



ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND 2016 FEDERAL ELECTION MESSAGE

In the lead up to the 2016 Australian Federal election, the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) urges all political parties to do more for our environment and those professionals working to manage it on behalf of all Australians.

As the peak body representing environmental practitioners across Australia and New Zealand, EIANZ recognises the link between a healthy environment, a healthy economy and the wellbeing of current and future generations of Australians.

EIANZ members bring passion, ingenuity and creativity to their environmental work, leading the way in good environmental management. They bring innovation, science, modern technologies, education and management systems to our investment in the future. EIANZ members know that their aspirations for a healthy environment are shared by a large number of Australians.

OUR MESSAGE TO ALL POLITICAL PARTIES THIS ELECTION:

1. Governments at all levels have a shared responsibility to maintain and improve Australia's environment through the legal and policy regimes put in place for the stewardship and management of the environment.
2. In Australia, environmental responsibilities are split between several levels of government. This split, and its changing balance over time, complicates these management and stewardship responsibilities. Simply put, it raises a risk to success.
3. Environmental practitioners, including EIANZ members and Certified Environmental Practitioners, can help mitigate these risks.
4. To be most effective, environmental practitioners need to be professionally recognised by the community and this is not currently the case. EIANZ sees this as akin to the medical or legal professions being left out of delivery of medical care or justice respectively. It makes no sense and now is the time for change.
5. As we move towards the Institute's 30th anniversary, the EIANZ calls on all political parties to acknowledge that the time has arrived for the environment profession to be recognised within the environmental stewardship and management regimes of Australia by:
 - Requiring persons undertaking environmental planning and assessment work (in both private and public sectors) to be members of a recognised professional body, with a commitment to members practicing under a code of ethics and professional conduct.
 - Requiring that all environmental impact assessments, however funded, be endorsed by a Certified Environmental Practitioner as having been prepared in a manner based on best available science, in accordance with a professional association code of ethics and professional conduct, and to meet all legal requirements.



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In addition, the EIANZ highlights the following issues meriting the support of all parties in the 2016 Australian federal election.

SUPPORT THE STRENGTHENING OF LAWS AND POLICIES THAT PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

EIANZ believes that Australia's laws for protection of the environment can be improved, and it advocates that:

- The principles of ecologically sustainable development, including the precautionary principle, should be retained as a fundamental basis for our environmental laws and decision-making at Commonwealth and State levels.
- Certified Environmental Practitioners with a commitment to ethical practice should be required to lead and sign off on the assessments of impacts of projects under Commonwealth and State law.
- Adequate environmental monitoring, based on effective environmental performance standards, should be required within the conditions of consent for all projects and programs approved by the Commonwealth and State governments.

SUPPORT INVESTMENT TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

EIANZ supports the outcomes of the Paris Conference of Parties on climate change, including actions by governments to:

- Commit to substantial cuts in carbon emissions.
- Introduce strong economic measures to reduce carbon emissions, including the pricing of carbon and removing disincentives and subsidies that act against the achievement of carbon emission reduction targets.

- Support investment in climate change and renewable energy, including investments in science, research and development relating to improving our understanding of climate change challenges and energy efficiency responses.
- Support programs delivering policies and actions to adapt and build resilience to climate change, particularly within communities, and in relation to the infrastructure upon which they depend

SUPPORT IMPROVED MEASURES TO PROTECT AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE AND THREATENED SPACES AND SPECIES

EIANZ supports investment in more effective protection of Australia's unique biota, and advocates that:

- All parties should support increased investment in research and management to reduce the threats to our iconic landscapes, including the Great Barrier Reef and the Murray-Darling Basin, as well as to rare and threatened flora and fauna.
- The Commonwealth and States should align their listings of rare and threatened species to facilitate consistent assessment by professionals of impacts of proposals by on these vulnerable life forms.
- State of the Environment reporting be supported by the Commonwealth to provide national guidance to environmental policy formulation and management planning.



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ABOUT THE EIANZ

Founded in 1987, the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) is the peak professional association for environmental practitioners in both Australia and New Zealand.

The EIANZ:

- REPRESENTS the interests of its members;
- SUPPORTS members during careers
- ADVOCATES improved standards of practice
- CONNECTS practitioners
- LEADS the profession.

It does this through:

- promoting independent and interdisciplinary discussion on environmental issues
- advocating environmental knowledge and awareness
- advancing ethical and competent environmental practice.

Our members come from all areas of environmental practice, and include practitioners from government, industry, consulting, and academia.

EIANZ has 9 Australian divisions, with at least one in every Australian State and Territory, and a head office in Melbourne. EIANZ already works with all levels of government. Its Divisions make public submissions to environmental policy within their relevant jurisdiction. EIANZ's Board, in consultation with its Divisions and specialist committees, coordinates Federal level submissions.

In 2017, EIANZ will celebrate three decades of building a practitioner community dedicated to ethical and competent environmental practice.

EIANZ operates the only national certification program for environmental practitioners in this region. EIANZ has some 2000 members, and recognises over 600 Certified Environmental Practitioners (CEnvPs).

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