



THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

No. 3

September 2006

NEW PI INSURANCE FACILITY TO BE LAUNCHED

The EIANZ Conference in Adelaide this month will include the launch of a new Professional Indemnity Insurance Facility for environmental practitioners. This facility has been established by one of the world's leading risk consulting and insurance broking firms, Marsh Pty Ltd, in partnership with the EIANZ.

An EIANZ working group, led by Stephen Jenkins, has been working for over two years to develop this initiative to address the increasingly prohibitive expense and exclusions of existing PI insurance policies that do not differentiate environmental professionals based on the risks associated with the actual work that they undertake. The coverage issue had become so significant that some practitioners were unable to obtain insurance cover altogether, endangering their practice and clients.

The new PI Insurance Facility has been carefully designed to provide appropriate coverage to environmental businesses in Australia and New Zealand with a competitive insurance product, and streamlined applications and administration processes.

EIANZ President, Bill Haylock, said, "This is long overdue; it is a fantastic initiative and provides practitioners with comfort that they have a policy that covers the type of work that they do at a reasonable premium."

The PI Insurance Facility goes further to identify risk in environmental practice by recognising the Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) initiative as a pathway that reduces a practitioner's risk, and therefore provides premium reductions.

The official launch of the PI Insurance Facility will be on 18 September at the Adelaide Conference, together with a workshop on PI insurance and risk management for environmental practitioners.

More detailed information on the facility will be available shortly. In the meantime, should you wish to obtain any information or require a quotation from Marsh, please call John Delves on 03-9603 2190 or Jacques Moritz on 03-9603 2206.

Editor: David Hogg
Email: newslettereditor@eianz.org
Phone: 02-6251 3885
+ 612-6251 3885 (international)
Fax: 02-6253 1574

EIANZ Central Office
GPO Box 211, Melbourne, Vic 3001
Email: office@eianz.org
Phone: 03-9654 7473
+613-9654 7473 (international)
Fax: 03-9650 1242
Website: www.eianz.org

Opinions expressed in this newsletter reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc. unless specifically stated.

In this issue

Editorial: An Agent of Change?	2
Advice for contributors	2
From the President's desk	3
Is EIA really a dinosaur?	4
Impact Assessment Special Interest Section	5
EIANZ 2006 Conference update	6
Policy and Practice Standing Committee	7
Meet the Council (Part 3)	7
Letter to the Editor	8
Key messages about EIANZ	8
Have your say!	9
Uniting community involvement and impact assessment	10
ACT Climate Change Workshop	10
JDA Environmental Recruiting Service	11
EIANZ directory	12
Certification update	12



Editorial

AN AGENT OF CHANGE?

As a professional institute spanning the whole field of the environment, the EIANZ is in a unique position to comment with authority on matters relating to professional practice and standards. It can also present a different perspective on environmental issues in general from those of most community-based environmental organisations, at the same time being independent of government and business interests.



The extent to which the Institute becomes involved externally on environmental matters can range from adopting a stated policy position which reflects the consensus view of its members to becoming actively involved in advocating change and new initiatives.

The development of Institute policies is the responsibility of the Policy and Practice Standing Committee (see page 7). It is often not an easy task to reconcile conflicting viewpoints within the Committee, let alone throughout the wider membership, with the result that such policies tend to be fairly conservative and 'middle-of-the-road', rather than adopting a more radical viewpoint which may be promoted by some members.

It has been Institute practice to avoid taking sides in contentious environmental debates, but instead to focus on promoting the use of sound and ethical professional practices to address environmental conflicts. It is in this role that members are most likely to feel comfortable with the Institute adopting an advocacy role.

One example where the Institute has actively promoted new advances is in the campaign for a Commissioner for the Environment, particularly at the national level, which was driven by the President, Simon Molesworth, in 1999. While this has not yet achieved its aim at the Commonwealth level, it may have influenced the Victorian Government in its decision to establish the position of Commissioner for Ecologically Sustainable Development in 2000.

Another area where the Institute is well qualified to exert external influence is in establishing prominence for environmental issues throughout the planning and development process. As discussed in the article on page 4, *Is EIA really a dinosaur?*, the process of environmental impact assessment has achieved much in promoting good environmental outcomes, but is not the only or necessarily the best means of doing so. It is deeply entrenched in government bureaucracies, but to

move beyond this to a high level of environmental professionalism may need a stimulus from the wider professional community. There are no doubt other areas of environmental practice where similar comments can be made.

The EIANZ promotes itself as the leading professional body for environmental practice in Australia and New Zealand, and this status is acknowledged by others outside the Institute. To justify this position, it needs to lead in matters within its area of expertise, rather than just doing the best job it can within constraints imposed by others who may be less qualified. If it does not demonstrate such leadership, its position may be taken by other professional bodies which are willing to do so.

The coming conference in Adelaide provides an ideal opportunity to debate how far the Institute's potential advocacy role should extend in a number of contexts. In particular, workshops on policy and practice, the Impact Assessment Special Interest Section, certification, professional development and the EPBC Act are all examples which could lead to the Institute adopting a greater advocacy role for changes related to professional practice that would ultimately benefit the environment.

David Hogg
Editor

ADVICE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

All members are invited to contribute material to *The Environmental Practitioner*. Contributions may include:

- short articles (up to 2 pages or 1300 words) on topics of interest to other members;
- news items of members' achievements (e.g. senior appointments, awards);
- letters to the Editor;
- brief notes on other items of general interest;
- photographs of EIANZ functions; and
- requests for advice or assistance.

Material should be sent by e-mail as Word attachments. Please proofread carefully before sending. Photographs should be sent as a jpeg file or an alternative format suitable for editing.

Deadline for next issue (November): 28 October

The e-mail address for newsletter contributions is newslettereditor@eianz.org.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Bill Haylock

Many of us will shortly be congregating in Adelaide for the 2006 Conference, *Environmental Practice*, followed by the Institute's Face to Face Council Meeting. The Conference has been specifically designed to incorporate a series of workshops to initiate the discussions on setting high standards and promoting best practice for environmental practitioners.

Part of the Institute's Key Messages which we will be advocating over the next twelve months will be 'why we need high standards, should the Institute lead the development of standards, and how we should do this?'

I have recently presented a number of papers on this theme, including:

- an address at the New Zealand Chapter Annual General Meeting (AGM), July 2006;
- an opening address at the Tasmania Division Annual Conference, August 2006; and
- a Guest Editorial in the AJEM.

It will also be a focus of the President's Address at the coming conference in Adelaide.

The Institute's Face to Face Council meeting will discuss the new Corporate Plan, new Institute initiatives, and members services, as well as how we will celebrate our 20th year in 2007.

Council

In the past three months the Council has agreed on the following actions and resolutions:

- The Corporate Plan and Budget for 2006/2007 have been adopted.
- We resolved to reinstate the Student Initiative Committee. The new Chair and Committee members are:
 - Ms Yvette Kinsella (Chair)
 - Mr Adam Smith (FNQ Councillor)
 - Mr John Todd (TAS)
 - Mr Gregor Wallace (VIC)
 - Ms Claudine Moutou (NSW)
 - Mr David Bell (NSW)
 - Ms Tara Cully (SEQ)
 - Ms Fiona Berry (SEQ)
- We approved the Sponsorship Policy and agreed



to have a Sponsorship Committee. If you wish to help in fundraising and corporate interaction you can join the new Sponsorship Committee — please contact the President.

- We agreed to keep the membership fees at the same rates as the previous two years.

Executive

Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme. The Executive has approved the Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme negotiated by our PI Insurance Working Group. The

Institute is extremely pleased that the facility provided by Dual and brokered by Marsh has provided a wonderful outcome for all environmental consultants and businesses requiring PI insurance.

We have been able to deliver a policy and premium based on the risk to the environmental practitioner, a simple appropriate policy, reduced premiums and a further discount for Certified Environmental Practitioners. The use of CEnvP in PI insurance is a new standard for consulting practitioners.

A discount applies to consulting businesses that ensure that all work, reports, and advice that are provided by the consultants are signed off by a CEnvP. The Institute will receive a percentage of Marsh's brokerage fee for all members premiums paid for professional indemnity insurance. This increase in revenue for the Institute will help us increase and improve members' services.

Further details of the PI insurance scheme are provided on the front page of this newsletter.

External Relations Committee

The External Relations Committee is preparing an *Environmental Priorities* paper for the Institute. The paper will highlight our commitment to setting professional standards and identifying best practice, it will help position the Institute and will include what our members consider to be the three most important environmental issues currently facing Australia and New Zealand. You will have been asked to respond to this in the last e-mail bulletin and a recent separate email. This request is repeated on page 9 of this newsletter. If you have not already done so please provide the Institute with your thoughts.



IS EIA REALLY A DINOSAUR?

David Hogg

Many years ago (I think in the early 1990s), I recall a short item in the press in which a prominent official of a major professional institute described environmental impact assessment (or perhaps EISs) as a 'dinosaur'. It was not clear whether this comment reflected a view that the process had been around for a long time without evolving to fit a changing environment or whether it reflected the size of some of the reports that were being produced, but I suspect that it was probably the former.

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a product of the 1970s and came about in response to situations in which decisions on major developments were made primarily on economic and operational grounds, with little or no thought to the wider consequences for people and their values, particularly in relation to the natural environment. The fundamental purpose of EIA is to review proposals from a broad perspective with a view to avoiding unwise decisions being made through ignorance. It does not in itself guarantee that the most environmentally benign outcome will result, although it usually goes a long way in this direction. Furthermore, it is not the only mechanism for integrating environmental considerations into the planning and implementation of proposals, nor is it necessarily the best means of achieving this.

It is, however, widespread in its application, both nationally and internationally, and lends itself to documentation through legislation and procedures which set minimum acceptable standards for considering environmental issues in the decision-making process.

Over the period of more than 30 years that EIA has influenced the decision-making process, significant advances have been made in the technical rigour of environmental assessments and the quality of information on which they are based. The basic EIA process itself, however, has not changed greatly, and still displays the same strengths and weaknesses that it did in the 1970s. In terms of providing an efficient process for achieving good environmental outcomes which reflect the interests of the wider community, there are even some aspects in which I feel that the EIA process has gone backwards since the Commonwealth *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act*, the first EIA legislation in Australia, which was introduced at the end of 1974.

The main strength of EIA is that, in all Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions, it is backed up by

legislation. However, it is this strength that gives rise to many of its weaknesses.

In particular, it is feasible to legislate only for minimum acceptable standards, which will generally fall short of best practice, as it is always possible to improve on standards which have been set for universal application. This in turn gives rise to a widespread attitude that, as long as the legislative and administrative requirements of EIA are satisfied, there is no need to do anything better. EIA is often viewed as just another piece of 'red tape' which can be addressed by focusing on the process rather than on the outcome. Furthermore, this attitude can result in environmental considerations taking a back seat until a project reaches the stage of external assessment, and then being forgotten about once the assessment stage is over.

The development process for a typical project consists of three main stages:

- **Planning.** This involves the proponent identifying a project, establishing its feasibility, investigating options and undertaking design studies at various levels of detail.
- **Assessment.** This involves external review of the project as part of the approval process, involving the approving authority and, in some situations, other government agencies and/or the wider community.
- **Implementation.** This involves the construction of the project by the proponent, commonly in accordance with an environmental management plan, and its subsequent operation, and may incorporate auditing or monitoring of construction and/or operation.

Within the environmental profession, there is widespread acceptance that environmental considerations are relevant to all three stages, but the ways in which they are incorporated vary significantly between the stages. In particular, environmental planning is a proactive process, driven by the proponent, in which environmental issues can be major factors in its formative stages, while environmental assessment is a reactive process which tends to come into play, commonly in response to external legislative requirements, once the project is further advanced.

Because EIA falls logically into the assessment



stage and is commonly perceived as the answer to any environmental problems, there is a high risk of it drawing attention away from the importance of considering the environment early in the planning stage, and of carrying such considerations through into the implementation stage. Fortunately, there is increasing appreciation developing with the environmental profession and the wider professional community of the need to address environmental concerns throughout the development process. Some enlightened developers now take the initiative of confronting environmental issues at an early planning stage, so that these issues are resolved before the EIA process swings into action. This trend still has a long way to go before it becomes universal best practice, however. There are many developers, as well as some environmental practitioners, who are still living in the 1970s and see EIA as all that is needed to address their environmental responsibilities.

At the later end of the development sequence, there are numerous examples where good environmental planning and assessment is not carried through into the implementation. In an extreme situation, an ignorant or belligerent bulldozer driver can negate years of environmental studies and community consultation in the space of a few minutes. More commonly, the developer reaches the end of the EIA with a sigh of relief ('thank God its over') and launches into construction in the belief that the environmental requirements have all been satisfied. The more difficult consent conditions aimed at mitigating adverse impacts are sometimes forgotten, by both the developer and the consent authority.

Despite its limitations, I do not believe that EIA is a dinosaur in the sense that it is doomed to extinction. It is too important as a mechanism for the independent review of projects before they are implemented. On the other hand, nor do I believe that it can expect to maintain indefinitely its position as a 'dominant species' that it has held over the past thirty years. There are too many limitations in the basic EIA process for it to achieve the status of environmental best practice in a situation where professional standards are continually rising. With increasing environmental emphasis placed on the planning and implementation stages, I believe that the assessment stage will become the least important of the three in terms of achieving good environmental outcomes. Instead, its role will be one of reassuring decision-makers and the community that all issues have been appropriately addressed in the earlier planning stage.

Such a shift towards balanced best practice throughout the whole development process is unlikely to evolve directly from EIA, which is too narrow in its focus and too regimented in its approach. Nor is it likely to gain momentum from the environmental bureaucracies which can regulate the EIA process but do not have the power or possibly even the interest to encourage environmental professionals and developers to achieve the best environmental outcomes through their own initiatives.

Instead such momentum needs to come from within professional circles, with the EIANZ being the most obvious candidate to promote such advances. If this Institute does not do so, there are others which may take the initiative.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

The Institute has recently approved the establishment of an Impact Assessment Special Interest Section (IA-SIS) to both promote ethical and competent practice of impact assessment and to foster better practice in terms of institutional and decision making frameworks.

Participation by members is being actively encouraged, starting with the preparation of a discussion paper and the conduct of a scoping workshop at the 2006 Annual Conference in Adelaide. Ongoing involvement in the IA-SIS from practitioners in both the public and private sector will be critical to the success of these objectives. One key outcome is the launch of a certification program for impact assessment professionals at the 2008 Annual Conference.

We encourage all those with an interest in bettering impact assessment practice to register for the workshop and to nominate as active members for the IA-SIS. A discussion paper will be circulated to conference delegates shortly outlining the objectives of the SIS in greater detail.

For further details on the IA-SIS, please contact the Convenor:

Bryce Skarratt

Ph: 07 3316 3523

Email: bryce.skarratt@ghd.com.au



EIANZ 2006 CONFERENCE UPDATE

It's Not Too Late to Register

Registration is still open for the 2006 EIANZ Conference which is being held in Adelaide from 17 to 20 September. Particularly for SA members, this is an opportunity to get up to date with the latest in environmental practice which you will not have on your doorstep for at least another decade. If your time is limited, single-day registrations are available as an alternative to attending the whole conference.

Further information is located on the web at <http://www.plevin.com.au/eianz2006/> and at <http://www.eianz.org/> (go to 'What's on').

Program

An additional session will be held 4.15pm Monday on contaminated land. Speakers and topics include *Cleaning Up - the CRC for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment*, Professor Neal Menzies, University of Queensland; *Enhancing Guidance - Review of the Assessment of Site Contamination NEPM*; Dr Bruce Kennedy, Executive Director, NEPC Service Corporation; *Better managing site contamination - the draft SA Bill*, Mr Tony Circelli, Director Policy, Environment Protection Authority (SA).

The EIANZ will officially launch the EIANZ Professional Indemnity Insurance Facility designed by the Institute and Marsh at 10.00am Tuesday 19 September. Marsh is a large professional broker who has for many years been a provider of professional insurance to the environment industry. The Institute is happy that the facility being offered by Marsh fulfils most of the requirements of the environment industry.

As part of the Conference a special workshop will be held at 4.15pm Monday to discuss the Professional Indemnity Insurance Facility, requirements of professional indemnity insurance, risk management, how to make effective applications to the new facility, and what further discounts may apply.

The EIANZ AGM, to be followed by the SA Division AGM members, will be held from 5.30pm Tuesday 19 September.

Welcome Reception and Function Sunday 17 September

The Welcome Reception will commence at 6.00pm. Michael Harbison, Lord Mayor of Adelaide will join delegates at 6.30pm for a brief welcome to Adelaide. The Reception will conclude at 7.30pm.

To provide a further opportunity to catch up with colleagues, it is proposed delegates meet after the Reception at the Crown and Sceptre Hotel 308 King William Street. This is about 5 minutes walk from the Conference venue. The Crown and Sceptre Hotel has a great bar and bistro dining. Visit the web at <http://www.sceptre.com.au/index.html>

If you plan to attend, it would be appreciated if you would email the Conference organisers events@plevin.com.au before Monday 11 September so we have an idea of how many delegates will take up this proposal. This will assist the Hotel roster staff to handle an influx of delegates.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that the EIANZ Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 September 2006 at 5.30 pm at the Hilton International, Victoria Square, Adelaide. The formal notice of the meeting was sent to members in the August e-mail bulletin.

Persons who are unable to attend the AGM may appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf on any resolutions determined at the meeting. A proxy form is available on the EIANZ website or will be forwarded on request by the Central Office. This form should be completed and either forwarded to the Central Office of the Institute (GPO Box 211, Melbourne Vic 3001, fax 03 - 9650 1242) by 5 pm on Friday 15 September 2006 or be presented at the commencement of the meeting.

Click [here](#) to obtain the proxy form from the website.



POLICY AND PRACTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

Richard Hoy, Chair

The Policy and Practice Committee is a Standing Committee of Council under By-law 4 (Standing Committees). Its role is:

- identification and collection of environmental policies of national government and non-government organisations for reference by Institute members;
- development and documentation of Institute policies on environmental issues, as determined by the Council;
- identification and collection of information on environmental practices;
- preparation of Institute environmental best practice notes and publications; and
- advice on professional ethical issues which may arise within the membership.

The Committee develops Interim Policy Overviews and Policies on environmental issues of relevance to the Council and members which can be referred to for public statements. Interim Policy Overviews are short statements of a paragraph or two which can be prepared quickly to provide a broad policy position. Full policy statements consist of a few pages and may take many months to prepare.

The Committee has developed a set of interim policy overviews and full policies on:

- Conservation of Native Vegetation;
- Environmental Management Systems;
- Public Environment Reporting;
- Environmental Education; and
- Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making;

which are available on the EIANZ web site. A draft policy on Energy is available on the web site for member comment.

Current work by the Committee includes developing:

- policies on Climate Change (Greenhouse), Sustainability and Water; and
- best practice guidance material.

The latter project is being developed by David Hogg and you will have read about it in recent newsletters. Its aim is to collect material on best practice in environmental management which can be made available to members as a resource to assist them in their day to day work. Members are invited to send suitable material to David.

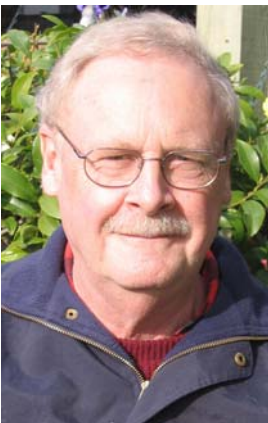
The current members of the Committee and their relevant Divisions are:

- Richard Hoy Vic Chair
- Suzanne Little NSW (Vice-president - Australia)
- Fabian Sack NSW
- Mark Carden QLD
- David Clendon NZ (NZ representative)
- David Rogers Vic
- Caroline Nordang Qld
- Mark O'Brien ACT
- David Hogg ACT (best practice project)

with occasional assistance from other members.

For further information about the Committee, please contact the Committee Chair rhoy@bigpond.com or by phone 03 98942335.

MEET THE COUNCIL (PART 3)



Geoff Parr-Smith, Treasurer

Geoff was appointed Treasurer of the Institute in October 2005. Based in Melbourne and by training a botanist, Geoff has practised as a land management planner for the past 30 years, working mainly in national parks, protected areas and parks on the urban fringe. After completing his PhD in plant taxonomy, Geoff worked for two years with an environmental engineering consultant, then for 13 years in the National Parks area of Victoria's Conservation Department. He left government in 1991 and ran his own consulting practice for 13 years. He is now mostly retired, undertaking occasional training courses in public land law and related topics.

Geoff says he learnt his financial management skills in three areas – the public service, his consultancy practice, and managing a private superannuation scheme, having worked with some excellent advisers and educators in each area. However the Institute is easily the largest financial operation he has managed to date. "For a relatively small organisation the Institute has a complex structure, and the complexity is increasing as new areas such as Special Interest Groups are developed. Our system of business plans and budget initiatives will take the Institute's activities to a new level, and it is essential the 'engine room', Central Office and the finance system, has the capacity to manage these arrangements. That will be my main focus."



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Issue of Trust

In reply to your article about 'environmental hypochondria' in the June edition, I concur that there are problems such as those you outlined. I agree that education and conciliation would be useful in addressing at least some of these issues. However, in relation to community-based third party objectors using ecological concerns to oppose or amend a proposal, I think that before any effective education could occur, the issue of trust would need to be resolved. Trust is undermined by fear. I think addressing community-based fears is a precursor to any effective educative programme.

I've worked as a consultant for proponents, as a government assessor of proposals, and as a consultant to community groups opposing proposals. A significant issue is that the lack of effective regulation across the environmental impact assessment field, especially of consultants, has led to widespread cynicism and distrust of the process. The unethical actions of some prominent consultants in league with often notorious 'developers' has done much to harm public perceptions. This isn't helped by the fact that in most cases, proponents select the consultant(s) to assess their proposal. I know of one case where a government-owned body went through eight consultants until it found one that would support its proposal. Surely this amounts to 'doctor shopping' in the context of your medical metaphor? Equally, the public knows that government assessment agencies are generally under-funded, under-skilled and subject to political interference, both subtle and overt.

I believe that the EIANZ should adopt a policy dealing with the concerns that you raised. However, I believe that doing so would require that we address deep and systemic problems of the assessment process that generate the fear / distrust which is often at the heart of 'environmental hypochondria'. Only then can the educational component be effective. Breaking the nexus between proponent and consultant is important, as is effective regulation of the consultancy sector. It is equally important that government assessment agencies are fully transparent in their processes and that they

employ and retain suitably skilled personnel. Retention of staff and effective mentoring are major issues in a system subject to high burnout and 'churning' rates caused by chronic and often widespread structural problems in environmental assessment agencies. It has been identified that low morale and high stress rates can be a significant barrier to assessment staff remaining in office long enough and in a suitable state of mind to gain the necessary level of experience. Technical skills must be complemented by ethical skills as the roles of all such assessment staff inevitably involve decision-making processes that are subjective. There should be no pretence of scientific objectivity and it is important that all parties can address the equally important domain of 'facts' and values.

There are certainly cases where the alleged 'hypochondria' has little if anything to do with education / experience, and as you indicated, can be due to the arguable misuse of environmental issues to mask barely or unrelated agendas. I have no qualms with the much maligned phenomenon of NIMBYism as long as such opponents are honest with themselves and all relevant parties about the nature of their concerns. If they object because of perceived impacts on property values, on sensory amenity, or particular philosophical grounds that's fine – but I agree it is not appropriate to use a range of legitimate environmental law and policy to conceal other concerns. That said, I can also understand people feeling that their non-ecological concerns will not be given adequate weight in the decision-making process. I think this explains in part the widespread grasping at ecological issues as a means of bolstering pre-existing objections.

Your article concludes with an advocacy for 'balanced environmental education'. I think the term 'balanced' needs to be explained to readers as this is clearly a very subjective concept. I'm sure that amongst members there would be many differing views of what a 'balanced' environmental education might entail.

**Steve Douglas
ACT**

Key Messages for Members to Use when Communicating about EIANZ

The EIANZ External Relations Standing Committee has developed the following key messages to use when communicating to others about the Institute. All members are encouraged to use them:

- The Institute is the peak professional body in Australasia for environmental practitioners, and promotes independent and interdisciplinary discourse on environmental issues.
- Our transition to a sustainable society depends on good environmental outcomes through continuous capacity building in environmental practices.
- On all issues and all projects the Institute advocates best available environmental practices to be delivered by competent and ethical environmental practitioners.
- Peer assessment and certification are critical tools in demonstrating excellence in environmental practice.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Australia's Environment Priorities

The Institute is conducting a survey of its members to find out what the members, as professional environmental practitioners, consider to be the most important environmental issues that need to be addressed by Australian governments and the Australian community.

We want you tell us, from the following list, what you think are the three most important environmental issues:

- Energy
- Climate change
- Biological diversity
- An informed and active public
- Coastal and marine
- Consumption and waste
- Water
- Air quality
- Built environment and urbanisation
- Sustainability
- Land
- Other—please identify

Please send your responses by email to office@eianz.org or fax to (03) 9650 1242.

Review of National Environment Protection Council Act 1994 (Cth)

The National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) has initiated a second review of the *National Environment Protection Council Act 1994* (Cth). The review will cover the operation of the Act, the effectiveness and efficiency of processes set down in the Act and the extent to which the objects of the Act have been achieved.

Submissions are invited from interested stakeholders, particularly those who have been affected by the Act or involved in the development of national environment protection measures (NEPMs).

Further information about the review and the terms of reference may be found at www.ephc.gov.au.

The Institute has been invited to make a submission to the review and wishes to hear from members who may be able to help in the preparation of a submission. Please contact John Ashe by email: john.ashe@netspeed.com.au or phone: (02) 6239 7835.

Penalty Infringement Notices (Pins) Discussion Paper Released For Comment

The Environmental Law Roundtable of Australia and New Zealand (ELRANZ) has released for comment, until 20 October 2006, a discussion paper on Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs). The discussion paper is available at http://www.nela.org.au/conference/roundtable/ELRANZ_Pin_Project_Discussion_Paper_August2006.pdf.

Discussion Paper on a Proposal for a Framework for National Chemicals Environment Management

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) has released for public comment a discussion paper, which describes proposals for the development of a National Framework for Environmental Chemicals Management (NChEM) in Australia. The paper was prepared by the National Chemicals Working Group. The discussion paper and associated documents are available at www.ephc.gov.au. Submissions on the discussion paper are due by Friday 29 September 2006.

The Institute is considering making a submission on the proposals and would like to hear from members who may be able to help in the preparation of a submission. Please contact John Ashe by email: john.ashe@netspeed.com.au or phone: (02) 6239 7835.

WA Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Legislation

On Thursday 17 August, the WA Environment Minister Mark McGowan released two Bills for 14 weeks public consultation:

- the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bill 2006 and
- the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Bill 2006.

PDF copies of the two Bills and the explanatory notes may be downloaded from either www.dec.wa.gov.au (click the link on the DEC webpage for "Department of Environment", and

Continued on page 12



A PERFECT MATCH — UNITING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Presentations available

The EIANZ (SEQ Division) and the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) recently held a one-day conference exploring the practices of impact assessment and community consultation. This conference is the first joint event between these two organisations and provided practitioners from both fields with the opportunity to hear from industry experts through keynote presentations, case studies and workshops.

The presentations from this forum are now available. This is the first time we have offered this service where you can access links to our 'Webpresent' presentations. It links the vocal presentation with the powerpoint slides by way of url link.

This service is free to all EIANZ/IAP2 members.

Non members can purchase the links to this service for \$25.

To access the service, just email Danielle Bolton at seq@eianz.org.

Presentations available:

Keynote 1: 'Impact assessment and community involvement: the past, present and future' (Simon McNeilage, McNeilage & Associates) (Vocal presentation not available for Simon's Presentation)

Keynote 2: 'The role of impact assessment and consultation in Brisbane's infrastructure boom' (Julie Waters, BCC Major Infrastructure Projects Office)

Keynote 3: 'Building community capacity to participate in impact assessment processes and enhance environmental outcomes' (Patricia Julien, Mackay Conservation Group)

Keynote 4: 'Integrating social and natural systems: the fundamentals for negotiating success' (Professor Helen Ross, University of Queensland)

Keynote 5: 'The importance of process: approvals, environment, community and a new parallel runway' (Karyn Rains, Brisbane Airport Corporation)

Panel Q+A's with Keynote Speakers.

A.C.T. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP

The ACT Division recently held a half-day professional development workshop on responding to climate change. The speakers were Peter Ottesen (ACT Chief Minister's Department), Dr Michael Dunlop (CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems), Neil Savery (ACT Planning and Land Authority) and Derek Wrigley (solar architectural consultant).

Some of the important messages coming out of the workshop were as follows:

- Both mitigation and adaptation are necessary to address climate change and these are more effective if they are applied together, rather than in isolation.
- The wider community is not yet engaged in addressing the issues associated with climate change. Many people do not believe in climate change and refuse to accept it.
- While all sectors must respond to efforts to address climate change, leadership needs to come from the government level.
- It is necessary to accept that climate change will happen and to focus on achievable gains, rather than necessarily seeking to maintain the environment in its current condition.
- Regulation alone is not the answer. It is possible to regulate only for minimum acceptable standards, not for best practice, and it is not possible to regulate human behaviour. Regulators need to spend more time educating people.
- Sustainability is not achievable if GDP is seen as the primary measure of success.
- At the initial level, nature can do much to create comfort in the home through sensible design, including retrofitting. The housing industry, however, has lost its sense of direction in providing value for money in terms of energy efficiency. The retrofitting industry has not woken up to the enormous market available through training suitable tradespersons.





INTRODUCING THE JDA ENVIRONMENTAL RECRUITMENT SERVICE

Today, organisations across all industry sectors have a need for well-trained environmental professionals. JDA can now simply and quickly source these professionals and practitioners for you through its dedicated Environmental Recruitment Service.

To support this new service JDA has formed an exclusive alliance with the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ). The alliance will see JDA provide EIANZ members, affiliates and related employers with a range of services, specifically focused on environmental careers. The websites of EIANZ and JDA have been integrated so that both job-hunters and employers can access services through either site.

THE SERVICE

JDA's Environmental Recruitment service is delivered by highly qualified consultants who are well equipped to define your 'environmental HR needs'. We source environmental professionals through database searches, networking and well targeted advertising. Our purpose built database allows us to quickly and easily identify candidates by qualifications, key experience, industry focus and personal attributes such as language skills. We already have many environmental professionals registered on our database and the list is growing. Candidates include specialists from all sectors of global resources industries in the following broad environmental career categories:

Air quality protection
Water quality protection
Waste management
Fisheries and wildlife
Forestry
National parks and protected areas

Energy and climate protection
Environmental education
Research and development
Environmental policy and legislation
Environmental communication
Land quality protection and site restoration

THE BENEFITS

- Easy access to well-trained and diverse environmental specialists
- Recruitment services delivered by environmental career specialists
- Access to advertising jobs on both the EIANZ and JDA websites, as well as other relevant print and electronic media.
- Increased field of candidates available through JDA's sourcing strategies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Contact ...Chris Carter
Environmental Recruitment Consultant
John Davidson & Associates (JDA)
Brisbane Head Office
+61 7 3205 5977, carter.c@jda.com.au



or

1 300 768 577

Global People Solutions

John Davidson & Associates

www.jda.com.au



FIANZ DIRECTORY

COUNCIL

Executive

President: Bill Haylock
Vice President - Australia: Sue Little
Vice President - New Zealand: Assoc. Prof.
Peter Skelton CNZM
Secretary: Stuart Reeh
Treasurer: Geoff Parr-Smith
Newsletter Editor: Dr David Hogg
Immediate Past President: Simon Molesworth
AM QC

Divisional Councillors

ACT: Lachlan Wilkinson
Far North Queensland: Dr Adam Smith
New South Wales: Desiree Lammerts
New Zealand: Leo Fietje
Northern Territory: Vacant (Bill Low and Noel
Preece acting)
South Australia: Dr Barbara Radcliffe
South East Queensland: Simon Cavendish
Tasmania: Axel von Krussienterna
Victoria: Nigel Murphy
Western Australia: Steve Wilke

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

External Relations Committee: John Ashe
Policy and Practice Committee: Richard Hoy
Journal Editorial Committee (Editors): Prof.
Helen Ross, Dr Grant Wardell-Johnston
Membership Promotion Committee: Stuart
Reeh
Professional Development Committee: Aaron
Harvey
Certification Board: Nigel Murphy

CHAPTER AND DIVISION PRESIDENTS

Australian Capital Territory: Richard Sharp
Far North Queensland: David Finney
New South Wales: Anita Mitchell
New Zealand: Ljubica Mamula-Stojnic
Northern Territory: Vacant (Bill Low and Noel
Preece acting)
South Australia: Maria Furulis
South East Queensland: Claire Gronow
Tasmania: Dr John Todd
Victoria: Michael Pitcher
Western Australia: Scott Bird

CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Next Intake

The next intake for applications for certification (CEnvP) closes on 22 December 2006. Please allow ample time to complete your CEnvP application, as the process is rigorous, and missing or incomplete material can delay processing of your application.

For information about certification and the application process, see the certification website at <http://www.cenvp.org>. If you have any queries, please contact Wendy Stegman (Acting Registrar) on 03-9654 7473, 0415 373 740 or info@cenvp.org. (For NZ enquiries, the phone numbers are +613-9654 7473 and +61415 373 740).

Certification at GBRMPA

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) has reported that its Environmental Impact Management major projects team is the first team in Australia and New Zealand to be recognised as Certified Environmental Practitioners. Led by Dr Adam Smith, who is also the FNQ Councillor of FIANZ, the team works on a range of projects and permits. Projects undertaken during the past year included a Strategic Environmental Assessment of Defence activities (Shoalwater Bay), North Queensland water pipeline (Townsville), Arlington Reef Pontoon (Cairns) and Artificial Reefs Policy and Guidelines.

The Environmental Practitioner would like to acknowledge any other organisations that have achieved certification for all of their eligible professional staff.

WA Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Legislation (cont'd)

then [top] "Documents open for public comment") or www.zerowastewa.com.au (go to "Have your say" on the right hand side of the webpage, then "Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bills").

Written submissions are invited, to reach the WA DEC by 5pm Monday 27 November 2006.

Hardcopies are available on request from Dr John Ottaway at the contacts listed below:

Dr John Ottaway FEIANZ
Principal Consultant (Assistant Director)
Office of the Deputy Director General - Environment
WA Department of Conservation and Environment
Direct 'phone: (08) 9222-7058
Mobile: 0427-500-106
Fax: (08) 9322-2850
email: john.ottaway@dec.wa.gov.au

