EIA Practitioner Perspectives

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Tips and Tricks – Best Practice in Environment Effects Statements
EIANZ/ NELA/ PIA Seminar
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What makes a successful EES?

- On time and budget
- Ministerial authorisation to exhibit
- Smooth progression to Inquiry
- No methodology disagreements
- Timely approval with limited additional conditions
- Statutory requirements complied with
- Stakeholder engagement
- Technically sound EES
- No significant new issues
- No additional investigations
- Project compatible with ESD principles
Project Formulation Phase

Early commencement of EIA process

Determine EIA boundaries and approach to project formulation

Early consideration of environment and sustainability factors in project formulation

Systematic and transparent consideration of alternatives

Demonstrated project rationale
## Project Formulation Phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EES</th>
<th>Use of EES process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoresby Transport Corridor EES</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Stirling Alpine Resort EES</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apollo Bay Wastewater Strategy EES</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minerva Offshore Gas Field EES</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland Wind Energy Project EES</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victorian Desalination Plant EES</td>
<td>✗</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugarloaf Pipeline EIA</td>
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APOLLO BAY
WASTEWATER TREATMENT
PLANT
ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS
STATEMENT

Volume 1

April 1995

SINCLAIR KNIGHT MERZ
Pre-EES Phase

Desk-top scoping studies

Early engagement with authorities

Stakeholder analysis

Coordination of all required approvals

Planning Approvals Strategy
Planning Approvals Strategy

Legend

Orange: Government

Abbreviations

CHMP: Cultural Heritage Management Plan
EES: Environment Effects Statement
EPBC: Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
MCA: Multi Criteria Analysis
NOI: Notice of Intent
RA: Responsible Authority
RAP: Registered Aboriginal Party
Scoping and Initiation Phase

Complete desk-top analysis

Consultation with DPCD, authorities and key stakeholders

Evaluation and Risk Assessment Frameworks

Identify direct, indirect and cumulative interactions

Embed into specialist investigations
EES and EPBC Referrals

Level of investigation determined by Planning Approvals Strategy

Progressive consultation with DPCD and DSEWPaC

Tailored approach to EES and EPBC Referrals

Early submission enables assessment process to be finalised
Detailed EES Investigations Phase

Investigations undertaken consistent with risk and assessment frameworks

- Integrated study team – frameworks, templates, GIS
- Regular communication – inter-dependencies, stakeholder issues
- Maximise opportunities provided by TRG process
- Peer Reviews

Maximise opportunities provided by TRG process
EES Preparation Phase

- Early agreement on EES structure
- Progressive development of EES
- Regular liaison with DPCD
- Integrated approach that draws diverse elements together

Succinct EES that tells a compelling story
Concluding Comments

- 7 Tips and 19 Tricks – just the start!
- Set-up phase is critically important
- Early consideration of environmental factors fundamental