

4 December 2025

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for the Environment and Water
By email: senator.watt@aph.gov.au



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

Re: Practitioner Certification to Support EPBC Act Implementation – Meeting Request

Dear Senator Watt

We write on behalf of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), the peak body representing environmental professionals across all jurisdictions and sectors. EIANZ is supported by the Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme as the recognised benchmark for professional competence and ethics. Our members are the practitioners who help proponents avoid or minimise environmental impacts and fulfil their legislative obligations.

On behalf of the profession, we congratulate the Government on achieving this significant milestone in reforming the EPBC Act following two major reviews, several legislative attempts and extensive stakeholder engagement. We are pleased that many elements of the reform package align with our submissions to the Hawke and Samuel Reviews and to recent DCCEEW consultations.

With the passage of the EPBC Act reform package, Australia now enters the critical phase of translating legislative intent into delivery at both Commonwealth and State levels, through regional planning initiatives and impact assessment processes to which our members are actively contributing. The reforms' goals of improving environmental outcomes, strengthening National Environmental Standards, establishing an EPA and Environmental Information Agency, and building a more robust assurance system while streamlining decision-making will rely heavily on the capability and accountability of the environmental profession. Environmental assessment is complex, and all parties including regulators, proponents, the media and the community must be able to rely on information and advice from competent, ethical professionals.

In this context, we envisage that the next phase of implementation would be strengthened by further Government recognition of professional certification, and we seek a meeting with you and senior Departmental officers to outline the [Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme](#).

Certification offers a proven pathway endorsed by the Heads of the EPAs (HEPA). New South Wales has already mandated the use of certified practitioners through the REAP framework for impact assessment, and multiple states have mandated certification for site contamination approvals. These decisions reflect a clear policy trend: independent certification reduces regulatory burden, supports fast-track approvals, improves the consistency and quality of professional advice, lifts assurance, supports NEPA-aligned compliance expectations and builds higher confidence in statutory declarations and assessments.

The CEnvP Scheme delivers an ISO-compliant, nationally consistent five-stage vetting process, including competency review, experience verification, referee checks, a professional interview

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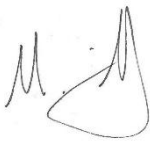
and binding ethical requirements. It also enforces strict compliance with an industry Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. This framework provides regulators with confidence that certified practitioners meet transparent, independently tested professional standards.

At the recent Queensland Labor Conference, a senior EIANZ member spoke with Ms Danielle Stankey, who encouraged direct engagement with your office. We would welcome a short meeting with you and relevant advisers before Christmas to outline how practitioner certification can support the next phase of EPBC implementation and help accelerate high-quality assessments while safeguarding environmental outcomes.

Your office also has an invitation from EIANZ to provide the keynote address at the National Biodiversity Offsets Conference, and an offer to stage a Regional Planning Roundtable to support DCCEEW and ministerial staff.

We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to assist.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mark Breitfuss FEIANZ CEnvP-IA
Secretary, EIANZ



Jonathon Miller
Chief Executive Officer, EIANZ

