



KIRSTY AUSTIN MEIANZ

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT  
| ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY,  
RESEARCH & SOCIAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

Joined the Institute in 2007

---

*“I wanted to be part of an institute that brings professionals from all the relevant disciplines together and that actively promotes ethical practice.”*

---



Environment Institute  
of Australia and  
New Zealand Inc.

### *What prompted you to join EIANZ?*

I joined EIANZ because there was a gap in the professional development events being offered by other institutes. I wanted to be part of an institute that brings professionals from all the relevant disciplines together and that actively promotes ethical practice. I also hold membership with another institute that provides professional development on the main legislation I work under, so between these two memberships it works perfectly for me.

### *What do you value most about being a member?*

I get most value from the opportunity to attend events that cover the range of environmental topics EIANZ members are involved in. I don't think there's any other professional institute that covers the extent of environmental matters that our sector works on, and we get to hear from academics, through to those drafting legislation, the regulators and those working in the field. Even if events aren't directly relevant to my work, it's valuable to hear about emerging concerns and best practice solutions that are out there. The networking opportunities and passionate debate that comes with these events is a huge bonus too!

### *Has being a member helped you develop mentoring relationships and/or extend your professional networks? Can you tell us about the impact these relationships have had on your career development?*

My professional network has definitely increased as a result of being an active member of my local EIANZ branch (Wellington, NZ) and the New

Zealand Chapter. The connections I've made with other EIANZ members involved in organising events and attending events, and the speakers themselves, has created work opportunities for me that may not have otherwise happened, and it's also helped me to link other environmental practitioners to future clients.

There's also a mentoring aspect to it too. Over the past couple of years, I'm increasingly receiving requests to meet up with members who are early in their careers, or have recently moved to Wellington, to talk about opportunities in the environmental sector here and how to access their next role.

### *What do you find most rewarding about a career in the environment sector?*

I've always been interested in the natural and built environment and the relationship between them, and I don't believe that 'leaving the market to it' will provide appropriate outcomes for either environment. So, for me it's very rewarding to work on projects that will equip decision-makers with robust information on the effects of new policy and developments, and particularly the implications of these on communities.

### *What advice would you give to recent graduates just starting out in the environment sector?*

Come to EIANZ events and build those networks!

Celebrating  
**30**  
years  
1987 - 2017