middle		

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