



# EIANZ 2025 IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYMPOSIUM

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## ABSTRACT

### Seeing the Whole Picture: Visualisation as a Bridge for Integrated Impact Assessment

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are critical in understanding and managing the potential effects of development projects on the environment. However, the technical complexity and volume of data involved can pose significant challenges for effective communication with stakeholders and communities. This presentation explores the role of advanced 3D visualisation techniques in enhancing the EIA process by transforming complex environmental data into clear, accessible, and engaging visual formats. By leveraging immersive and interactive models, 3D visualisation facilitates better understanding among diverse audiences, fostering more informed dialogue, meaningful community engagement, and transparent decision-making. Case studies will illustrate how these visual tools help bridge the gap between technical experts and the public, ultimately supporting more effective and inclusive impact assessments that contribute to better environmental and social outcomes.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Matthew Walker is a Principal Visualisation Consultant at Umwelt Environmental & Social Consultants, with over 20 years of experience at the forefront of 3D and emerging visual technologies. He has delivered visualisation solutions across a wide range of sectors including planning, infrastructure, resources, and environmental assessment, specialising in the development of engaging, data-driven visual tools for stakeholder and community engagement. Matthew has contributed to hundreds of projects, providing strategic and technical leadership in the creation of videos, interactive 3D models, spatial hubs, and immersive XR experiences. He excels in translating complex technical information into accessible and impactful visual media that enhances understanding and supports more inclusive and transparent decision-making processes. With deep experience collaborating across multi-disciplinary teams, Matthew brings a unique ability to bridge the gap between technical experts and the public. He is a confident communicator and has presented nationally and internationally on topics ranging from geospatial technologies to immersive media in planning and engagement contexts. At the EIANZ Impact Assessment Symposium, Matthew brings a visual practitioner's lens to the conversation on effectiveness—demonstrating how compelling, purpose-built visualisation can improve the way we assess, communicate, and act on environmental impacts.