

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Proposed changes
to the Code of Ethics
and Professional ConductRECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND ENGAGEMENT
IN THE EIANZ CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

A Corporate Plan initiative of EIANZ is to advance the role of Indigenous knowledge. The Board publicly released a **Statement** of Objectives for Indigenous Engagement, included in the Institute Insider on 29 May. This included a commitment to recognise Indigenous values and practices in the Institute's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (the Code).

An Indigenous Engagement Working Group was formed. Initial discussions with Māori practitioners indicated that they considered that there was no benefit in engaging with EIANZ until it had taken concrete steps to incorporate recognition of Indigenous practices and adoption of Indigenous engagement principles in its guiding documents, which in our case are the Code and the EIANZ website.

The IEWG has developed a **Road Map** for EIANZ activities which was endorsed by the Board in July. The IEWG also drafted proposed interim changes to the Code which have been subject to limited consultation within EIANZ and with Indigenous representatives. After incorporating feedback, the Board put the proposed changes forward to members as a **Special Resolution** to the AGM held on 10 November. An Explanatory **Document** setting out the reasons for the proposed changes was sent to members in the lead-up to the meeting. Additional comments were received from EIANZ members.

At the AGM there was strong support for the proposed wording but there was insufficient support to endorse the proposed changes which requires a 75% vote in favour for the changes to be ratified. There had been some very insightful comments received in relation to the Special Resolution. While there was strong support for the concept of recognising Indigenous values and practices, there was also a clear message that, since all EIANZ members and CENVPs will be required to abide by the Code, further consultation with members was wanted so that everyone would be clear about what was expected of them. This email sets out a series of questions for members to provide feedback to the Board.

There were also concerns raised on how the proposed changes would be implemented including the need for training and actions to support members and certified practitioners. It was also raised that not all members will have been on a journey of discovery as it relates to reconciliation nor are able to meaningfully engage with Indigenous peoples in decision making. The IEWG Road Map provides the overall approach. A **draft practice guidance note** has been prepared for members. Also, EIANZ has commenced the process of developing a Reconciliation Action Plan for EIANZ in Australia. Note that Aotearoa New Zealand is far more advanced in Māori engagement and recognising Indigenous values and practices with a significant number of Indigenous environmental practitioners and established organisations and structures to respond to environmental issues.



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Member feedback on the draft practice guidance note is sought in addition to your responses to the following questions:

- (1) Do you endorse the concept of incorporating the recognition of Indigenous knowledge and engagement in the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct?
- (2) Wording for the proposed changes was endorsed at the AGM. Are you willing to endorse these proposed changes or are there alternative words you would prefer?
- (3) Do you think the practice guide will be sufficient to assist environmental practitioners to achieve the intent of the proposed changes? If not, what additional guidance or support do you think will be required?
- (4) Do you have any other comments or questions in relation to the proposed changes?

We would like to receive your responses and feedback by Friday 18 December. Based on the information received, the Board wishes to be able put a revised Special Resolution to members at a Special General Meeting in the first quarter of 2021.

Please email you responses and feedback to office@eianz.org by Friday 18 December, 2020.



Bryan Jenkins FEIANZ

President EIANZ on behalf of the EIANZ Board

17 November, 2020