



EIANZ 2026 Annual Conference | *Technology, Trust and Legislative Reform: Navigating the new environmental frontier.*

The conference will discuss the following sub-themes below:

- **Legislative Reform in Action:** Navigating the implications of recent Australian Federal EPBC Act reforms, net gain requirements, the establishment of the National Environmental Protection Agency, and new National Environmental Standards on impact assessments. Implications of New Zealand's proposed environmental reforms such as the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill.
- **Technology and AI in Environmental Practice:** Leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI), remote sensing, predictive modeling, digital twin and other technology to streamline ecological surveys, monitoring, and reporting.
- **Navigating the Boom in Renewable Energy and Data Infrastructure:** Assessing the cumulative environmental impacts of grid expansion, renewable energy projects, and energy-intensive data centers. Strategies for balancing rapid infrastructure deployment with strict net gain mandates, grid capacity constraints, and water/thermal management in a changing climate.
- **Building and Rebuilding Stakeholder and Community Trust:** Strategies for navigating community concerns, balancing scientific uncertainty against public perception, improving corporate transparency and regulatory accountability. The role of government is in this process.
- **First Nations Partnerships and Leadership:** Honoring Traditional Owner knowledge alongside western scientific approaches and establishing genuine frameworks for Indigenous-led environmental management under the new legislative landscape.

- **Restoration, Net Gain and Regional Planning:** Going beyond standard mitigation hierarchies to achieve net-positive ecological and social outcomes, biodiversity restoration for offsets, and regional planning for improved environmental outcomes at the landscape scale.
- **Ethics, governance and professional accountability:** Managing the ethical risks, accuracy, and governance of adopting new automated tools in environmental decision-making.
- **Modern Pollution Management:** Application of regulatory frameworks for managing legacy pollution, emerging contaminants (such as PFAS and microplastics), and other emissions. Use of advanced monitoring technologies, modern remediation techniques, and the integration of circular economy principles, etc.