



ANDREW JOHNSON MEIANZ  
PRINCIPAL | ANDREW  
JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES  
Joined the Institute in 1987

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Environment Institute  
of Australia and  
New Zealand Inc.

*What was EIANZ like in the early years? Why did you decide to get involved?*

I was a member of the Assessments Branch doing EIA in the Environment Department in South Australia at the time. A number of us were meeting with the Commonwealth Government officials regarding of major projects and it was decided we needed to develop a broader understanding of activities across Australia. Eric Anderson was one of the Commonwealth officials we regularly dealt with and Mary Lou Morris was one of my colleagues in Adelaide.

*Did you attend the first national conference in 1987? What are your memories of this event and the atmosphere in the profession at the time?*

It was an exciting time as EIA was really evolving very quickly and people were hungry for knowledge about what was happening elsewhere across Australia. It was also a great time to meet fellow colleagues from around Australia - something still appreciated today

*Who were/are some of your career mentors? Tell us about them.*

I mentioned a couple earlier, but in SA there were people in the Assessments Branch such as Chris Whitaker, Anne Jensen, Chris Mills and Anne Welch and my Director Gary Stafford. We also had considerable interaction with consultants and operators such as David Cole and Bryan Jenkins.

*What are some of the most important lessons you have learned over the course of your career?*

At the time I was in Assessments Branch we worked hard to ensure the environment was protected but that needed to be tempered with a dose of reality. Over time, I have come to realise that you can only achieve environmental

outcomes if you have the people supporting you - the community. It also has to make financial sense. The triple bottom line as adopted in the Bruntland report is critical.

*Thinking about the last 30 years, what stands out to you as the highlight or most significant achievement of the Institute?*

The most significant achievement is continuing to provide a forum for dialogue between like minded professionals. It has also brought about professionalism in the environmental management arena.

*What do you think EIANZ will be like 10 years from now?*

Continuing to thrive as we continue to recognise we live on a planet with limited resources. Since my retirement from the state public service I have been doing some work in Nepal, India and China. You need to visit and work in those countries to understand the pressures of that number of people.

*Why has EIANZ membership remained a priority for you over the last 30 years?*

It has continued to provide a link into a vital professional group

*What advice would you give to new members of the Institute?*

Based on my experience in working on landcare, soil conservation, natural resources management, water management in the MDB and across the State it is critical to have the community and community leaders understand the issues and for them to be the proponents of change.

Celebrating

30  
years

1987 - 2017