



TOM BEER FEIANZ
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST |
SAFE SYSTEM SOLUTIONS
Joined the Institute in 1992

"The interaction of science and society is important and an environmental practitioner has to be able to interface the two and, if necessary, reconcile them."



Environment Institute
of Australia and
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Celebrating 30 years

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What prompted you to join EIANZ?

I was working as an environmental consultant from 1981 to 1986 for a firm called NSR Pty Ltd that has since become part of Coffey.

What have you found most rewarding about a career in the environment sector?

Undertaking a risk-based prioritisation of national environmental issues while working as Science Adviser to the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency. This was published in 1995 as Supervising Scientist Report 102 and is still available on the internet.

What is the biggest change that you have seen in the environment profession over the years?

The dominance of a risk-based methodology that has been codified originally in AS/NZS 4360 and then as an international standard ISO31000. I am pleased to have been on the committee that drafted AS/NZS 4360.

What are some of the most important lessons you have learned (so far) over the course of your career?

That science is only part of a solution. The interaction of science and society is important and an environmental practitioner has to be able to interface the two and, if necessary, reconcile them.