



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

EIANZ 2026 IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYMPOSIUM

Canberra, ACT | 3-4 September 2026

DAY ONE | THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome to Country with Bradley Bell Welcome and Housekeeping Jamie McMahon, Chair of the Impact Assessment symposium technical committee
9:15am - 10:15am	OPENING PANEL Seizing the opportunity: Delivering better outcomes from regulatory reforms Facilitated by Fiona Gainsford, Gainsford Environmental Consulting Steve Brown, Minerals Council of Australia Karina Carwardine, Umwelt social and environmental consultants Nathan Zeman, Dept for Mining and Energy SA Geraldine Squires, IA SIS Chair
10:15am - 10:45am	MORNING TEA
10:45am – 12:10pm	LEGAL PANEL Examining the EPBC Act Reforms and the role of the National EPA in EIA Facilitated by Mark Beaufoy, Mallesons Nick Thomas, Clayton Utz Professor Justine Bell-James, UQ Joshua Dellios, MinterEllison Brendan Sydes, Australian Conservation Foundation
12:10pm - 12:15pm	PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS Fiona Gainsford, EIANZ President
12:15pm - 1:15pm	LUNCH

	ROOM ONE Using the mitigation hierarchy to go beyond compliance Facilitated by Chris Fay ERM	ROOM TWO Using the reforms to drive innovation and quality Facilitated by David Carberry Carberry Environmental Consulting
1:15pm - 1:30pm	Stephanie Munns From Early Engagement to Early Mitigation: Embedding Community Outcomes at the Top of the Mitigation Hierarchy	Patrick Maiden and Sam Picker 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	David May and Natalie Clark Beyond Offsets: Strategic Biodiversity Assessment for Nature Positive Outcomes	Heath Morgan EIA of water values: conceptual models as the foundation
2:00pm - 2:15pm	Brooke Marshall and Nicola Smith 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
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	ROOM ONE Using the mitigation hierarchy to go beyond compliance Facilitated by Rebecca Sutherland Umwelt Social and Environmental Consultants	ROOM TWO Making effective use of regional planning Facilitated by Warren McGrath Beca
3:15pm - 3:30pm	Elizabeth 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 Rhea 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 and audience interactive discussion How can the regional planning approach achieve better environmental outcomes?
4:15pm - 4:45pm	Panel discussion and questions	

5:00pm - 7:00pm	NETWORKING EVENT High Courtyard at Hotel Realm
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DAY TWO | FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

	ROOM ONE Achieving efficient, high-quality assessments and approvals Facilitated by Elizabeth Stark Symbolix	ROOM TWO Using the reforms to drive innovation and quality Facilitated by Claire Gronow and Tanya Burdett
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	This session will explore the role of guidelines in good practice IA, through discussion and an audience survey.
9:30am - 9:45am	Jessica Harvey Detection and Identification of Wetlands Birds using Ultrahigh-Resolution Digital Aerial Video Footage	
9:45am - 10:15am	Panel discussion and questions	

10:15am - 10:45am	MORNING TEA
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	ROOM ONE Achieving efficient, high-quality assessments and approvals Facilitated by Melody Valentine Beca	ROOM TWO Using the reforms to drive innovation and quality Facilitated by Mandy Elliot EnviroME
10:45am - 11:00am	Tim kirby and Maylynn Nunn The NSW Assessment Bilateral Agreement	Chris Fay From Prediction to Stewardship: Reimagining Environmental Assessment for a Finite Planet
11:00am - 11:15am	Anne Mithieux, Tim Kirby and Maryam Ebrahimpour 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
1:15pm – 2:45pm	WORKSHOP Breaking Bad (Habits) Facilitated by Jamie McMahon and Claire Gronow
2:45pm-3:00pm	Final reflections and closing comments

3:00pm - 3:30pm	CLOSING COMMENTS AND AFTERNOON TEA
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This is a preliminary program and speakers could be subject to change.