

First announcement and calls for abstracts and EOIs

Reimagining approvals – Strategic approaches to support impact assessment

Dates: February 15 & 16, 2018. **Location:** GHD offices, 180 Lonsdale St, Melbourne.

Introduction

You are invited to attend and submit an abstract for the fourth symposium for Australian impact assessment (IA) practitioners and researchers.

Worldwide, IA is the pre-eminent tool for assessing the sustainable development potential of new proposals. However, IA is mostly reactive rather than strategic. This symposium will explore ways to broaden strategic thinking in IA in Australia.

Strategic thinking in IA can include:

- Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) which seeks to provide input on the potential environmental and social impacts to decision-makers at the strategic level, which typically means it is applied to plans, policies and programmes
- Identification of strategic data and its collection
- Strategic use and timing of project IA
- Strategic policy making in support of project IA or arising from project IA
- Strategic application of the avoid–mitigation–offset hierarchy (e.g. strategic offset corridors)
- Strategic thinking in the formulation of an approval for a project IA (for example creative condition setting)
- Strategic engagement with the community and stakeholders.

There may be many other ways to think strategically within an IA, and avenues to apply strategic thinking and goals as part of IA.

The key question for this symposium is: “how can we deliver positive strategic outcomes from IA?”

Call for abstracts and expressions of interest

You are invited to submit an abstract that:

- describes case studies of how be more strategic in IA, or
- proposes new ways of thinking and doing IA that delivers positive strategic outcomes.

The symposium will also include a short session on the state of IA across Australia. You are invited to submit an expression of interest to provide a 1-2 page paper on the state of IA in your jurisdiction.

Abstracts for proposed papers (max 300 words) and EOIs for the State of IA in Australia by jurisdiction are invited by Friday COB December 15, to Dr Garry Middle, garrymiddle@vision-environment.com . See below for specific details.

Audience

Impact assessment professionals, planners, practitioners and academics, Commonwealth, State and local government agencies. New Zealand practitioners are also welcome to attend.

Cost, registration and payment

There will be a minimal daily charge (TBA) to cover the cost of coffee, tea and lunch. Students are welcome at a reduced cost. Registration and payment is through the EIANZ website.

Symposium format

The symposium is a two-day event as follows.

Day 1

Day one is aimed at impact assessment professionals, practitioners and academics, and Commonwealth, State and local government agencies and will explore the symposium theme. Each session will include short presentations allowing time for questions and discussion.

Day one will also include a short session dedicated to reporting on the State of IA in Australia by jurisdiction. This will be done through the tabling of written updates followed by a brief discussion of any issues that emerge.

The first day will conclude with a roundtable discussion on how IA practitioners and EIANZ can promote greater use of strategic approaches and achieve more strategic outcomes through IA.

Day 2

Day two is primarily aimed at IA academics and researchers, although professionals and practitioners are also invited. This day is dedicated to a discussion between IA academics about both IA research and teaching possibilities.

Expressions of interest are also invited from academics wishing to attend and contribute to this workshop. It is hoped that the first day will generate some key knowledge gaps, which we can then discuss. Other ideas for collaborative research are also welcome. This day will proceed only if there is sufficient interest.

Abstracts and expressions of interest form

Name _____ Email _____

Organisation _____ Phone _____

☐

I would like to submit an abstract for the day

Proposed title of paper _____

Please email all abstracts to garrymiddle@vision-environment.com by Friday.

☐

I would like to submit a written update of State of IA in Australia in my jurisdiction

Jurisdiction _____

☐

I am interested in attending the research and teaching day on.

I would like to submit the following idea for collaborative research -

Return completed form to: garrymiddle@vision-environment.com by COB Friday 15 December