



HOWARD BRIGGS MEIANZ
RETIRED
Joined the Institute in 1992

“ It is good to belong to a professional body, such as EIANZ, that is interested in you and your profession’s future. But remember what you will get from it will depend on what you contribute to it.”



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

Celebrating 30 years

1987 - 2017

What prompted you to join EIANZ?

I wanted to belong to a professional body that adopted an interdisciplinary approach to addressing environmental (social, economic and ecological) issues that ultimately led to the development and promotion of integrated and relevant policies and the adoption of justifiable and practical technical solutions.

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

Meeting and sharing knowledge and experience with the enthusiastic people working in that sector

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

- It is important to understand the issues and perspective of those whom you are dealing with if you really wish to communicate with them.
- That our knowledge and understanding is limited by our experience.
- That within the community, emotions possibly have greater influence in decision-making than do facts.
- That you cannot please everyone all the time irrespective of how hard you might try.
- That we still have to ‘learn from history’.

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

Regrettably the reduction in effectiveness of environmental professionals brought about by an increased reliance by governments on regulation and process, leading to the wastage of resources that could be better applied to achieving practical solutions to environmental issues.

What do you see as EIANZ’s key role in the environment sector?

To provide guidance, through leadership, to environmental practitioners so as to enable them to give professional advice, without fear or favour, to those seeking it.

What advice would you give a colleague thinking of joining EIANZ?

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