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Joined the Institute in 1992

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Environment Institute  
of Australia and  
New Zealand Inc.

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

In 1992 I was assisting with the development of the Barron River Catchment Plan in Cairns that included consultation with a broad range of stakeholders such as Wet Tropics Management Authority, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and James Cook University that had members actively establishing the EIANZ in Far North Queensland. Joining seemed a natural fit for the work I was doing.

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

Most of my career has comprised consultancy services for the contaminated land and waste management industry sectors. Through the use of good science and engineering design practices I have been able to participate in and lead rehabilitation and upgrade works for a series of high risk sites, often located within high environmental value areas.

During the mid to late 1990s I was part of a large multi-disciplinary project team responsible for the investigation and remediation of historical rail operations across South Australia and into New South Wales that won the Environmental Category of the South Australia Engineering Excellence Awards.

Over the past ten years I have had the opportunity to assist waste management operators across Northern Australia upgrade and rehabilitate their landfill and other facilities to meet community accepted standards that protect their surrounding environment. One project won both the Environment and Sustainability Categories of the Queensland Engineering Excellence Awards for the rehabilitation of Portsmouth Landfill, located within mangrove wetlands of Trinity Inlet, Cairns.

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

The adoption of substantially more rigorous scientific assessment and engineering design practices for the management and rehabilitation of contaminated land and waste management sites, particularly in Queensland. Although continuous improvement is still required, industry practices have improved and evolved considerably over the past 25 years.

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

The environmental sector encompasses a very broad range of technical expertise and experience. To be successful you need to maintain an open mind and embrace the diversity of skills and knowledge that may be needed to understand and address any particular environmental challenge.

Every environmental issue is subject to a unique set of conditions that is likely to require a unique response to generate a long term sustainable solution. Most of the problems seen in the environmental management sector have resulted from taking a narrow view of risks and solutions.

### *What do you see as EIANZ's key role in the environment sector?*

As with any professional practice organisation, the key roles of the EIANZ should be to:

- Ensure that its members continue to develop their skills and experience and apply them professionally and ethically.
- Educate governments, industry and the community on the importance of well trained, experienced and industry recognised environmental practitioners.

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

Regardless of your background and current work requirements, you should have your skills recognised by a professional services industry body and take advantage of the networking and knowledge opportunities that they provide.

I also recommend that professionals aim to achieve chartered or certified status from the early period of their careers. This can seem daunting and require considerable effort, however, by starting early, understanding what you need to do and documenting your development in stages over time, you should find the process relatively straightforward. You may even find that the process prompts you to seek out new experiences and career opportunities that may otherwise pass you by.