

EIANZ 2026 IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYMPOSIUM

Canberra, ACT | 3-4 September 2026

DAY ONE | THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

8:40am – 8:55am	Welcome to Country with Bradley Bell Welcome to conference
9:00am - 10:15am	Plenary session – Expert Panel
10:15am - 10:45am	MORNING TEA BREAK
10:45am - 11:30am	EPBC Act Reform National EPA and DCCEEW
11:30am – 12:15pm	Panel Session Reflections on the future
12:15pm - 1:15pm	LUNCH

	STREAM ONE Using the mitigation hierarchy to go beyond compliance	STREAM TWO Using the reforms to drive innovation and quality
1:15pm - 1:30pm	Stephanie Munns, GHD From Early Engagement to Early Mitigation: Embedding Community Outcomes at the Top of the Mitigation Hierarchy	Patrick Maiden - Cultural Ecology: Best practice Co-Producing Environmental Knowledge with Traditional Owners
1:30pm - 1:45pm	Gavin Thomas - Birds, bats and data: Informing project design with robust BBUS assessments	Penn Lloyd - Assessing the impacts of emergency dredging works on migratory shorebirds in the Moreton Bay Ramsar site
1:45pm - 2:00pm	Andrew Roy - Beyond Offsets: Strategic Biodiversity Assessment for Nature Positive Outcomes	Zoe Jellie - Integrated Ecohydrology: Linking Hydrological Change to Ecological Response
2:00pm - 2:15pm	Brooke Marshall - Embedding mitigation thinking early in project planning and design - managing impacts under the solar array	Rose Campbell - Rethinking What Matters: Materiality-Led Social Impact Assessment for Victorian BESS Projects
2:15pm - 2:45pm	Panel discussion and questions	Panel discussion and questions

2:45pm - 3:15pm	AFTERNOON TEA BREAK
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	STREAM ONE Using the mitigation hierarchy to go beyond compliance	STREAM TWO Making effective use of regional planning
3:15pm - 3:30pm	Elisabeth Stark – Better study design means better evidence	Bryan Jenkins - Fit for Future Assessment
3:30pm - 3:45pm	Jeremy Visser - Bribie Island Emergency Works: A Case Study in Adaptive Management for a National Interest Project	Will Rifkin - Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management for Mine Closure: Inching toward practicality
3:45pm - 4:00pm	Goslik Schepers - ENVOMARK Credits in an Offset Hierarchy	Marianne Rajkumar - Integrating EPBC Reforms with ACT Planning Frameworks to Strengthen Environmental Impact Assessment and Support Bioregional Planning
4:00pm - 4:15pm	Richard Sharp - Environmental Representatives and Independent Auditors	Panel discussion and questions
4:15pm - 4:45pm	Panel discussion and questions	Facilitated discussion - How suitable is bioregional planning as an SEA tool?

NETWORKING EVENT

DAY TWO | FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

	STREAM ONE Achieving efficient, high-quality assessments and approvals	STREAM TWO Using the reforms to drive innovation and quality
8:45am - 9:00am	Kirsty McPherson - (Exemplar database of modified habitat quality assessment (MHQA) methodologies)	Workshop – what are the roles of guidelines and guidance in good practice? The standard response to poor quality and poor practice in IA is “more guidance”. But how useful is guidance? What sort of guidance are practitioners using and where are the gaps?
9:00am - 9:15am	Elise Rutherford - Birds, Bats and Bilaterals: Delivering Efficient Renewable Energy Approvals Under Environmental Reform	
9:15am - 9:29am	Sally O’Neill - From Field to Decision: Streamlining Ecological Impact Assessment with the Ecological Monitoring System Australia	
9:30am - 9:45am	Jessica Harvey - Detection and Identification of Wetlands Birds using Ultrahigh-Resolution Digital Aerial Video Footage	This session will explore the role of guidelines in good practice IA, through discussion and an audience survey.
9:45am - 10:15am	Panel discussion and questions	
		Facilitators: Claire Gronow/Tanya Burdett

10:15am - 10:45am	MORNING TEA BREAK
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	STREAM ONE Achieving efficient, high-quality assessments and approvals	STREAM TWO Using the reforms to drive innovation and quality
10:45am - 11:00am	Tim Kirby - The NSW Assessment Bilateral Agreement	Chris Fay - From Prediction to Stewardship: Reimagining Environmental Assessment for a Finite Planet
11:00am - 11:15am	Anne Mithieux - Experts roles in planning decisions Applying the Use of Experts Model to Social Impact Assessment and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Geoff Ralphs - Moving beyond the shopping list- Risk-based scoping for more focused, proportionate and effective impact assessment in Victoria.
11:15am - 11:30am	Jamie McMahon - Why Is this in the EIS? Using EIA methodology to focus assessment effort where it matters	Daniel Banfai - Evolving EESs Lessons learned from applying risk-based and targeted approaches to preparing Environment Effects Statements
11:30am - 11:45am	Joshua Dellios - Front-loaded and federally assessed: renewables under the streamlined assessment pathway	Garry Middle - How the Courts are interpreting the precautionary principle and application to EIA?
11:45am - 12:15pm	Panel discussion and questions	Panel discussion and questions

12:15pm - 1:15pm	LUNCH
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1:15pm – 2:45pm	The Bugbear Workshop It’s always wonderful to get together with fellow IA practitioners. The conversations are always great, but have you noticed that the same things keep coming up – the same “bugbears”? This workshop will give us a chance to move forward. We will examine some of the recurring issues that we see in IA through focus group discussions, with a focus on what needs to change in the future. Facilitators: Jamie McMahon and Claire Gronow
2:45pm-3:00pm	Final reflection: What are the takeaways that you will take forward for your practice? What messages do you have for the IAIA27 conference organising committee?

3:00pm - 3:10pm	CLOSING COMMENTS
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